

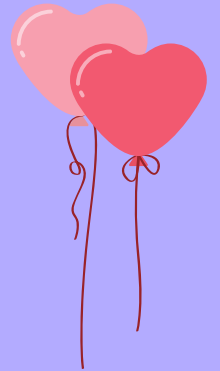
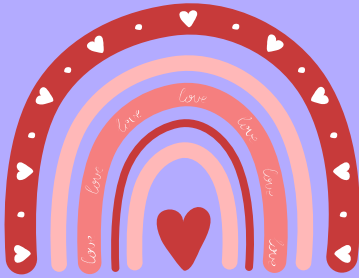


WESTMOUNT
CHARTER SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2025



WESTMOUNT
CHARTER SCHOOL



WELCOME TO THE EC Monthly Report

Dear WCS Community,

As January draws close, we pause to reflect on a month rich with accomplishments and notable happenings in our school. We updated admission statuses and shared our first progress reports of the year. Furthermore, we commemorated Gifted from the Inside Out Day, a special event designed to foster self-awareness and a deeper understanding of giftedness through interactive activities. Our K-3 students completed their provincial literacy and numeracy assessments. We wrapped up the month by celebrating the Chinese New Year and the Lunar New Year. Meanwhile, our staff participated in beneficial professional development days focused on trauma-informed practices, emotional intensity, and insights from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).

We have now reached the midpoint of the school year! Looking forward, February promises to be another exciting month. We begin by celebrating Black History Month, honouring the contributions of remarkable individuals throughout history. Our staff will attend the Calgary Teacher's Convention in the middle of the month to gain valuable professional insights. Furthermore, students in grades 1-4 will enjoy skating activities during PE, weather permitting.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we enter another busy and rewarding month.

Warm regards,

Adriana Klassen (Principal) and Karly Bagnall (Assistant Principal)
(submitted February 7, 2025)



UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY

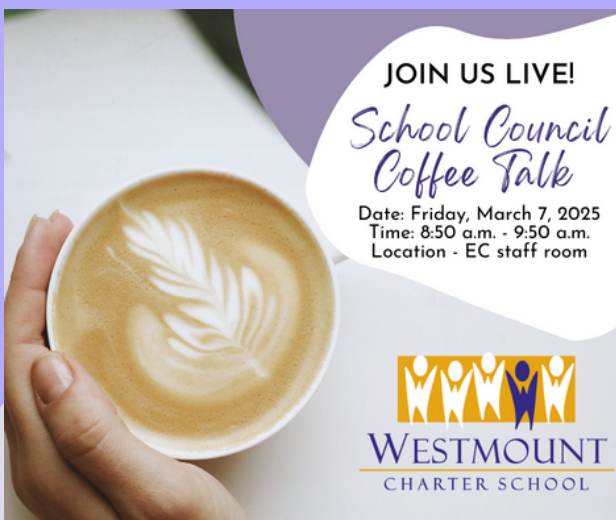


- February 1: Black History Month Begins
- February 3-21: Skating in PE (weather dependent)
- February 5: Winter Walk Day & World Read Aloud Day
- February 7: Westmount Wear Friday
- February 7: Black History Month Assembly
- February 7: School Council Coffee Talk (Online) @ 9:15–9:45 am
- February 11-12: Mad Science in Kindergarten
- February 12: Spirit Day -Valentine's Day (Wear Pink/Red)
- February 12: School Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- February 13-14: PD Day - No School
- February 17: Family Day - No School
- February 21: Fun Lunch - Banzai Sushi
- February 26: Spirit Day - Pink Shirt Day
- February 26: Grade 3 Telus Wise Footprint Workshop
- February 28: Fun Lunch - Mary Browns



FEBRUARY HOUSE
COLOUR CHALLENGE:
PINK SHIRT KINDNESS
CHALLENGE

MARCH HOUSE COLOUR
CHALLENGE: LIMERICK
WRITING CONTEST



MARCH



- March 3-7: Trickster Week
- March 7: Westmount Wear Friday
- March 7: School Council Coffee Talk in the Staff Room @ 8:50–9:50 am
- March 9: Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 10-14: MRU Math Contest
- March 10-14: Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week
- March 12: School Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- March 13: Grade 1 Immunizations with Public Health
- March 14: Pi Day (3.14)
- March 14: Spring Assembly - Grade 1 & MW Kindergarten
- March 14: Fun Lunch - Mucho Burritos
- March 14: Winter LEAD Ends
- March 17: Spirit Day - St. Patrick's Day (Wear Green)
- March 17: Gr 1 & 2 Spelling Bee
- March 19: Lost & Found Items - Last Day to Claim
- March 20: Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break
- March 20: Rock Your Socks Day (World Down Syndrome Day - March 21)
- March 20: Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30–7:00 pm (In-Person)
- March 21: Parent/Teacher Conferences: 9:00–11:00 am (In-Person)/ 12:00–3:00 pm (Online)
- March 22-April 6: Spring Break -No School

FEBRUARY LEARNING COMMONS UPDATE



BOOK REMINDERS

Remember to have a safe spot for your book at home that is separate from your Calgary Public Library books.

