



WESTMOUNT
CHARTER SCHOOL

APRIL 2025



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WELCOME TO THE EC Monthly Report

Dear WCS Community,

March was a bustling month at Westmount, marked by the Trickster Theatre Residency, which wrapped up with student performances on March 7. We are grateful to the Casino Fundraising Society for sponsoring this event, and we appreciate our parent volunteers and Mrs. Walsh for her outstanding leadership throughout that week. We also celebrated various occasions, including Pi Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spirit Day, and Rock Your Socks Day, to raise awareness for Down Syndrome. Our students demonstrated their talents in the MRU Math Contest and the Grade 1 & 2 Spelling Bee, while the Spring Assembly showcased the abilities of Grade 1 and MW Kindergarten students. Parent-teacher conferences on March 20-21 allowed for valuable discussions regarding student progress. Following this, Spring Break provided a refreshing pause from March 22 to April 6.

As we move into April, we observed World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, Green Shirt Day on April 7, and kicked off with Education Week (April 7-11). The School Council's Read-a-thon fundraiser concluded on April 7, leading to an assembly on April 11, where the grand prize includes a chance to be Principal for a Day on April 25, alongside the launch of the Spring LEAD Program and Jump Rope for Heart, which promotes wellness. Notable dates include no school on Good Friday (April 18) and PD Day on April 21. We will also celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and Administrative Professionals Day on April 23.

We look forward to an enriching April filled with learning and community involvement.

Warm regards,

Adriana Klassen (Principal) and Karly Bagnall (Assistant Principal)
(submitted April 11, 2025)



UPCOMING EVENTS



APRIL



- April 2: World Autism Awareness Day
- April 7: Welcome Back from Spring Break
- April 7-11: Education Week
- April 7: Green Shirt Day (in support of the Logan Boulet Effect / Organ Donor Awareness and Registration)
- April 7: Read-a-thon Concludes
- April 10: Grade 3 Field Trip to Stampede Grounds
- April 11: Westmount Wear Friday
- April 11: School Council Coffee Talk - Online from 9:15 to 9:40 am
- April 11: Spirit Day - Dress as Your Favorite Book Character
- April 11: School Council Read-a-thon Assembly
- April 11: Spring LEAD Program Begins
- April 11: Fun Lunch - Nam
- April 13: Palm Sunday
- April 16: Grade 4 Field Trip to Edworthy Park
- April 16: School Council Meeting at 7 pm
- April 17: Easter Spirit Day (wear pastel colours, bunny ears, and/ or festive spring outfits)
- April 18: Good Friday - No School
- April 20: Easter Sunday
- April 21: PD Day - No School
- April 22: Earth Day / Earth Day Assembly (Grade 2 and T/Th Kindies)
- April 23: Administrative Professionals Day
- April 25: Westmount Wear Friday
- April 25: Jump Rope for Heart Assembly
- April 25: Principal for the Day
- April 25: Fun Lunch - Edo Japan
- April 28: National Day of Mourning



**APRIL HOUSE COLOUR
CHALLENGE: ALICE IN
WONDERLAND POSTER
CHALLENGE**

**MAY HOUSE COLOUR
CHALLENGE: JUMP ROPE
FOR HEART SKIP-OFF**




JOIN US LIVE!
*School Council
Coffee Talk*
Date: Friday, May 2, 2025
Time: 8:50 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.
Location - EC Staff Room




MAY



- May 2: School Council Coffee Talk (In-Person) from 8:50 to 9:50 AM
- May 2: Asian Heritage Month Assembly
- May 5: Spirit Day - Celebrating Star Wars Day (May 4th) & Cinco de Mayo
- May 5: School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 5-9: Mental Health Week
- May 7: Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 7: Spirit Day - Hats On! for Mental Health Day
- May 9: Westmount Wear Friday
- May 9: Jump Rope for Heart Event
- May 9: Fun Lunch: Freshii
- May 11: Mother's Day
- May 12: 3rd Annual WCS Elementary Health Summit
- May 14-15: Spring Photos / Kindergarten Underclass Photos
- May 14: School Council AGM at 7 PM
- May 16: Professional Development Day - No School
- May 19: Victoria Day - No School
- May 22: Grade 1 Field Trip to Calgary Farm Yard
- May 27: Drama Performance for Students
- May 28: Spirit Day - Wear Red in Support of Alice in Wonderland
- May 28: Fine Arts Night / Drama Performance from 5:15 to 7:30 PM (art walk/choir/drama)
- May 29: Drama Performance from 5:45 to 7:40 PM
- May 30: Fun Lunch - Brooklyn Dumpling Shop

APRIL LEARNING COMMONS UPDATE

CIRCUITS

Students will explore circuits in the Learning Commons in April.

Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students will use the Squishy Circuits. Squishy Circuits use conductive and insulating play dough to teach the basics of electrical circuits. These kits teach students problem-solving and engineering concepts and inspire creativity and independent thinking!



Grade 3 and 4 students will use Makey Makey. These circuits are an invention kit for the 21st century! Students can turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet. It's a simple invention kit that brings engineering and coding concepts to life!



CALDECOTT BOOKS

This month, we will highlight Caldecott Medal and Honor Books, which include outstanding picture books. This medal is annually awarded to the illustrator of the most distinguished children's picture book published in the preceding year. Fun Fact: the first Caldecott was awarded in 1938.



Grade 4 author visit with Marty Chan in March!

LONGWOOD GARDENS

In April and May, Longwood Gardens will virtually join students in grades one and two in the Learning Commons. Students will attend one of the following sessions:

A Plant's Life - explore the life cycle of a plant from seed to flower in this virtual behind-the-scenes tour at Longwood where students discover how horticulturists prepare spectacular displays.

Carnivorous Plants - journey into the secret world of carnivorous plants and discover the unique methods by which these amazing organisms capture food to continue their survival.

Operation Pollination - discover the connection of living systems and investigate why and how flowering plants have developed with their pollinator partners.



APRIL MUSIC UPDATE

LIMERICK CONTEST

There were 110 entries in the Limerick contest and the winning house with the most submissions was **Yellow House!** Congratulations!

In first place and winning an additional 5 bonus points for Red House was Idhika, 3M.

In second place with a bonus 3 points was Aliyana, 4HO, for Green House.

In third place, winning an additional point for Green House was Ayven from 3C.

Honourable mention goes to Eliana L. from 2AV also from Green House.



EARTH DAY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 22
1:10 pm

Grade Two & T/Th Kindergarten students will be hosting this assembly. We are looking forward to it!



CHOIR UPDATE

In conjunction with the Elementary Drama Club's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, WCS will be hosting a Fine Arts night, including performances by the Gr. 3-4 Elementary Campus Fine Arts Choir. The choir will perform at the beginning of the show, following the gallery walk and intermission, and at the end as a finale, including the cast and crew of *Alice in Wonderland*.

The evening performance with choir is on **Wednesday, May 28** from 5:15-7:30. A permission form with all details is being sent home with each choir student.

MUSIC AND THE BRAIN

Click the link to read about the benefits of music education on cognitive, physical, social-emotional and language development.



PE UPDATE - FITSET NINJA

On May 14th and 15th, the Elementary campus is excited to host Fitset Ninja as part of our Physical Education program. Students will get the chance to balance, jump, and swing through a series of challenging obstacle courses, led by skilled obstacle course ninjas.

Since we had to cancel a significant portion of our skating unit due to extreme weather conditions, the leftover Casino funds will be utilized to help finance this thrilling experience.

PE UPDATE - HEALTH SUMMIT



EC Health Summit

WCS EC Health Summit - Monday, May 12th 2025 Community Health Experts Needed

Westmount Elementary will host a Student Health Summit on the afternoon of May 12th. We are seeking community health experts to share their knowledge and expertise in a 20-minute presentation with our EC students. Examples of past presentations included Financial Literacy, Sun Safety, The Effects of Screen Time, Bike Safety, Digestion, Nutrition, Oral Health, Mindfulness, Allergies, Emergencies, and First Responders.

Do you have expertise in these areas of health or on current topics of interest that will encourage students to continue to make healthy choices and lead an active lifestyle?

Are you looking to volunteer and share your knowledge?

Please connect with Ms. Cuthbert for more information!

ashley.cuthbert@westmountcharter.com



WCS ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Student Health Summit

Looking for volunteers to join us for the annual health summit.

MAY 12, 2025 (AFTERNOON)

Volunteer Presenters
Needed! Calling All
Community Health Experts.



ashley.cuthbert@westmountcharter.com

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH ASSEMBLY



Next month, Westmount Elementary Campus will host an assembly to honour Asian Heritage Month. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a diverse community at Westmount, and this year, we invite parents and/or students of Asian Heritage to participate in our celebration. The assembly is set for May 2nd and will be held in our Main Gym, with all K-4 students in attendance. Those interested in joining us are encouraged to contact Mrs. Walsh at mary.walsh@westmountcharter.com.

