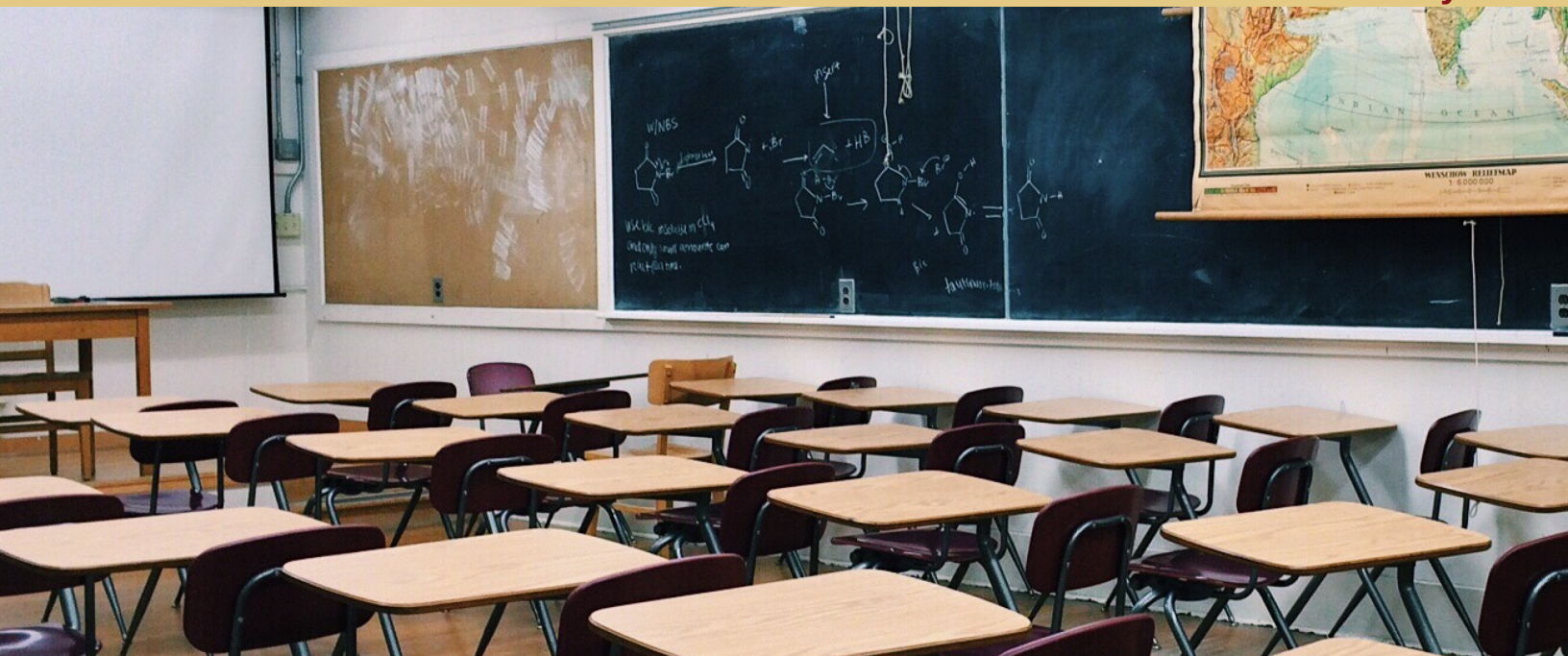


WCHS NEWSLETTER

Wetaskiwin Composite High School

May 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kris Denney

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and in good spirits. It is exciting that spring is here and we are in the last quarter of the year. I would like to thank all of the students and parents for their support as we navigate this unprecedented year at WCHS. The staff is working hard to make sure that our students will be prepared with all the knowledge and skills required at their next level of schooling. As the summer approaches, it is important that our students stay focused on their studies as we finish off the school year.

Our administration has been busy planning for next year creating our staffing plan, timetable and completing the spring registration process. I would like to thank all the grade 9/10 students and parents who attended our spring orientation evenings. It was great to be able to interact with you and answer any questions you had about WCHS!

