



September 2020 Newsletter

Ecole James S McCormick School

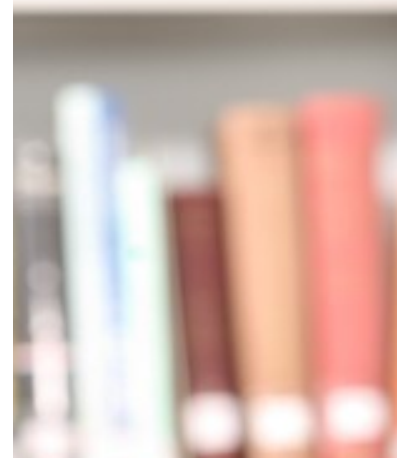
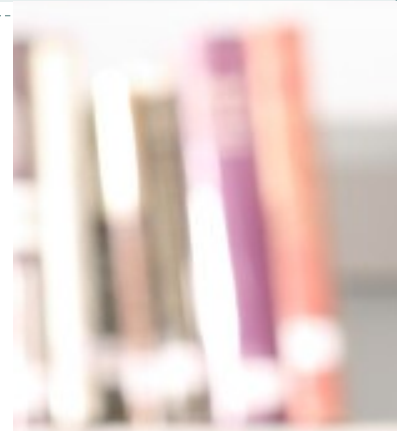
Welcome!

THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome to a brand new school year! We enter this 2020-2021 school year with many new things; new rules, new guidelines, new frameworks for our day to day operations. We also come in with new ideas, new instructional methods and new mindsets. It's been quite the whirlwind getting back to this point of re-entry but we are thrilled to be here. This school year will be different on many levels but our roots remain stable & strong in our commitment to our students & families.

As a school community, we are looking forward to a fabulous new school year full of learning, understanding, engagement & positive relationships. We value each student and their education with us as they develop through their early years. We hope to foster a life-long love of learning and exceptional childhood memories for each and every one.

We sincerely thank each and every parent & guardian for their immense cooperation, understanding and support as we begin this journey into our school year. Our start up has been wonderfully successful and we are so pleased to see our students back in the building. We thank you for your time and efforts in keeping up to date with our evolving procedures and policies.



THIS MONTH:

SEPT 18: PD DAY

SEPT 30:
ORANGE SHIRT
DAY

SEPT 30 & OCT 1:
SCHOOOL
PHOTOS

RETURNING STUDENT UPDATES

On August 21, all parents/guardians received an email from WCPS with instructions regarding registering and updating information online for each student. Student Demographic Update Forms were assigned to each student in Parent Portal. There are new permission and information sections for the current school year included on these forms and it is very important that parents submit the forms right away. If you did not receive an email, please ensure your Parent Portal Account is set up. Student Demographic Update Forms can be accessed in your parent portal under "School Engage" on the left hand menu. Each student in your family will have their own form to be submitted.

Please contact the office if you require assistance.

****Please note that if you have any specific concerns of an urgent nature regarding your child (i.e. medical concerns, custody concerns), please contact your child's teacher to apprise them of the situation. The forms take time to process so it's best that the teacher has this information right from the start of the year.**



OFFICE HOURS:

8:00am - 4:00pm

jsm@wolfcreek.ab.ca

403-782-3096

NEW SCHOOL ENTRY PROCEDURES

All outside doors to our school will be locked at all times. Parents, guardians and visitors are not permitted into the building. Please ensure you send all student items for the day; lunch, snacks, outdoor clothing and a change of clothes. If a student arrives late, please call the office to have someone meet your child at the front doors. If you need to pick up your child during the day, please call the office upon arrival and they will be brought to the front doors to meet you.

COVID-19: WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

COVID-19: Protocols for Symptoms & What to Expect

As per AHS guidelines, please note the following protocols:

All students need to complete the Screening Checklist prior to coming to school each day

If students present ANY of the following symptoms, DO NOT send them to school:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion
- Feeling unwell / Fatigued
- Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Muscle / Joint aches
- Headache
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

Additional Screening Checklist Items:

- ⇒ Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?
- ⇒ Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- ⇒ Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days

** Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact. ** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.*

Students MAY ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL:

