

October Newsletter

Hello Westbrook Families,

Well, September has flown by and there is no denying our first month together was filled with many highlights, including our Meet the Teacher/See the School Night and last week's Walk-a-Thon. The staff, students and parents of Westbrook have certainly come together to make the first month a great success. What follows below is information, reminders, and things to keep in mind as we head into October... sorry... it's a long one!

Walk-a-Thon

What a fantastic event! A huge **THANK YOU** to the many volunteers that helped to make it a success. We are happy to announce that pledges for the Walk-a-Thon totalled **\$11,562!** Funds from the Walk-a-Thon help pay for many things, including possibly to help pay down the new gymnasium loan. The generosity of the Westbrook community is truly inspiring!

COVID Information

As you already know, Rocky View Schools updated the Return to School Operational Plan on Friday with several changes being made, including new guidelines around masks. At Westbrook, we continue to follow the direction of Rocky View Schools, while at the same time, always remembering to treat each other with kindness and respect during these unique times. Please click on the link below to access the latest version of the Return to School Operational Plan:

https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/school_2021/plans/normal-operations_2021

As well, the daily health checklist has also recently been updated. Click on the link below:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/58957831-a4ab-45ff-9a8e-3c6af7c1622e/download/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist-2021-09.pdf>

Wildcat Swag

Get your Westbrook Swag! The Westbrook portal is open to purchase gym strip and Westbrook swag for yourselves and/or your child! All purchases are made using the provided link. Items will be sent to the school and home with your child when they arrive. Please note that the required gym strip (t-shirt and shorts) for grades 5- 8 does NOT have to be purchased from the Westbrook portal. However, it is recommended if your child would like to participate in extracurricular sports for grades 6-8. Here is the link to get your merchandise!

<https://westbrookschool.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

Alien In-line

Westbrook is very excited to be able to have Alien In-line visit Westbrook during **the week of October 18th -October 22nd**. Students will have the opportunity to learn in-line skating skills and participate in various games and activities. Students are asked to please bring a bicycle helmet from home. If a helmet cannot be supplied, a helmet will be supplied for your child. We look forward to seeing students skating in the gym!

Student Insurance Information

For more information regarding the voluntary student accident policy, click the link below:

<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/student-insurance>

Questions/Concerns

As we head deeper into the school year, a reminder that if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, your child's homeroom teacher is always your first point of contact.

Real-Time Reporting (RTR)

Westbrook School is entering its second year of Real-Time Reporting (RTR). This means that, just like last year, you can follow your child's progress on PowerSchool throughout the year. As well, you will receive one electronic report card at the end of the year.

Real-Time Reporting provides up-to-date assessment information which assists teachers in their lesson planning to improve student learning. As students learn concepts, teachers are providing regular feedback for students and parents through an online system called the PowerSchool Public Portal. The feedback will show students where they currently are in the learning process and may give suggestions for improvement. Parents and students have access to this feedback at any time. Our teachers have already begun assessing students and will have information entered by the end of October.

As a refresher, the three links below will help you get prepared to track your students learning this year through the PowerSchool portal:

How to see your child's progress in the parent portal (Video)

<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/powerschool/video-rtr-how-to-view-student-progress-in-public-portal>

Parent Guide: Navigating the Public Portal – K-6

<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/powerschool/parent-guide-navigating-the-public-portal-k6>

Parent Guide: Navigating the Public Portal – 7-8(9)

<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/powerschool/navigating-the-public-portal-7-8-9-parents>

Families

Our school-wide Families program that, in a typical year, would see students from all grades come together to build community in our school, and foster leadership in our older students, will need to look different this year. Mrs. Hooper and our grade 7/8s are in the planning phase right now and hope to have Families (version 2.0) up and running after Thanksgiving... stay tuned!

Playground Committee

Westbrook School has begun to explore building a new playground... How exciting! If you are interested in joining the parent committee, please send an email to the committee lead, Amy, at: amy_della@hotmail.com

Volunteers

Westbrook School is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please fill in the following Google form: <https://forms.gle/mA8BEEYULCwTEyiB6>

School Emergency Response Plan

What do you need to know if there is an emergency at your child's school? Find out here: file:///Users/jklinger/Downloads/Emergency%20Response%20Plan%20%20All%20Languages_2020.pdf

Student Cell Phone Usage

Students are to place their cell phone in their locker (grade 6, 7/8) or their backpack (grade 5 and younger) when they arrive at school and are **NOT** permitted to have them out during the school day. At Westbrook, we want to encourage our students to engage in face-to-face interactions during the day rather than increase screen time. Please note that there may be times when a teacher allows cell phones to be used for a specific educational purpose. All other exceptions to this policy must go through Mr. Klinger.

If a student needs to use a phone, they are more than welcome to use the school phone in the office. Lastly, if you need to reach your child, please refrain from texting or calling their cell phone. Simply call the office and we will ensure your message gets to them. Thanks in advance for your support with this!

Halloween Dress up

Halloween dress-up is planned for Friday, October 29th. It is still a regular instructional day for our grade 1 to 8 students, but students are encouraged to wear their costumes to school in the morning. Costumes must be able to be worn over the students clothing. If face paint is part of a student's costume it must be applied before school and worn throughout the day. Please check with your homeroom teacher if you need specific details. Please ensure that your child's costume does not include blood or weapons.

Yearbook 2020-2021

Due to a dynamic school year last year, last year's yearbook is yet to be submitted. The team will be completing the pages this month and hope to have it to our community in November. The yearbook team is also looking for a couple parents/community volunteers to help. Contact Mrs. Hooper for more information: hhooper@rockyview.ab.ca

Upcoming Dates

October 8th - Professional Learning Day (No School)

October 11th – Thanksgiving (No School)

October 12th - School Pictures

October 18-22nd - Alien In-Line (**Kindergarten attends Wednesday the 20th**)

October 29th – Halloween Dress up Day

November 7th – Daylight Saving Ends: Fall Back One Hour

November 9th & 10th – Three-Way Conferences
November 11th – Remembrance Day (No School)
November 12th – Professional Learning Day (No School)

