

January 5, 2024

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Westmount Elementary website: <https://wmt.hrce.ca/>

Westmount Elementary email [wmount@hrce.ca](mailto:wmount@hrce.ca)

Westmount Elementary X (formerly Twitter): @WmountElem

### **Upcoming School Dates:**

- January 11-pizza orders due
- January 16-new pizza cycle starts
- January 27-Family Literacy Day <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy/>
- January 29-SAC and WSA meetings
- January 31-Student Assembly (January there: perseverance)
- February is registration month for new Pre-primary and Primaries for 2024-2025 (details to follow)
- February 19-Heritage Day (no school)

### **Basketball Tryouts**

There will be a tryout for the school basketball team for any interested students in Grades 5 and 6, on Tuesday, January 9th, at 11:35am.

### **Band and Strings Update (Grades 4-6)**

Ms. Stryniak will be absent for the month of January. There was a substitute during January 2-5. The same substitute is booked for Wednesday next week. We are awaiting information for Monday and Friday and will email families once we know.

Ms. Rosborough is on maternity leave. Ms. MacGillivray will be our band teacher for the remainder of the year.

## **Tuesday Hot Lunch (WSA Pizza Lunch January 16-March 5)**

Reminder that pizza order forms and payment are due by Thursday, January 11. You can pay online using School Cash (there is a link on our website or go to <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/>), by cheque (made payable to Westmount School Association) or send in exact cash.

## **Important Weather Reminders (repeated information)**

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

## **How will I find out?**

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On our website [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)

- On Instagram at [www.instagram.com/hrce\\_ns/](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations](https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

### **Monthly Themes (repeated information)**

Each month, we have a schoolwide theme that students focus on learning more about. This includes classroom activities, daily announcements, and a schoolwide assembly. The theme for January is: perseverance!

### **Visiting the School (repeated information)**

If you are visiting the school for any reason, please come to the main office doors (located on Edward Arab Ave). All doors are numbered, the office is located at door #1. Once you have entered the building through the main doors, you will check in at the main office to drop items off, request your child be called to the office for dismissal, check lost and found, or any other reason.

### **Concerts Grade P-3 and Grades 4-6 in February (repeated information)**

Students will be preparing and performing in concerts in February this year! This allows more time for Grades P-3 to practice and prepare as they would start in October do a December concert. Grades 4-6 have traditionally had a concert closer to Spring so there is no change for the older grades.

Logistically, setting up for both concerts in the same week means fewer changes to schedules for students (classroom and PE) and props, sound systems, and chairs will be in place for both concerts as we transform the gym into a theatre.

Grades P-3 will have their concert on February 27 and Grades 4-6 will have their concert on February 28. February 29 is scheduled as a snow date for either concert if required.

**Water Bottles and Lost and Found (repeated information)**

We are asking each student to bring a water bottle to school daily. We have bottle fill stations and want to ensure students have access to water throughout the day. Thank you for your attention to this.

Please write your child's name in their clothing (they often do not recognize their own belongings). This will help us return items to students.