Remember you are responsible for the books you borrow, please do not travel with your books as you run risk of losing your book.

If your book gets damaged, please advise the LC right away.

Please ensure you are renewing your books as they will become overdue on your LC profile.

If you have misplaced or lost your book, please advise the LC right away as this book will not be able to be borrowed by other students.

Remember you should not be eating or drinking when reading your book.

Remember to use a bookmark and turn pages from the corners.

AUTHOR VISIT

Grade 1 and 2 students had the opportunity to virtually visit with author Josh Funk. He read to students from his "Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast" series including a brand new not-yet-released book. Students had the opportunity to ask him questions about his books including where his ideas come from, and when he became an author. We have many Josh Funk books available for students to check out in the Learning Commons.



DEWEY

Students were busy exploring research apps during the month of January. During the month of February, students will spend time discovering more about the Dewey Decimal System through various activities and games. Grade 3 students will learn how to self-check out books, and grade 4 students will be reintroduced to this process. Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 students will become more confident finding specific books in the Learning Commons by understanding how the books are organized!



WORLD READ-ALOUD DAY

February 5th is World Read Aloud Day. Click on the icon for more information about this exciting day!



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FEBRUARY MUSIC UPDATE



Students in Kindergarten, Grade One and Grade Two completed a Winter Review Project in January to reinforce and practice concepts covered during the Fall Term.

Grade Three Students reinforced new melodic learning with Boomwhackers and Grade Four students learned all five parts of an arrangement of Land of the Silver Birch including bass xylophones, alto xylophones, glockenspiels, drums and singing.

Coming Soon:
Recorders for Gr. 4



Share Your Musical Talent Feb 24-28



Sign-up deadline-
Tues. Feb. 18

Email Mrs. Nysetvold the following information:

- Student name and class
- Category (ie. piano, violin, singing, dance, speech arts)
- Title of piece or selection
- Total time of performance

SPRING ASSEMBLY

Friday, March 14
9:20 am

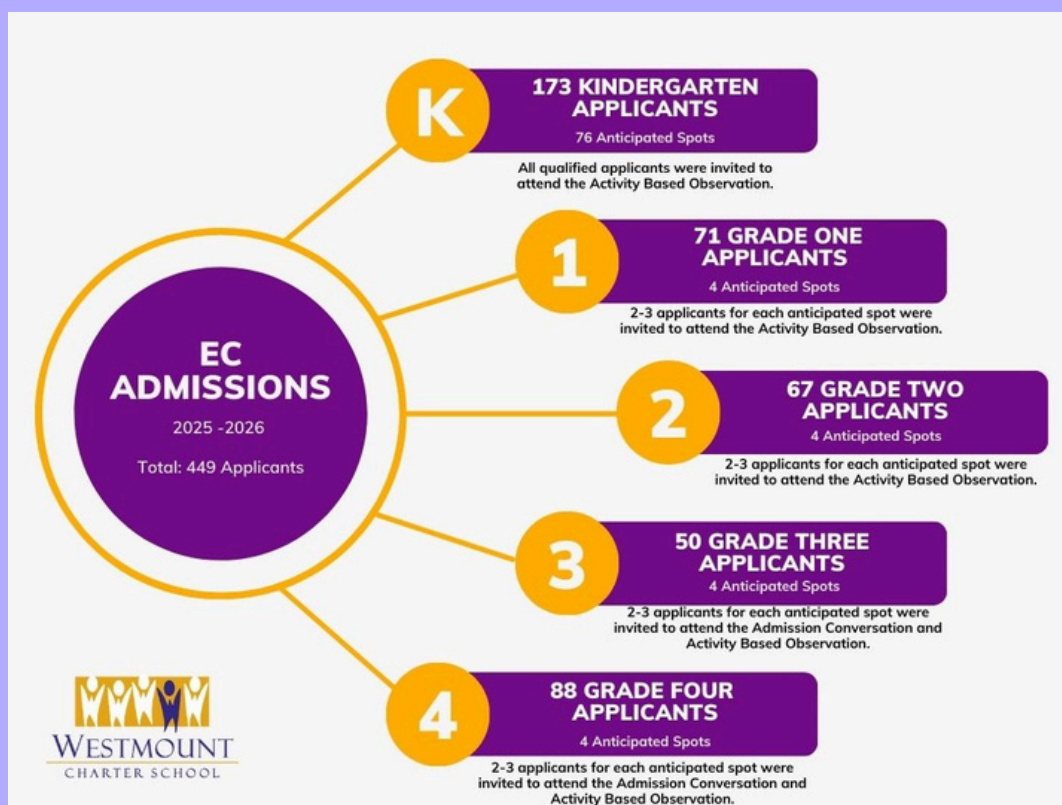
We are looking forward to the Spring Assembly hosted by the Grade One & M/W Kindergarten students

The Grade 1/2 Winter LEAD Choir will also be performing at the assembly.



@wcselementary

EC Admissions



Skating

In February, grades 1-4 will have a skating field trip as part of Physical Education. Students will walk to Parkdale Community outdoor rink for three one-hour lessons, weather permitting. Beginners are welcome; all students need skates, a proper helmet (not a bike helmet), gloves, and strongly recommended snow pants. For skate rentals, visit Sports Rent at 4424 16 Ave NW Calgary. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with walking and tying skates; interested volunteers should visit the provided signup link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084DA8A923A2F49-wcsskating>

Thanks to our Casino Fundraising Society for funding this field trip.



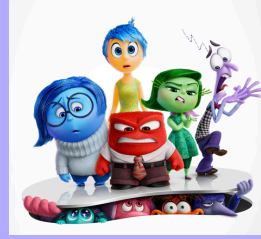
February House Colour Challenge

February is Kindness Month at Westmount! Student Services is organizing Classroom Kindness Bingo to celebrate how we care for each other. Each classroom will receive a bingo card featuring actions and words that contribute to making our school a welcoming and positive place.

The House with the most acts of kindness wins the challenge, and the class with the most completed squares will earn a special whole-class prize from Student Services! Let's do what we do best here at Westmount, and that is take care of each other!



Inside Out Day



On Gifted from the Inside Out Day, Friday, January 24th, our school celebrated the uniqueness and diversity of giftedness with a vibrant and engaging program. Staff and students participated enthusiastically by dressing as characters from the movie Inside Out or by wearing their clothes inside out to symbolize the theme of looking inward to understand oneself.

The day began with an inspiring assembly led by the Student Services team and our Grade 3 students (3C-Madelaine, Yilin, Maia, 3R-Chuck, Lemira, 3M-Jack, 3LO-Sreen, Mulin), which set the tone for reflection and exploration. The assembly introduced key concepts related to giftedness, including an overview of Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities (OEs), fostering a deeper understanding of the emotional and intellectual characteristics often accompanying being gifted.

Throughout the day, students participated in activities designed to help them reflect on their identities as gifted individuals. These activities provided opportunities for them to explore their strengths and unique traits and how their OEs influence their learning, relationships, and daily lives.

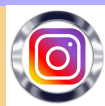
The event celebrated giftedness while promoting self-awareness, empathy, and community building among our students and staff. It was a meaningful and successful day highlighting the importance of understanding and embracing individuality within our gifted community.



Evergreen Theater

On January 28th, students from Grades 1 to 4 enjoyed Evergreen Theatre's performance of "Alice's Alberta Energy Adventure." This engaging production, which introduces the science and history of energy in Alberta, featured participation from our Grade 3 and 4 student volunteers (Vivaan, Anushka, Eytan, Aadyant, George, Rennea, Zara, Parsa, Annabel, and Bobby). The show aligns with multiple cross-curricular connections, encompassing science, social studies, language arts, health, and fine arts, as outlined in the K-6 Alberta Program of Studies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our EC Casino Fundraising Society for funding this performance, which enriched our science curriculum and provided an interactive learning experience for our students.



Black History Month



Westmount is thrilled to welcome Wunmi Idowu from Woezo Africa back to our school on February 7th for our Black History Month Assembly. Ms. Idowu has been a performing artist in Nigeria since the age of 3 before emigrating to Canada in 1992. Having grown up in Alberta and having only 3 other black students in her classes during elementary school, she understands intimately the importance of incorporating African Canadian History into Alberta classrooms. Her February presentation will focus on the incredible contributions that African Canadians have made to Canadian arts, politics, technological innovation, and business while incorporating her story and culture in an engaging presentation tailored for K-4 students. Thanks to our Casino Fundraising Society for funding this outstanding presentation.

Visit her website for more information at: <https://woezoafrica.com/>



Trickster



Trickster Theatre will be at our K-4 campus from March 3rd to 7th as part of an artist-in-residence program. Trickster has been working with schools for over 30 years. Their goal is to create theatre-based programs as tools for learning, especially in the areas of Science, Storytelling and Global Issues. Trickster has received the Theatre for Young Audiences award and the Roza Award for Excellence in Arts Management and makes their home in Calgary, Alberta. During our residency week, each of our Grade 1 to 4 classrooms will spend 90 minutes Monday-Thursday creating a unique student-led program, which will be performed on Friday afternoon for parents and staff. Kindergarten students will spend 30-45 minutes working with Trickster staff on each designated school day and record a special performance, which will be shared with parents through their homeroom teachers. The theme of our residency is "What We Learn from the Land: Setting Our Intentions for Land Acknowledgement." Following the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Character Development, students will spend their time in their classrooms leading up to our residency learning about the Seven Sacred Teachings and the animals representing each teaching. This will prepare students to engage fully with Trickster facilitators during our residency week to ensure maximum student engagement.

For more information on Trickster, visit: <https://trickstertheatre.com/about/>

On behalf of Westmount staff, we thank the School Council and Casino Fundraising Society for supporting this enrichment program with Trickster and all of our EDID assembly initiatives. We thank our EDID learning leader, Mrs. Mary-Beth Walsh, for organizing these two events.

Participating in incredible programs such as Trickster and bringing incredible presenters like Ms. Idowu to Westmount would not be possible without your support and generosity. Your support allows us to learn from professionals we would otherwise not have access to. We thank you for your support and look forward to sharing our final Trickster production with parents on March 7th.

