



Westglen School

PAW PRINTS

September 2011

*"Promise me you will
always see the good in
every child."*

Mrs. Linda Pothier

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*"Westglen will
encourage life long
learning and
responsible citizenship by
providing children with
varied educational
opportunities in a safe
and caring
environment."*

WESTGLEN SCHOOL
Bag 200
Didsbury, AB T0M0W0
(403) 335-8700
www.westglen.ca

Principal's Message

Welcome back to students and their parents in grades six, seven and eight and a special welcome to the students and parents in grade five. September is such an exciting time of year in a middle school as students eagerly return to school.

There are a few new adult faces in our school this year and I would like to officially welcome them to our Westglen team. Mrs. Kylie Miller has joined the Westglen team as a new grade seven homeroom teacher, Mrs. Rochelle Byiers joins us as an educational assistant and Mrs. Alia Fazakas returns to our school as a grade five teacher.

Parent-School communication is the cornerstone to student success. This year we will, again,

have three report card periods and two Student Demonstrations of Learning (conferences).

You are encouraged to contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Massel, or me at any time throughout the year to discuss his or her progress and we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet if necessary. If ever a question or concern should arise please do not hesitate to contact us. Parents know their children better than anyone and any information that you believe would help us in designing a program for your child's success would be greatly appreciated. To provide you with as much information as possible please expect a school newsletter home at the beginning of each month, as well you might want to check

the Westglen website at www.westglen.ca often for up-to-date information. In an effort to increase effective communication, Mrs. Shields is collecting parent e-mail addresses. We hope to send newsletters and other school information to you using this method and possibly begin to phase out paper copies.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is open for all parents who wish to participate. I would like to encourage all interested parents to join us for a short meeting once a month to discuss a wide variety of subjects and events at Westglen. Parental involvement and input is very important in maintaining a healthy, progressive school culture and the PAC

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Some Helpful Info for Parents

I just wanted to point out a couple of important pages in your child's agenda. Page eight is the school calendar for the entire year and page nine has a timetable with the bell schedule in-

cluded on it. These pages are great to check when planning vacations or appointments.

Meet & Greet

Come out to Westglen School on Wednesday, September 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to meet the staff. This is a great opportunity to meet and visit with your child's new teachers. Beef on a bun, juice and

coffee will be served. We look forward to seeing you there. All students and their families are welcome.

If your child has a medical condition, allergies or asthma that our staff should be aware of, please request a Medical Alert Form from the office and return it ASAP. These need to be updated yearly so our information is current.

Principal's Message Continued

is one way we can achieve this. The parent perspective is valued and necessary so please consider joining us for our **first PAC meeting on Tuesday, September 20 at 1:30pm.**

I would like to remind parents and students of the necessity of practicing all our safety drills. Westglen School, as well as all other Chinook's Edge Schools, practice fire, tornado and lock down drills on a regular basis. We will have a regular fire drill/school evacuation this week and plan on practicing a lock down drill in the near future. I will send more information regarding lock down drills in a Paw Prints Express closer to the practice date. If you have any questions or

concerns please feel free to call me at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know I will be taking a leave from Westglen School, in the spirit of life-long learning, to assume a role as Division Administrator at Chinook's Edge School Division's central office. This is a temporary role starting October 1, 2011 and ending February 29, 2012. During my leave Mrs. Massel will assume the role of Acting Principal, Mrs. Perigny will take on the responsibility of Acting Vice-Principal and Mrs. Whitlow will return to help us in a teaching role. I will return to Westglen officially on March 1, 2012. In the meantime, I am confident that Mrs.

Massel, Mrs. Perigny and the rest of the Westglen staff will continue to do an outstanding job in providing your children with a well-rounded education.

Sincerely,

Mr. J. Thompson

Westglen Golf Tournament

We are holding our annual golf tournament on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. at the Didsbury Golf Club. Students can sign up soon at the office to participate. The cost is \$6 for students and adult members and \$21 for adult non-members which includes supper and golf. Thirty-six student spaces are available on a first-come-first-served (and paid) basis. All students must be accompanied by an adult golfer.



Cross Country Running



Mrs. Guenther has met with students who are interested in joining our cross country running team. This is open to all grade levels. Kids will be running after school from 3:30 to 4:00 and Mrs. Guenther will let them know which days their grade will be running. Please listen for announcements.

Don't Forget...

Please remember to call the school if your child is going to be absent or late. You can call any time and leave a message. This saves a lot of time and phone calls in the office every morning! Because students are not always with their home-room teachers first thing in the morning, it is best to call the office as well as leaving a note in your child's agenda.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

The School Store and Breakfast Program will soon be underway and we are in need of volunteers. These are great opportunities to become involved at Westglen. If you are interested please contact the school at 335-8700.