We will prioritize students and/or parents who play traditional instruments or music. While we may not be able to accommodate everyone who expresses interest, we will do our utmost to include as many participants as possible. Thank you for considering a performance at our assembly; we eagerly anticipate hearing from you.



@wcselementary

NEW CLUBS FOR SPRING

As part of our continuous efforts to boost student engagement and offer a variety of extracurricular activities, we are thrilled to announce the introduction of three new clubs this spring: the Gardening Club, the Outdoor Reading Club, and the Grade 3/4 Trivia Club. These initiatives reflect our dedication to providing a well-rounded educational experience for students at Westmount Charter School.

- Gardening Club (K-4) - led by Ms. Young



- The Gardening Club invites students in Grades K-4 to participate in hands-on outdoor learning. Meetings will occur on Mondays during the last recess and Thursdays during the morning recess at the outdoor classroom's stump area. Activities will vary with the seasons, including weeding, watering, and planting seeds or plants. Participation will be limited and rotated to ensure that all interested students can participate throughout the year. Gardening gloves will be provided to minimize potential allergies or skin irritations. This club promotes environmental stewardship, responsibility, and practical learning.



- Outdoor Reading Club – Reading Under the Trees (Grades 1-4) - led by Ms. Grandmont and Ms. Walsh



- The Outdoor Reading Club offers students a tranquil environment in which to enjoy literature surrounded by nature. Starting April 16, sessions will occur every Wednesday during lunch recess in the tree-enclosed outdoor area with stump seating. Students are encouraged to bring their favorite book or choose from the selections provided by the teachers. Each session will also include a read-aloud option for those who prefer listening. The club will begin with a discussion on caring for books outdoors, emphasizing that Learning Commons books should remain inside. Participation will depend on the weather, with weekly announcements confirming club meetings. This initiative nurtures a passion for reading while enhancing outdoor learning experiences.



- Grade 3/4 Trivia Club - led by Ms. Hogg and Ms. Flood



- The Trivia Club offers Grade 3 and 4 students a chance to test their knowledge and memory in a friendly, competitive atmosphere. The club will convene on Mondays during morning recess, beginning April 7 and continuing until May 26, with the possibility of extending into June if interest persists. Students will participate in trivia-based activities to foster critical thinking, recall, and teamwork. This club offers an enjoyable and interactive way for students to learn outside the classroom while enhancing their problem-solving and collaboration skills.



These new clubs offer valuable opportunities for students to explore their interests, build community, and engage in meaningful activities outside of the classroom. We are excited to witness their positive influence on student learning and well-being.



FINE ARTS: ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Join Us for Our Grade 3-4 Drama Production of Alice in Wonderland! 🍷

This year, the Westmount Players proudly present Alice in Wonderland! As a group, we continuously build resilience and risk-taking in a safe and supportive space, working together as a strong community. We would love for you to join us for this exciting production! ✨

- 📅 Performance Dates: May 28 & 29, 2025
- 📍 Location: EC Main Gym
- 🎫 Tickets: \$5.00 each (on sale after Spring Break)



A Special Evening – May 28th: On this night, we will join our school choir for an art walk, choir performance, and play—a full evening celebrating the arts at Westmount!

Support our young performers as they bring this beloved classic to life with whimsical characters, exciting adventures, and unforgettable moments. Don't miss this wonder-filled journey through Wonderland! 🍷🎭❤️



APRIL HOUSE COLOUR CHALLENGE

This April, we invite all K-4 students to participate in the April House Colour Challenge by creating an 8x10 “Alice in Wonderland”-themed poster for our upcoming Fine Arts Night 2025 (due April 30).

Students who submit posters will have their artwork displayed in the Main Gym on May 28. The top entries will be framed and featured in a silent auction at the event. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and winners will receive two tickets to the inaugural Fine Arts Night! To participate, students must submit their artwork and the permission form to release their art for auction.

Let's celebrate creativity and school spirit—join the challenge and bring your “Alice in Wonderland” vision to life!