In our planning for next year, I do need to announce a few changes to our administration team. Mr. Demone, our Grade 9/10 Vice-principal, will be leaving WCHS in the fall as he will be the new principal of Centennial School. I would like to congratulate Mr. Demone as he is a tremendous leader and will be a valued asset to the Centennial School community. I will also be stepping down as Principal of WCHS and taking on the role of Director of Learning Services (Grades 7-12) for Wetaskiwin Regional Schools. I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last four years as you have helped make WCHS a great place to come to work each day.

I am pleased to announce that the new principal of WCHS will be Mrs. Karen Elgert. Mrs. Elgert has been district principal for WRPS for the last 4 years which included principal of the Wetaskiwin Outreach High School. Mr. Willmott will be remaining as our Grade 11/12 Vice-principal but will be joined by Mr. Jon Meyers who will be taking on the role of the Grade 9/10 Vice-principal. Mr. Meyers is joining WCHS from Buck Mountain Central School where he has been the principal for the last 4 years.

Registration and Course Selection

Our students services department has been extremely busy working with WCHS students and our feeder schools to complete students registration for the 2021-22 school year. I would like to thank all parents who joined us online for the Grade 9 and Grade 10 Parent Evenings. If you missed these information sessions, they can be viewed on our [Facebook page](#).

This week all students have received an email stating that they can log into Powerschool and choose their courses for next year. Please note that this will be their preliminary selections and not their finalized timetable. Course offerings are subject to change based on course enrollment and expected staffing reductions. Students can expect to view their 2021-22 schedule in Powerschool by the end of the year.

Graduation

As we come to the end of the school year, it is time that we acknowledge the Graduation Class of 2021! While our graduation ceremonies this year will look different, it does not take away from the importance of this accomplishment. I would like to offer my congratulations to our graduates and wish them well in their future endeavors!



HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

by Sue Klein

The registration process for 2021-2022 has begun. All grades have received presentations from success coaches on course requirements and how to navigate in choosing their courses for next year in PowerSchool. The “Course Selection” is open for all Grades 10-12 students to choose their courses and should be completed as soon as possible. If your student has not been part of this process, please call Student Services for assistance. Please ensure your student has chosen classes by Friday, April 30 at which time the number of course offerings will begin to be created.

It is time to look at scholarships for those graduates moving on to post-secondary. Most scholarships are based on either/both academic grades and community involvement/leadership. Please visit the school website under “Post-Secondary and Beyond” for tips and information. Local scholarships will be made available during the month of May.

As always, counsellors are available to assist students in the area of social/emotional components and success coaches are available to assist with academic needs. Please call or email for more information or assistance.

GSA NEWS

From May 31 to June 4 2021

On Friday, April 23 WCHS's GSAs held a Day of Silence where students were able to take a vow and wear a sticker that had them not speaking for the day. Staff members also showed their support by wearing stickers and limiting speech as much as they could. This was to stand in solidarity with those members of the LGBTQ+ Community whose voices have been stifled due to discrimination.

WCHS will be putting on it's Pride Week (MAY 31st TO JUNE 4th) hosted by the WCHS GSAs. There will be information, contests, prizes and dressing up for everyone.





TREATY 6 HISTORY

**by Latisha Dingman -
Indigenous Support Worker**

Our adventures into another strange and unpredictable year has been nothing short of just that; strange and unpredictable. The ups and downs, ins and outs have created some of our footwork to start a new dance. I think it is best said that at times when our normal shifts, we allow ourselves to do a sidestep, lean on each other and continue to move forward. In my short time here so far at the high school, I have had the privilege to endeavor deeper conversations with the staff and students. This has enabled the ability to work collaboratively with intent to provide a space for a cooperative spirit and mutual respect for the diversity of everyone. It is a beautiful movement when we are on the understanding that we are all on our own journey of learning, and while at times we may dance solo, we must dare to take that sidestep and safely twirl our partner.

The Social Studies Department, led by Mr. Russ McBride has done exactly that along with his colleagues. After meeting with these teachers, you can hear and feel the desire to learn more and to create a deeper recognition within the history of this country. For this department, they have looked upon the Treaty 6 flag as a place to start many new conversations and show recognition to the First Nations Peoples and the Treaty 6 territory that we call home.