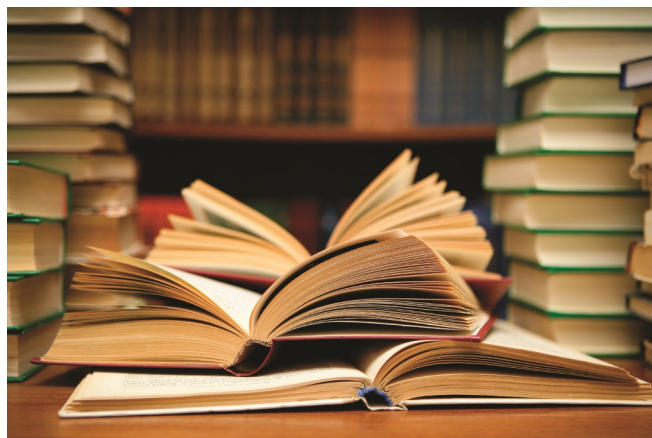
- ◇ **After the mandatory 10-Day Isolation period**
- ◇ **After a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test result AND the student no longer has any symptoms**

Only symptomatic staff/students will have to isolate at home; siblings may still attend school as long as they have not developed symptoms

Pre-Existing Conditions:

The guidance that Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health have provided us addresses children with known pre-existing conditions. *"The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result to confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms. These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school. Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition."*

Please see the attached WCPS parent brochure for further details. This is also available on our school website. The Screening Checklist is posted on our website under the COVID-19 Information & Resources tab.



My child has COVID-19 Symptoms What do I do next?

If your child comes down with symptoms of COVID-19 or is ill, please proceed with the following steps:

STEP 1: Pick Up Your Child From School

The school will call you if your child is sick or develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school. Your child will be isolated in a room where they can remain comfortable, until you can pick them up. You should make every effort to pick your child up immediately.

If symptoms develop at home, please keep your child at home and DO NOT send them to school.

Please Note: Only symptomatic students and staff will have to go home, those not presenting any symptoms can remain at school, that includes any siblings of the symptomatic child.

STEP 2: Book a Test for COVID-19

The Alberta Government and Alberta Health Services (AHS) advises that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested. Tests can be booked through the **COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans** tool online at:
www.alberta.ca/covid-19-testing-in-alberta.aspx

Please Note: Only symptomatic students and staff need to be tested. Siblings and Parents/Guardians are not required to be tested, unless they too develop symptoms.

STEP 3: Stay Home and Get Better

Any student who has developed symptoms of COVID-19 needs to stay home and minimize contact with others until symptoms resolve. Continued learning will be supported for students in self-isolation.

The Alberta Government states that if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 you need to isolate for at least 10 days from the start of your symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Please Note: Only symptomatic students and staff will have to isolate at home. Siblings can still attend school as long as they have not developed symptoms.

STEP 4: Getting Your Test Results

AHS will contact you with your child's test results.

Tested positive for COVID-19

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.
- Close contacts of a person with a positive case (siblings, parents/guardians) are legally required to isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.



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Have symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to isolate for 14 days.
- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

Isolation requirements are set by the Alberta Government and Alberta Health. More information on isolation requirements are available at:

www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx

STEP 5: Return to School

Be in contact with your school to update them on how things have been going and your child's symptoms. If isolation period has ended, or negative test results received and symptoms have resolved your child may return to school.

Please Note: You are required to continue completing a daily self-screening health assessment of your child each day. That is available on your school website.

If your child is ill or has developed COVID-19 symptoms, or previous symptoms persist, Do Not attend school.

COMPLETE A DAILY SELF-HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Before leaving home, please complete a daily self-screening available on your school website.

If you are ill or have COVID-19 symptoms Do Not attend school.

If there is a **CONFIRMED** case of **COVID-19** in a **SCHOOL**

Standard Practice: If there are **NO CASES** in a school
Schools continue health and safety measures including class cohorting, physical distancing, mask wearing for students in grades 4-12, and daily health checks at home of students and staff.

Symptomatic Individual(s): NO CONFIRMED CASES, but one or more people with symptoms

Symptomatic students will be isolated from others, and parents called to pick up the symptomatic student. Symptomatic staff immediately leave to isolate at home.

Alert: If there is **ONE (1) confirmed case** in a school (with or without symptoms)
The school is put on Alert Status by Alberta Health Services (AHS). AHS works with school and Division on contact tracing. Continued learning will be supported for students in self-isolation.

Outbreak: If there are **TWO (2) OR MORE confirmed cases** in your school setting (staff/child) within a 14 day period (one incubation period) OR two or more confirmed cases (staff/child) that are epidemiologically linked School & Division work closely with AHS, directed by Zone Medical Officer of Health/designate. Decisions on the need for alternate instructional delivery plans or school closures will be made by the Government in conjunction with local officials.