TRICKSTER

we are pleased to share the incredible success of the Trickster Theatre residency from March 3-7, ending with performances from each class. It was an unforgettable experience for our students. This event provided a unique opportunity for students to engage in creative expression, collaboration, and performance, all while building confidence and storytelling skills. The energy and enthusiasm in the school were truly inspiring, with students fully immersed in the process from start to finish.

A heartfelt thank you to the Casino Fundraising Society for generously covering the costs of this amazing event. Your support made it possible for our students to participate in such a rich and meaningful artistic experience.

We also extend our gratitude to all the parent volunteers who dedicated their time to helping throughout the week. A special thank you to Melissa Wolsey from School Council for her efforts in coordinating parent volunteers, ensuring everything ran smoothly behind the scenes.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs. Walsh, whose dedication and meticulous planning over the past two years made this event a reality. Her commitment to bringing Trickster to our school ensured that students had a truly memorable and engaging experience.

Trickster Theatre was a resounding success, and we are grateful for the collaboration and support that made it all possible.



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS' APPRECIATION WEEK

From March 10th to the 14th, we celebrated Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week as we honoured and recognized these educators' invaluable contributions to our schools. Small tokens of appreciation were distributed to show our gratitude for their hard work and commitment to education. The week was a wonderful opportunity to highlight substitute teachers' essential role in maintaining continuity and quality in the classroom.



CELEBRATING HOLI



On March 14, staff members who celebrate Holi gathered to share in the joy and spirit of this vibrant festival. Holi, known as the Festival of Colours, symbolizes the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. It was wonderful to see our staff come together to honour this tradition, fostering cultural awareness and inclusivity within our school community.

OBSERVING RAMADAN



As Ramadan concluded at the end of March, our school community united to honour this significant period of reflection and devotion. Staff members dressed in festive attire to celebrate and show their support for the students and families observing Ramadan. We commemorated the end of this sacred month with Eid al-Fitr, a joyful celebration filled with gratitude and togetherness. Wishing all who celebrate a blessed Eid!



SPRING ASSEMBLY - MARCH 14

Firstly, a huge thank you to the assembly team: Ms. Cuthbert, Mrs. Nysetvold, Mrs. Hopper, Ms. Hughes, and Mr. Martin, for their hard work in organizing and setting up for our spring assembly on March 14. A special shout-out to Mrs. Nysetvold for leading the choir and closing the assembly with our school song.

We also thank our amazing student MCs—Suri, Anya, Gideon, Mia (Grade 1), Elli (Kinder), and Frankie—for their leadership. A special mention to Frankie for presenting our land acknowledgment.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Grade 1 team (Ms. Allegro, Ms. Ambrosio, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Young, Ms. Hopper, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Aime, and Mrs. R) and our Kindergarten team (Ms. Ball-Eistetter, Ms. Osborne, and Mrs. Lofthouse) for their commitment to preparing students for this special occasion. Lastly, we want to thank all our students for their beautiful singing, which truly brought the essence of spring to life! The assembly concluded with a wonderful performance by the Grade 1/2 LEAD choir, followed by our school song—bringing our community together in harmony and celebration.

Thank you all for making this event truly memorable!



**HELLO
SPRING**



JUNIOR SPELLING BEE



On Monday, March 17, students from grades 1 and 2 who participated in this year's junior spelling bee club participated in an exhilarating competition.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs. Ambrosio, Mrs. Walsh, and Ms. Young for their commitment to this year's event, and to Mrs. Bagnall for her role as the adjudicator!

Congratulations to Eliana (grade 1) for securing 1st place, Alex (grade 2) for capturing 2nd place, and Aditya (grade 2) for achieving 3rd place. Well done to all the spelling bee participants, and a special thanks to the family members who came to support our junior spelling bee!



LIMERICKS - MARCH HOUSE COLOUR CHALLENGE



There were 110 entries in the Limerick Contest, and the house with the most submissions is... Yellow House! 🌈 Congratulations!

🏆 First Place – Idhika (3M) wins 5 bonus points for Red House!

🥈 Second Place – Aliyana (4HO) earns 3 bonus points for Green House!

🥉 Third Place – Ayven (3C) wins 1 bonus point for Green House!

🌟 Honourable Mention – Eliana L. (2AV) from Green House!

Thank you to everyone who participated, and congratulations to all our winners! 🌈



There once was a dog with a knack,
For stealing his owner's Big Mac
He'd snatch it and run,
Then nap in the sun,
With ketchup stuck to his back.

Idhika M. 3M, red