Beginnings



“Ultimately, we are striving to provide learning opportunities that are designed to set our students up for a lifetime of success.”

A Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to another wonderful year in Chinook’s Edge!

Over this past year, we have worked very hard to revisit our motto, our mission statement, and our vision for the future. I am proud to say that our motto, Where Students Come First, was strongly affirmed as the way we will continue to make decisions in this school division. Our mission and vision statements were reworded to reflect new research and to honour the priorities of the many people we engaged across Chinook’s Edge. Our vision statement is designed to stretch all of us over the next few years to achieve student success that goes above and beyond anything we have accomplished in the past.

To achieve this, we need to not only support our teachers in their professional learning, but we also need to support our school based administrators as they focus on enhancing their instructional leadership skills. To this

end, we are very fortunate to have Dr. David Townsend and Dr. Pamela Adams from the University of Lethbridge who will be working with all of our school based administrators and our central office leaders as we commit to a year-long focus on instructional leadership. Dr. Townsend and Dr. Adams are very highly regarded across Alberta for their expertise as educational leaders and researchers.

Ultimately, we are striving to provide learning opportunities that are designed to set our students up for a lifetime of success. We want all our students to feel safe at school, to be engaged in their learning, and to arrive each day looking forward to the time they will spend with their caring and committed teachers.

We wish everyone a meaningful year of growing and achieving in Chinook’s Edge, *where students come first!*

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools

Mission:

Chinook’s Edge School Division will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them.

Vision:

Chinook’s Edge School Division will be universally recognized as a collaborative learning community where learning is personalized for all students to achieve success as compassionate and innovative global citizens.

Working Together For Students

Our service-oriented staff at Division Office are there to support schools throughout Chinook’s Edge. To facilitate this support, Liaison Superintendents have been assigned to each of our 42 schools. If you have any concerns regarding your child, we invite you to first contact your child’s teacher, and if you need further assistance your school’s principal. If you need to go beyond the school level for a solution feel free to contact your school’s Liaison Superintendent, Wanda Christensen. From there, if necessary, please feel free to contact Kurt Sacher, Superintendent of Schools.

The Chinook’s Edge Leadership Team

(accessible by calling Division Office at 403-227-7070 or toll free 1-800-561-9229):

Kurt Sacher (Superintendent of Schools)

Wanda Christensen (Associate Superintendent of Student Services)

Dr. Lissa Steele (Associate Superintendent of Learning Services)

Ray Hoppins (Associate Superintendent of System Services)

Shawn Russell (Associate Superintendent of People Services)

Allan Tarnoczi (Associate Superintendent of Corporate Services)

Volleyball

Volleyball will be starting next week for our grade seven and eight students. More information will be coming soon so students—listen for

announcements and parents—watch for handouts.



Band Notes

Survival Guide

A “Band Parent Handbook” has been sent home with all new grade five band students. Please check this guide for all information and important dates. The Christmas concert is on Thursday, December 15 and the spring concert is on Tuesday, June 5. Concert dress for all grade 6, 7 and 8 band students is **all black**. Students are asked to wear a black dress shirt as well as black pants/skirts.

Please note:

Due to an increase in the cost of maintenance, cleaning and repairs of school instruments, the cost of renting an instrument from the school is now \$125 for the school year.

Instrument Rental Night

St. John’s Music will be at the school on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the band room for students who need to rent instruments from them. Please bring identification and a method of payment.

The Terry Fox Foundation



Terry Fox was 18 years old when he was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma (bone cancer) in his right leg. His leg was amputated 15 cm above the knee. It was during this time that he decided he wanted to raise money for cancer research by running across Canada. He set out on his *Marathon of Hope* on April 12, 1980 in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

On September 1, 1980 Terry was forced to end his run in Thunder Bay, Ontario due to a return of cancer to his lungs. He had run 5,373 kms through six provinces. Terry died in 1981.

To date, over \$400 million has been raised worldwide. The run is held in more than 50 countries every year.

Without the participants that collect pledges and the generosity of the people who support them, advances in cancer treatment would not have progressed to the point they are today.

The Terry Fox Foundation strives to make sure as much money as possible is directed towards research consistent with Terry’s wishes. The foundation is fiscally responsi-

ble to the donors and are proud of their operating cost ratio that allocates 87 cents of every dollar raised used for cancer research.

The incredible commitment and enthusiasm Canadian youth display is an inspiration to all of us.

Last year, close to 3 million students at 8,000 schools participated!

Westglen students, along with students from Ross Ford Elementary and Didsbury High School will be joining millions of other students around the world to participate in The Terry Fox Run on September 28, 2011.

We appreciate your support in bringing the Foundation one step closer to Terry’s dream of a world without cancer!

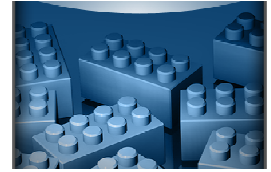
We will be sending home additional information soon. On behalf of the Terry Fox Foundation, thank you!

**We
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world with-
out cancer!**

Lego Club

Lego Club will start up during lunch recesses in Mrs. Gramlich's room in October. If there are

families willing to donate lego to Westglen, it would be greatly appreciated!



Wildcat Cafe

The store will be opening in a few weeks and the Breakfast for Learning program will start then as well. We will make announcements for students so they will know the exact opening date.

Watch for more details in October's newsletter. Please call the office if you're interested in volunteering in our store.

Library News

Welcome back!

Please be sure to return any overdue books from last year or pay outstanding invoices for lost books. This will en-

sure that students can sign out books this year.

Thanks,
Mrs. Nickel

All Those Forms...

All grade five students are required to fill out a new registration form for Westglen School. All grades will need to return Media Consent, Off Site Activities and Computer Use Agreements. Demographic forms will be sent home shortly to be updated by grades 6, 7 & 8 students.

If you are new to Didsbury schools and have recently registered your child at

Westglen, all of these forms should be complete.

Thanks for helping us keep all of our student information current and accurate.



Back-to-School Tips for Parents

Parents and guardians looking for information on preparing their kids for back to school have access to a variety of online resources, including things to consider before the first day of school, study tips, managing homework and safe Internet use. Other valuable online information for parents and students includes learning resources, tips on time management and being a successful student, and curriculum handbooks and summaries, which provide both in-depth and grade-at-a-glance information on what students are expected to learn at each grade level. For more information, visit <http://education.alberta.ca/resources/backtoschool.aspx>

Curriculum Handbooks

The 2011/2012 versions of the *Curriculum Handbooks for Parents* and *Curriculum Summaries* for Kindergarten to senior high school are available on the Alberta Education website at www.education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/handbook.aspx. The handbooks provide in-depth information on what outcomes students are expected to demonstrate at each grade level of the curriculum, and the summaries provide concise grade-at-a-glance information.

Community News

OLDS RAPIDS SWIM CLUB

FRIENDS FUN FITNESS

For registration information
call 556-6137

Out of the Olds Aquatic Center, the Olds Rapids Winter Swim Club offers competitive and recreational swimming to children aged 6 years old and up. Various skill levels of instruction are available to the swimmer by a certified coach.

*Try It Week (3 nights) September 12, 14, 16
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

This week long camp allows children aged 6-18 an opportunity to experience swim club prior to committing to a full session. The cost is \$25.00. Please bring goggles.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Play Female Hockey

- Atom (8-10)
- Pee Wee (11-12)
- Bantam (13-14)
- Midget (15-17)



Download a Registration Form
www.oldsminorhockey.ca

For more information regarding girls hockey in Olds, email
girlshockeyinolds@gmail.com



Come skate with us!!



Didsbury Skating Club

The Didsbury Skate Club is looking forward to another fantastic year! We offer learn to skate programs starting at pre-school age, skate programs for budding hockey stars and of course, figure skating.

Don't miss out!

For info, schedule and registration forms please visit the website www.didsburyfigureskating.com

Registration Night
September 7
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Didsbury Memorial Complex
Multi-Purpose Room



Rainbows is an international not-for-profit organization that fosters emotional healing among children grieving a loss from a life-altering crisis. These losses, among others, include separation, divorce, death, and foster care. If you are interested in being an adult volunteer, Rainbows facilitator training will be held in Carstairs on September 9 and 10, 2011. Please call Melody Knutson for more information on volunteering at 403-335-1940.

If you have a child who would benefit from a Rainbows peer support group, please call Nicole Aasen at 403-335-8719

<http://www.rainbows.ca/>

OLDS HUSKIES FOOTBALL

Players currently in grades 6 or 7 are welcome to join the Olds Huskies football team. Players must be 11 or 12 years old on December 31st of this year to play Pee Wee football. The season is underway so please call Monte Christensen at 403-586-2275 or email monte@mountainbark.com or Garth Dagg at gdagg@chinooksedge.ab.ca to register. More information is available at the school office.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 (Day 1)	2 (Day 2)	3
4	5 Labour Day No student attendance	6 (Day 3)	7 (Day 4) Meet the Teacher Night Beef on a bun will be served from 5:30-6:30pm	8 (Day 5)	9 (Day 1)	10
11	12 (Day 2)	13 (Day 3) School Picture Day	14 (Day 4)	15 (Day 5)	16 (Day 1)	17
18	19 (Day 2)	20 (Day 3) PAC Meeting 1:30 pm	21 (Day 4)	22 (Day 5) St. John's Music Band Instrument Rental Night 7:00 pm	23 Non-Instructional Day No student attendance	24
25	26	27	28 Didsbury Schools Terry Fox Run	29	30	