

Westbrook School



October Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

MS. CHRISTINE PARKER



October 6, 2017

Calendar of Events 2017/18

October 6
Professional Learning Day
No Students

October 9
Thanksgiving Day
No Students

October 10
Professional Learning Day
No Students

October 16
Municipal Election

October 20
SCHOOL PHOTOS
Kindergarten Attend

October 24
School Council Mtg.
9:00 AM
FOW Meeting
3:30 PM

October 27
Walkathon
Collections Due

November 1
We-Day Gr 6-8
students

November 3
Gr 6 Volleyball
Tournament

November 7
First Fun Lunch

It is hard to believe we have completed the first month of school and we are already planning for Halloween and Remembrance Day.

September flew by with a **number of great events that happened** at the “**Biggest Little School**”.

⇒ Thanks to all who joined us for our annual “**Welcome Back and Meet the Staff BBQ**”. The weather was good and the turn out for the evening was great. I would like to thank our **special guests, Board Chair and Ward 5 representative Colleen Munro and Superintendent Greg Luterbach** for attending our event. I would also like to **thank the Friends of Westbrook** for picking up supplies for the event and **Sean Veraart from Spring Hill RV and Trailers** who provided his barbecues, the hamburgers and buns, and for his culinary expertise cooking burgers, hot dogs and of course fried onions.

⇒ We also had perfect weather for **Westbrook School's annual walk-a-thon** held on Friday, September 29th. The event finished up at the school with Hot Dogs and students relaxing and playing. This event is the main fundraiser for Westbrook School **with almost \$17,000 pledged the day of the Walk-a-thon**. Students are still collecting pledged money and as in previous years we will gladly accept late pledges. The money raised will go towards a variety of events and activities that will enhance teaching and learning at Westbrook School. This event is truly a community event with a lot of strong history and **could not have happened** without the **support of 40 plus volunteers and unsung hero's who walked, biked, cooked, baked, ran check points, and did whatever needed to be done**. I would **especially like to thank Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Holmes for organizing** this fun and challenging fundraiser. Thanks also goes out to the companies that helped support the event. Their support allowed us to lower our operation costs and put those funds back into Walk-a-thon supported activities. Thank you:

- ° **Fenton Bus Lines** - for donating 2 busses and drivers to get us started
- ° **Steelhead Ventures Ltd** – for the Porta Potties
- ° **Pro H2O** – for water & jugs
- ° **Cochrane Sign and Design** - for the signs
- ° **Spring Hill RV and Trailers** - for supplying the BBQ, hotdogs, and buns

October has reminded us that summer is over and winter is on its way. I know many of us were searching for **warm clothing** earlier this week. It is a good idea to gather all of those **gloves, hats, warm jackets and snow pants** up, so students are prepared for Alberta's unpredictable weather and for our 2 outdoor recesses a day.

Tuesday October 31st is a regular instructional day with Halloween activities in the afternoon. A variety of grade specific activities will occur in the afternoon and students will have a short period of time to change into costumes if they choose. Students will have an opportunity at lunch to change into their costumes and have a parade in the gym before the middle school dance. Please check with your homeroom teacher if you need specific details. One reminder is that costumes must follow school dress code. Please refrain from sending face paint with your child, as it makes a mess in our small washrooms.

We are looking forward to another great year at Westbrook. If you have any questions about your son or daughter's programming, please do not hesitate to call us. The greater the understanding that exists between the school and parents, the more successful a school will become.

Christine Parker

Please visit our school website to view our school calendar, as dates may change at:
westbrook@rockyview.ab.ca



School Emergency Program: A Guide For Parents and Guardians

To view Rocky View Schools Emergency Response Protocol, please go to:

http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/assets_parents/RVS-Parent-Summary.pdf

and the message from the superintendent later in this newsletter.

Please **review this document** as we have/will be practicing many of the drills explained and listed in this document.

Attendance Matters

Coming to school everyday and on time is important for the academic and social success of your children. Many parents do not realize how quickly absences and lates add up and that it only takes two absences each month for children to begin to struggle. In the same way you keep track of the marks your children get, monitoring school attendance and working with teachers to improve the attendance of your children is important. It does not matter if your children are in Preschool or Grade 12, school everyday matters.

If you are having trouble getting your children to school or they find it hard being at school, there are many ways that we can help remove the obstacles that are holding them back from being successful. The first step for seeking help is talking to someone at your school.

Watch video <https://youtu.be/r2D5dVZHF-g>

Volunteer Information

Volunteer Forms

Parent volunteers are a very important part of our school community! All volunteers are required to submit a Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Check before being permitted to volunteer (or participate in classroom events/activities). A Criminal Record / Vulnerable Sector Check application is available in the office. This form must be submitted to the RCMP.

When completed, **the office needs to see the original, take a copy and will retain the copy on file for 5 years. However, each year an**

Annual Statutory Declaration form will need to be completed.

Many of you have completed all of the steps above for the Walk-a-thon.

For all parents/volunteers that **work with our students in the school we also require a Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Undertaking form to be completed prior to volunteering.** This can be completed/or brought to the school the first time you volunteer in the building this year.

Volunteer Sign-up

Still wanting to Volunteer at Westbrook but you are not sure where you are needed? This month we will be sending a link to an electronic Volunteer sign-up. The information gathered, will be used to contact individuals who wish to volunteer at the school. Stay tuned!

Fun Lunch

Stay tuned for the first Fun Lunch coming up on **November 7th!** More information will be sent home in backpacks and emailed soon.

Westbrook School Cell Phone

At the time of a power outage in the area, the Westbrook School cell phone will be turned on for communication. During a typical school day, the cell phone is not answered or monitored for calls or messages. The telephone number is 403-616-0756



SMILE!!

Westbrook School Picture Day

is Friday October 20th
Mark your Calendar!

Student Health

Thank you for calling and letting the school know when your child is ill and will not be in school. We also encourage parents to use the resources listed below if you have questions or concerns about your child's illness. Alberta Health has requested that parents report communicable diseases (chicken pox etc) to Health Link to help to monitor outbreaks.

Health Link: "Dial 811"

Health Link has nurses available 24/7 to offer advice on various medical related issues. This is also the number where parents call to report cases of communicable diseases that their child has been exposed to or is diagnosed to have. An example may include chicken pox.

www.myhealth.alberta.ca

An information website containing a wealth of resources and information about a wide range of health topics.



School Bus Corner **-Kathy Fenton**

Welcome back! Fall is definitely in the air, the kids are back in the school routine, and harvest is nearing an end.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our drivers.

From South to North :

Route 1 – Contractor – Fenton Bus Lines

Driver – Kathy Fenton

Spare Driver – Bella Riley

Area - (West side of hwy 22 – Twp 284 to North end of Grand Valley)

Route 32 – Contractor – Sharon Coleman

Driver – Sharon Coleman

Spare Driver – Tracy Foster

Area (Twp 284 and South as well as SW side, including Cochrane)

Route 102 – Contractor – Fenton Bus Lines

Driver – Cindy Chase

Area (From Westbrook School North and NW end excluding Grand Valley)

Route 157 – Contractor – Fenton Bus Lines

Driver – Amanda Ciofani

Area (From Westbrook School ... North and East side)

Route 25 – Contractor – Southland Transportation Ltd.

Driver – Amy Armitt

Spare Driver – Christine

Area (From Westbrook School - South and East Side)

As well, I would like to review the ride-a-long procedure. Each company may handle things slightly different, however, there is one thing we all have in common:

Permission must come from the parent or guardian of the child that is going to a stop other than their assigned stop. This can come in the form of a call to the ride-a-long line, a text, or a note. It must be produced before we allow a child to ride a different bus or get off at an alternate stop.

Ride-a-long lines:

Fenton Bus Lines – call or text - 403-680-9394 or call or text the driver of the route your child is riding on. A note is also acceptable.

Sharon Coleman – Call or text 403-617-5328. A note is also acceptable.

Southland – email ridealong@southland.ca *before noon of the day* the ride-a-long is required. You will receive a confirmation e-mail stating the request was received. If you do not receive a confirmation you must call 403-932-7100 to confirm before your child can be on the ride-a-long.

If you have questions don't hesitate to call me at 403-680-9394 or kathy@fentonbuslines.com or

Rocky View Transportation area representative –

Ally Surbey – asurbey@rockyview.ab.ca





School Emergency Program

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS Issued September 2017

A Message from the Superintendent

Schools are considered to be one of the safest places in our communities.

However, in reality, an emergency can strike anywhere at any time.



DURING ANY EMERGENCY, OUR FIRST PRIORITY is the safety of our students and staff. In order to provide an effective response to any school crisis, our Division has developed an Emergency Response Plan. The Plan works in conjunction with other local emergency plans, since a school emergency could require the involvement of numerous agencies. The plans created for individual schools, along with the Division Plan, are reviewed annually and after an emergency occurs.

There is an on-site emergency response team at each school, along with a Division-based Emergency Response Team that provides support and aid to schools at time of an emergency. All staff is regularly trained on emergency protocols and drills are practiced at each school.

Although standardized protocols and procedures provide the basis for our response, the way in which we respond to an emergency is greatly influenced by the specifics of an incident. We are driven foremost by our concern of ensuring student and staff safety.

Our Division collaborates closely with local emergency personnel to ensure plans are coordinated with appropriate agencies. The Division's plans do not replace the authority of law enforcement, fire or EMS – staff members work in full co-operation with these agencies.

For security reasons, certain components of our emergency response plans are not publicly available. However, this guide outlines the key elements of the Plan and answers questions parents frequently ask regarding emergency preparedness. I hope you find this guide helpful and informative.

We appreciate your support and assistance in our continued safety efforts.

Sincerely,

Greg Luterbach, Superintendent



Westbrook French Trip Club Presents:

A Movie Fundraiser -- Thor: Ragnarok

Saturday November 4th, 2017

Doors open at 9:00am and movie starts at 9:30am.

Dress in your favourite SUPER HERO costume and compete for prizes.

\$15 per ticket-all proceeds to directly fund this educational trip.

Limited Tickets available.

Contact Julie for more information at country_jules@hotmail.com or 403-465-0620

In Cochrane:

☐ **Cochrane Humane Society Fall Book Sale:** Oct.20-22, noon-4pm.

<http://www.cochranehumane.ca>

☐ **Canadian Children's Literature Festival:** Saturday, Oct.21,
at the Cochrane Public Library. For more information visit: www.cochranepubliclibrary.ca.

For more activities, check out these helpful Cochrane websites:

☐ **Cochrane and Area Boys and Girls Club:** <http://www.bgccochrane.ca/>

☐ **Cochrane and District Agricultural Society:** <http://www.cochraneagsociety.com/>

**COCHRANE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND ROCKY
VIEW COUNTY, WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE OCTOBER 2017**

The Town of Cochrane FALL Program and Activity Guide is here!

Pick one up at Cochrane FCSS or view online:

<https://www.cochrane.ca/634/Program-Activity-Guide>

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS) PROGRAMS:

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Programs: Call 403-851-2250 to register.

☐ **Babysitting Safety (ages 11-15):**

Thursdays, Saturday, Oct. 14, 9am-3:30pm, at Cochrane and Area Boys & Girls Club.
Cost: \$70.

☐ **Mental Health First Aid:**for adults interacting with youth:

Thursday & Friday, Oct.26 & 27, 8:30am-4:30pm, at the HomeStead bldg. Cost: \$25.

☐ **Jacket Racket Event:** Saturday, Oct.28, 10am-noon, at Cochrane Alliance Church.
Come pick up gently used winter wear and Halloween costumes for the whole family.

**For more information on above programs and to access the guide, please visit [https://
www.cochrane.ca/634/Program-Activity-Guide](https://www.cochrane.ca/634/Program-Activity-Guide)**

**Western Rocky View Parent Link Centre
Parent Education Workshops:
Call 403-851-2250 to register.**



☐ **Prenatal Health Group:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm at Parent Link Centre.

☐ **Parents of Anxious Kids:** *Thursday Oct.12, Nov.2 or Dec.14, 7-8:30pm at the HomeStead Bldg. For more information contact Lorraine: focusparent@shaw.ca.*

☐ **Post-Partum Depression Support Group:** *Tuesday, Oct.17, Nov.21 & Dec.19, 1:30-3:30pm, at Parent Link Centre.*

☐ **Focus For Attention (ADHD support):** *Tuesday, Oct.17, Nov.21 & Dec.19, 7-8:30pm at the HomeStead Bldg. For more information contact Lorraine: focusparent@shaw.ca.*

☐ **Feeding Your Baby:** Tuesday, Oct.17, 10-11am at Parent Link Centre.

☐ **Car Seat Safety Clinic:** Saturday, Oct.21, Nov.18 or Dec.9. Email Angie to register: angie@seatsavvy.ca.

☐ **Meal Time Struggles to Meal Time Success:** Wednesday, Oct.25, 9am-12noon at Parent Link Centre.

☐ **Choosing Quality Child Care:** Thursday, Oct.26, 6-8pm at Parent Link Centre.

To view the complete list of programs offered to parents and children from birth to age 6, please check out the Cochrane Parent Link Centre's website www.cochrane.ca/PLC and FB page www.facebook.com/CochranePLC.