Public Reporting: If there are **FIVE (5) OR MORE confirmed cases** in the outbreak of your school setting, the outbreak of your school will be publicly reported on the Alberta Health outbreak website

Schools, school districts and AHS will continue with all roles and responsibilities under Outbreak. Decisions on the need for alternate instructional delivery plans or school closures will be made by the Government in conjunction with local officials. AHS can answer applicable questions from parents/guardians, public and media.

If a student or staff member is ill or has any Symptoms of COVID-19, they should:

ARRANGE A TEST

WWW.ALBERTA.CA/COVID19

You should get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptom:

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath/ difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye



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What to Expect:

If someone has
COVID-19 Symptoms
at school

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE REPORTING

If your child is going to be absent from school,
please let us know.

**Call 403-782-3096 and PRESS 8 to leave a
message on the attendance line.**

Please be specific as to whether your child is
absent due to ILLNESS or an EXCUSED absence.

*As per Alberta Health Regulations, we are
required to track student illness via our daily
attendance records.*

Parents/guardians are required to go through the
COVID-19 Screening Checklist each day prior to
sending their children to school. Any students
showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be required
to be picked up immediately.

Please see pages 3 & 4 for more information.



NEXT WEEK - September 7th to 11th

**We ask that students maintain the same arrival
routine as we've done thus far:**

- **DO NOT PLAY ON THE PLAYGROUND**
- **Head to your classroom's meeting spot**
- **Line up on the colored dots**
- **Come inside with their teacher**



WEBSITE

Have you checked out our school website yet?

Be sure to visit and explore the information posted!

ejsm@wolfcreek.ab.ca

EJSMS SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Our 2020-2021 School Handbook has been emailed to all families, and is also available on our website under Parents > Newsletters. Please be sure to reference this handbook for information on school policies, FAQ's, and more!

PARKING LOT & FIRE LANE

The parking lot has been designated a CHILD SAFETY ZONE at specific times of the day. Guardians are asked to park on the street to drop students off or pick them up.

For student safety, the parking lot is considered a safety zone for students to walk through rather than a drop off/pick up area.

From 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., only staff members and school buses/vans can enter the parking lot. This avoids mixing moving cars and children in the lot. As well, only buses/vans are allowed in the fire lane.

In exceptional circumstances, vehicles are allowed into the parking lot for drop off and pick up when **students are not able to walk to the school on their own.** For example, a child with a broken leg can be brought into the parking lot for the duration of the healing process. As well, some students with special needs must be brought into the parking lot for safety and/or physical reasons. To have access to the parking lot for drop off or pick-up times, permits are required and must be obtained from the office each year.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FEES

Instructional Materials Fees are posted in your parent portals.

Kindergarten \$25.00

Grades 1/2/3 \$40.00

Any Credits from cancelled 2019-2020 purchases have been applied to your accounts

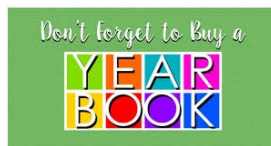
Fees have gone up to help us cover the costs of extra materials (eg., bins for each student's belongings) needed for us to meet new procedures due to COVID-19, as well as a Technology Fee & Cultural Fee.





AROUND THE SCHOOL

Yearbooks: There is a limited number of 2019-2020 yearbooks still available for purchase for \$22. If you would like to order one, please contact Mrs Krall in the office.



Outdoor Clothing:

Students should always be dressed for the weather, as being outside at recesses is an expectation. We can't share clothing with the children due to COVID-19, so please be sure your child is dressed for the weather, including mitts or gloves for the cool mornings that will be here soon.

Due to COVID-19, students will be outside for gym classes, outdoor learning, and recesses as much as possible. Please send your children to school in appropriate play footwear (avoid high heels and flip flops) and outdoor clothing suitable for each day's weather.

WEAR ORANGE!

Wear an orange shirt on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 to honour and bring awareness to the experiences of residential school students.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

"Orange Shirt Day is a growing movement of reconciliation, and legacy of the 2013 St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event, held in Williams Lake, B.C. It grew out of a former student's account of having her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

Wearing an Orange Shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to residential school students, and show a commitment to the principle that every child matters. A date in September was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come."

More information can be found at www.safeandcaring.ca

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labour Day No School	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 PD DAY	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Orange Shirt Day	School Photos Sept 30 & Oct 1		

Ecole James S
McCormick School

403-782-3096

jsm@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Office Hours:
8am—4pm

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

October 5, 6 & 7: Parent/
Guardian Virtual Meeting
Days

October 9: PD Day

October 12: Thanksgiving, No
School

October 23: PD Day

