



Whitecourt
CENTRAL
School

June 2021



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The 2020-2021 school year has passed by quickly!! Each day we have watched the students grow and achieve success. It will be difficult to say goodbye to our Grade 5's, who will be moving on to Percy and to our Grade 3's and 4's, who we won't see until late August. We are so proud of all of our students and their accomplishments!! Enjoy your summer!!!!



Get the Scoop 2021

More information regarding our Get the Scoop will be shared in August. Watch our website and social media!!!!

Technology

Over the summer, our NGPS technology team will be focusing on updating our technology within the school. This means that we will be getting some new chromebooks, others will be updated and other technology will be replaced in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. Students will be assigned a chromebook for the 21-22 school year once their technology fees have been paid.

Transition Planning

Our Grade 5 students have started their transition to Percy by meeting virtually with Mrs. Wright and asking questions so they feel more confident with the move. We will welcome the Grade 2 students from Pat Hardy in a video which introduces all of the teachers and provides a tour of the school. We look forward to meeting our new Grade 3's.



May Eagles

3L - Harper D
3PR - Owen U
3M - Owen A
3S - Britta V
3W - Kyler R

4CH - Melah S
4M - Anzhelina Z
4J - Phoenix F
4D - Naomi C
4C - Natalie M

5C - Brooke S
5B - Brooke P
5L - Emma W
5CL - Tehya O
5U - Cassidy F



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Website:

<http://whitecourt.ca>

Twitter: @ngpswcs

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WhitecourtCentral

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Half Price Book Fair will be held virtually from June 1 - 13, 2021.

The link is below:

<https://www.tombocbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5160172>



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Staffing Changes

There will be some staffing changes for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Czenczek will be retiring to enjoy time with her family. Mrs. Sebo (Ms. Watson) will be joining the Grade 5 teaching team and Mrs. Camps will be returning from maternity leave.



Year End Wrap Up

As we approach the end of the 2020-2021 school year, there will be many items coming home. Please note that all student belongings must be collected from the school by 3 pm on June 28th as our custodians begin their summer cleaning. Anything left at the school after that time will be either disposed of or donated to the Repeat Boutique.

Bussing 2021-2022

Just a reminder that proof of residency must be provided for bussing purposes. If you have any questions, please contact the school, 780-778-2136, or the Director of Transportation, Rhett Czaban at: rhett.czaban@ngps.ca.

After School Plans

Thank you to all of our parents who ensure that their children know their after school plans. We appreciate that you understand that importance of this for safety reasons.

Powerschool

In addition to lots of activities, it is, of course, a very busy month in terms of student learning and assessment. All classes will be celebrating student accomplishments during award ceremonies that are scheduled in late June. We ask that parents continue to work with us in ensuring that students are in attendance during this final month and that they are well rested and are able to perform at their very best.



ONLINE SAFETY

Child-luring, cyber bullying, human trafficking, child pornography - just reading these words can make our skin crawl and spike fear into the very depths of our soul. Combine this with our already present anxiousness with all the hours our children are online with at home learning, video games and social media, it is no wonder we are stressing about our children and their safety online.

It is overwhelming and seems impossible to stay on top of the trends and ever changing technology. New web sites and advanced apps are emerging every day. Predators are zealous and creative in finding new ways to connect with and manipulate young people.

What are parents and caregivers to do? As a parent of four children, I have the same concerns and fears as you. In my research, I have found that [protectkidsonline.ca](https://www.protectkidsonline.ca) is your go-to resource for emerging issues, worrisome technology trends, and how to report cyber crime. Another excellent resource is the [Children, Youth, and Families Addiction and Mental Health site](https://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca) (www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca). In fact, there is Zoom training titled **Technology & the Teenage Brain: Digital Wellness for Families** on **Tuesday June 8/ 21 6pm-7:30pm**. Go to <https://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/virtual-education> to register.

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

The best way to protect children online is to start talking to them when they are young and keep an **open dialogue** with them as they grow. Talk to them about the dangers of the internet, the same way you talk to them about crossing the street safely and speaking to strangers. If you start young, it won't seem as awkward when they are older. Always reassure them that they can come to you when they need help, **NO MATTER WHAT**, without worrying about getting into trouble.

- If your children are older, begin that conversation **today**, even if it is uncomfortable. **It is never too late.**
- Equally important is **supervision**. Whenever possible, have your children engage in their online activity in a busy area of the house. **Secrecy is a breeding ground for dangerous habits.**
- **Have a plan with your children** on how they can respond and who to tell if someone online sounds "odd", shares or requests pictures or if something makes them feel weird.

- Be sure your younger children know to always ask your **permission** before they share pictures or video chat with anyone.
- All electronic devices have **control features** that you can put time limits on apps, block sites, music and apps, restrict mature or adult content, etc. If you are unsure how to do this, call your service provider or have a friend help you.

ProtectKidsOnline.ca gives further suggestions:

- Be involved in what your child is doing on and off line.
- Set up parental controls: use filtering software and set time limits on the devices your child is on.
- Always supervise young children when they are online. Having parental controls on a device does not guarantee complete safe viewing. Supervision is still key.
- Have regular conversations with your child about healthy relationships and healthy sexuality to help them make sense of media messages.
- Talk opening and honestly about the hidden messages in media such as gender stereotypes, glorification of violence, power and control.
- Know your child's username and passwords.

Let's face it, we are all spending A LOT of time online these days, not just children. It is a struggle to keep our lives balanced with our online work and responsibilities and other tasks that don't require a screen. With the return of warm weather, longer days and more choices of outdoor activities, we can all benefit from powering off our devices and getting some fresh air to work and play and have fun together.

This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support for schools, students, parents and caregivers to encourage success in school. Tammy advocates for students and provides a link between the student and other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for more than 20 years and is a mother to 4 teenagers.