“*The importance of not just teaching Indigenous history but honoring those who lived here before us.*”

To commemorate this, each Social Studies classroom has acquired a Treaty 6 flag. These flags are a continuation of the larger flag that was raised in our atrium in 2018. Social Studies teacher, Cara Hetlinger stated, “Perhaps we could add the importance of not just teaching Indigenous history but honouring those who lived here before us. Through our modelling, students will gain a greater understanding of Treaty and those who were involved in the creation.” Each of the classrooms has had the continued opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation, listen and share. This dance is a continued celebration to the flag raising in 2018. It is all about creating those safe places to explore, recognize and share for everyone.

WALKING TOGETHER

by Métis Elder - Tom McCallum



It is important for us to prepare ourselves to be aware that when people get together to talk with one another, that each person shares their views about how they see things. It is up to each of us to respect other people's views. Each of us interprets and understands what we hear or are taught based upon our life experiences, understanding and knowledge we each have.

If we sit in a circle and listen to a story, each of us will interpret and understand the story in a way that is both the same and different as the person sitting next to us. We can talk to everyone in the circle and each person will have a different point of view. It is up to the listener to make sense of what is being said, to be guided and assisted in their development towards wholeness. If we look straight ahead, we can develop tunnel vision and see things only one way.

“
*It is up to each of us to
respect other people's
views.*

The more we listen to other people's views, the more our vision will open up and we will start to have peripheral vision, to see from all perspectives and respect those perspectives. That is what creates our wholeness, to walk in balance and harmony, to respect other people's way, their journey of life, their way of interpreting, to treat each other with much more than kindness and respect.

GRADUATION 2021

Retakes must be booked directly through Smart Photography
www.SmartPhotography.ca/book/

Check out WCHS for more information and booking steps.

A maroon rectangular graphic with yellow and white text. The word "Retakes!" is in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline. Below it, "May 13 & 14" is in white, "GRAD" is in yellow, and "PHOTOS" is in white. At the bottom, "DAILY 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM" is in white and "BOOK ONLINE!" is in yellow. To the right of the text are white line-art icons of a camera and a graduation cap.

Our Graduation Committee has made the decision to move our graduation to:

Friday, June 25, 2021.

This date will make attending our drive-through ceremony easier for our parents.



WRPS CURRICULUM STATEMENT

Given the ongoing impact of the global pandemic of Covid-19 and the significant ongoing challenges this past year, we decided this is not the time to move forward with piloting the Draft K-6 Provincial Curriculum.

“Alberta Education is earnest in its desire to have feedback on their draft curriculum. We will do our part to make sure our perspective is shared; however, our attention in the coming year needs to be laser focused on the needs and wellbeing of our students and staff.”

- *Peter Barron, Superintendent*

Parents can review the curriculum and provide their feedback via the Alberta Government’s feedback [survey](#).

2021/2022 SCHOOL AT HOME CANCELLED

April 2021

“In anticipation of Covid vaccinations being in place for everyone by September and in the best interest of students’ learning, the division decided to have all students return to school in September 2021. The School-At-Home Learning program will be discontinued for the 2021-2022 school year.”

- *Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools*



Stay Connected Stay Informed



Grade 9 & 10

Vice Principal: Darren DeMone (darren.demone@wrps11.ca)

Counsellor: Val Brandham (val.brandham@wrps11.ca)

Success Coach: Jodie Bodnar (jodie.bodnar@wrps11)

Inclusion Coach: Shannon Graham (shannon.graham@wrps11.ca)

Grade 11 & 12

Vice Principal: Shawn Willmott (shawn.willmott@wrps11.ca)

Counsellor: Sue Klein (sue.klein@wrps11.ca)

Success Coach: Tanya McFarland (tanya.mcfarland@wrps11.ca)

Success Coach: Dan Dick (dan.dick@wrps11.ca)

Inclusion Coach: Shannon Graham (shannon.graham@wrps11.ca)

WCHS...where teachers care that every student, every day, learns, grows and feels valued.