



WEST HEIGHTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

November Newsletter



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Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As November is coming to a close, and the holiday season is upon us, our Term 1 report cards have been issued early last week. Thank you to our parent community for making it out to our Parent-Teacher Conferences this past month. It is always great to have the opportunity to engage and collaborate with parents in their child's learning. If for whatever reason you were unable to attend your child's conference, I would encourage you to reach out to your child's classroom teacher for an alternative way to communicate about your child's progress.

On a different note, the fall weather has changed dramatically, and as we are transitioning to the winter season, please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, and be prepared for outside play time.

We are continuing to be cautious with visitors and parent volunteers entering the school. These visits will continue to be made by appointment ahead of time with myself or your child's teacher, and the following of protocols: health check, wearing a mask, hand sanitizing and signing in for contact tracing.

If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me: isabella.lam@mpsd.ca

Healthy Schools Program



We are excited to welcome back the Healthy Schools Program at West Heights this year. Previously, we were involved in this program back in 2019/2020. The Healthy Schools Program is partnered with our Healthy Schools Public Health Nurse (PHN), Ms. Diaz, who will be working with our school community to build health promotion initiatives. Our top priority this year is centered around mental wellness, in addition to priorities which include healthy eating, and connecting that with our school garden. We are looking forward to having Ms. Diaz supporting us with the program this year, and we will keep you posted on our initiatives moving forward.

Christmas Hampers



We will be collecting food items until Friday, December 3rd. Please bring in any nonperishable food items to the school to help us fill our Christmas Hampers. **Cash donations are also accepted.** A special thank you to Ms. Coulthard and Ms. Chris for organizing and putting the hampers together for us this year.

Virtual Winter Performance



This year, as a staff, we will be creatively engaging in a virtual winter performance. Each class will be recording their own winter song and/or dance (some classes may join one another), and we plan on sharing the recording with families. Currently, we are exploring the technology side of things, along with privacy/permissions, but we are hopeful that we could make this work! We look forward to sharing our performance with you during the week of December 12th, before the winter break. We will send you an update with more information in the coming weeks. Thanks for your patience, and stay tuned!

Remembrance Day Assembly

Although our Remembrance Day Assembly was a few weeks ago, it is important to highlight how we have commemorated the day as a school community. On November 10th, we held a virtual school-wide Remembrance Day Assembly, where we had an opportunity to learn about the significance of the poppy, including what each color of the poppy represents, as well as connecting our learning to the **Year of the Beaver**: *who represents wisdom because he uses his natural gifts wisely for his survival.* In addition, we also took the time to honor Canada's Indigenous Veterans who lost their lives in the war efforts. Students had an opportunity to reflect on this day through their artwork:



Staff News

We are pleased to welcome our newest staff members who have joined our wonderful school community in November/December:

Ms. Jessica Fraser – Education Assistant
Ms. Rosalyn Boudreau – Music Teacher

Basketball Team

Congratulations to our Gr. 6 Basketball Team who qualified for the playoffs this year! We are so incredibly proud of our team for committing to weekly practices, and showing up at every game with enthusiasm and sportsmanship. A special thank you to Ms. Crump for coaching the Basketball Team this season, and best wishes to our Gr. 6s as they shoot hoops next year at the middle school.



Toys/Skateboards/Scooters

This is just a friendly reminder to please keep the following items at home:

- All trading cards and toys (i.e. Pokémon cards)
- Skateboards (as it is difficult to lock up outside)
- Scooters (unless able to be locked up outside)

Thank you for your support.

Parking

This is just a friendly reminder that our school parking lot can become very congested before and after school. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended or park in the drop-off zone, as buses and emergency vehicles must have access without being blocked. Thank you for being kind to one another, and abiding by the rules of our parking lot.

Spirit Days

Spirit Days have begun at West Heights, and monthly themes are posted on our school website, under 'school calendar'. Our next Spirit Day is PJ Day, as we get ready for winter break.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 3 rd	Last Day for Food Drive
Dec. 6 th	Gr. 6 Immunizations
Dec. 17 th	PJ Day
Dec. 20 th	Winter Holidays – Schools Closed
Jan. 4 th	Schools Reopen



Morning Attendance

Morning attendance is an important task that we work through every morning to ensure all of our students have arrived safely to school. This is just a friendly reminder to please contact the office if your child will be absent for the day. Please give the school a call first, and if you're not able to reach us, please send our Secretary an email: carol.harris@mpsd.ca Thank you very much for your support.

Mask Mandate

A friendly reminder to please refer to Superintendent Wilson's Letter to Families regarding the K-12 Mask Mandate from October 1st. This letter is posted on our school website, near the top of our homepage. Please note that we have a very limited supply of both cloth and disposable masks available at the school. Please send your child with an extra mask in a baggy in their backpack. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Reminders for Parents

Please continue to complete a daily health check of your child before sending them to school. It is important that they are not experiencing any new symptoms. If they become sick at school, we will call home to have them picked up until they are feeling better. Here are some resources that may help you. We have also posted the K-12 Health Check App on our school website.

Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)

Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)

Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider