



JOURNAL NEWS

ÉCOLE WHITEHORSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We speak, we care, we grow, I belong

Welcome Back ÉWES Families!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the students and families who are already part of our school community at ÉWES, and a special welcome to our new students in kindergarten, in Grade 6 Late French Immersion and to those who are newly arrived to Whitehorse. Bienvenue!

We are excited to welcome some new staff as well as returning staff this year. Please join me in welcoming Mme Gabrielle Vienneau, Mme Michaela Mulligan and Julie An Chua. Welcome back Mme Elise Guillemette, Mme Marie-Chloé Tessier, Mme Wendy Chisholm, and Mme Nicola Dietz.

Our growth plan focuses on literacy and numeracy skills while prioritizing French oral language skill development. French is the language of instruction and communication in all classrooms throughout the school year. Grade One students will start their English Language Arts program in September, all other grade two to seven classrooms will begin their English Language Arts program after October 1st. All of our specialists' classes - music, art, physical education, library will be in French.

Communicating Student Learning: ÉWES involves teachers, parents and students in the assessment and reporting process, which is updated throughout the school year. You can look forward to regular updates about your child through specific and descriptive feedback, documents such as the "snapshot-of-learning checklist", in person teacher-led and student-led conferences, portfolio reviews, and through two written report cards. We want parents and guardians to know what their child is learning, how they are progressing and where they are going in their learning.

I look forward to another great year - thank you for joining us on this exciting journey.

Mme Sharon

First Day of School:

August 27 @ 8:25

Labour Day:

September 2nd - No School

YAEP Educators Conference:

No School - September 26-27

Orange Shirt Day ~ NTRD:

September 30th - No School

Thanksgiving:

October 14th - No School

Parent Teacher Interviews -

October 24 (evening) & October 25 - (morning) No classes on Friday

Hallowe'en

Thursday, October 31 - Pizza Day and Costume

School Calendar

<https://www.whitehorseelementary.com/>

Bell Schedule:

School starts at 8:25 and dismissal is at 3:07

We have two recesses, so that we have less students on the playground, giving students more space with less conflicts and collisions.

*****NEW *****

Recess I: Grades 2, 3, 6 & 7

Recess II: K, 1, 4, 5

- 8:05 - Outdoor supervision starts
- 8:25 - Morning Recess Bell
- 10:05 - Recess I
- 10:35 - Recess II
- 12:05 - Recess I & lunch for Group II
- 12:30 - Recess II & lunch for Group I
- 3:07 - Dismissal - First buses depart at 3:10!
- 3:25 - Supervision Ends



First Day of School is on Tuesday, August 27 at 8:25

Arrival:

Students are asked to line up at the bell. School starts at 8:25 and ends at 3:07.

Tables will be set out front to assist students who don't know which class they will be attending.

Kindergarten students are invited to enter directly with parents by the front doors during their staggered start to school and once regular classes start, kindergarten students will line up behind their cones in the primary yard.

Primary Yard: Grade 2s & 3s, line up behind the cones. These classes will be met by their teachers and will enter by the Black Street Door.

Soccer Field: Grade 1s, 4s & 5s line up in the soccer field behind the cones. There will be teachers to help and to collect classes at the bell.

Intermediate Door: Grades 6 & 7 classes will line up behind the cones and teachers will meet them there.

We will no longer be lining up at the front door this year. We hope that the lawn will regenerate and students will be able to place winter boots on the boot racks and keep our halls clean.

Dismissal:

Bus students will line up behind their cones in the soccer field. We ask that students line up and stay in their lines for the first week as we sort out arrival order and other routines. After a time, when students are familiar with the bus routines, students on later buses may play.

Bus schedules may be found: <https://yukon.ca/en/find-information-about-school-buses-and-other-student-transportation>

Student Pick up: Primary students, who are picked up after school by parents/guardians or daycares are asked to line up at the fishy fence/green space at the front corner of the primary yard and **intermediate students** are asked to gather around the GaGa ball courts by the Drop Off zone.

Always remind your child of your afterschool plans. If you have a tricky schedules that changes frequently, luggage tags with interchangeable labels, different coloured cards (with names) or printed schedules written on tags, and coloured ribbons to denote which house (mom or dad's) are all examples of visual reminders for your child. Share your system with the classroom teacher so they can help answer questions.

Allergy Alert

We have students with **peanut/tree nut allergies and sensitivity to scents**. Send only nut-free foods to school. If your child has a life-threatening allergy or other health condition we should know about, please contact Anne at the front office for paper work and if you are able, please provide the office with an extra EpiPen.



There is still time! Label all of your child's clothing.... Hats, mitts, coats, boots, backpacks, t-shirts.... We find almost everyone shops at the same stores, which means everyone wears the same clothing/boots. Please provide a water bottle for use at school.

Weather in the Yukon and recess

It **rains and snows** in the Yukon. While we are usually prepared for those cold days, we now have to plan for the wet ones. Yes, we have recess regardless of the precipitation. So please dress for all weather.

Check out our cold weather policy on the website. <https://www.whitehorseelementary.com/>



Let's get some fresh air and head outside!

All things transportation: Buses, Bus Tags, Parking and Drop Off

A reminder that the “Drop Off Lane,” the pull through lane to the right as you come into our parking lot from 4th Avenue, is for a “Kiss and Good-bye hug.” You **MAY NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNATTENDED** in this lane.

Our parking lot is **ONE WAY** - enter from 4th Avenue and exit on 3d Avenue.
NO PARKING IS PERMITTED IN THE DROP OFF ZONE - Fire vehicles require safe access at all times.

To accompany your child into the school, please park in the parking lot, on 3d Avenue, or Black Street. Please note that the ‘rough’ parking lot on 3d Avenue behind Yukonstruct is no longer available.

Bus tags will be distributed by Standard Bus this year. Please register to ride the bus:
<https://yukon.ca/en/bus>

Parents, we need your assistance!

The office and teachers get many calls and emails each day requesting that their child be ready, dressed and in the office at a specific time for appointments. We ask that parents please let classroom teachers know of appointments in advance, but also, please arrive early enough that you can help get your child ready for the appointment. Come into the office and we will direct you to the classroom.

School phones may not be used for arranging play dates after school. Bus tags are required to ride the bus; notes from parents to ride the buses are not permitted. If you are a regular user (have a bus tag) but need to ride another bus in extenuating circumstances (e.g., family away and staying with grandma), please make arrangements with Standard Bus.

Cell phones and smart watches are a distraction and disrupt learning. Cell phones are not permitted for use by students during the school day. We understand that some students require these devices for afterschool communication; cell phones must be silenced and stored in backpacks or lockers for the school day. We are not responsible for loss or damage. If the devices are used during the school day, they will be removed. Please see our digital use policy on the website.

Homeroom Staff:

		Salle	
Cynthia Malenfant	Kindergarten	5	KA
Lucille Gauthier	Kindergarten	6	KB
Gabrielle Vienneau	Kindergarten	7	KC
Katie Akers	Grade 1	112	1A
Inès Receveaux	Grade 1	113	1B
Chelsea Read	Grade 1	114	1C
Marie-Chloé Tessier	Grade 2	109	2A
Jordan Lincez	Grade 2	110	2B
Lyndsay Smith	Grade 2	111	2C
Annie Michaud	Grade 2 & 3	108	2/3 D
Elise Guillemette + Carolyne Duval	Grade 3	210	3A
Valérie Bussièrès & Carolyne Duval	Grade 3	211	3B
Chantal Emond	Grade 3	212	3C
Gabriel Regimbald	Grade 4	208	4A
Danielle Lang	Grade 4	214	4B
Sarah Johnson	Grade 4 & 5	213	4/5C
Amberly Doucette	Grade 5	207	5A
Janine Jewell & Carolyne Duval	Grade 5	209	5B
Natasha Nancekivell	Grade 6	201	6A
Belkacem Taieb	Grade 6	204	6B
Jamayca Whalen	Grade 6 LFI	206	6LFI
Cameron Brown	Grade 7	100	7A
Jenn Bruemmer	Grade 7	200	7B
Lorianne Leblanc	Grade 7 LFI	202	7LFI

Art: Mme Sabrina Bouayad;
Library, Dance & Movement: Mme Becca MacCulloch;
Library Clerk: Mme Fanny Saint Onge;
Music: Mme Marie-Maude Allard;
Southern Tutchone: Vacant
Physical Education: M. Dan Girouard & Mme Isabel Beaugard;

Learning Assistance:

Mme Julie Bourdeau, Mme Caroline Beaumier, Mme Nicola Dietz, Mme Kat Lacroix-Kent,
Mme Michaela Mulligan

Counsellors:

Mme Angela Clark, Mme Kat Roberts

Educational Assistants:

Mme Manon Bourassa, Mme Wendy Chisholm, Mme Maricon Cortez, Mme Julie An Chua,
Mme M. Gordon Fortin, Jennifer Lafrenière, Mme Jessica Woodhouse

Front Office Staff:

Mme Anne Harrison - Front Office Secretary

Mme Jamie Jacobsen - Administrative Assistant

Vice Principals: Mme Val Long & Mme Lorraine Taillefer

Principal: Sharon MacCoubrey

Safety

We practice **6 fire drills, one earthquake, one lock down and one evacuation each year.**

While the weather is still fair, we will practice our first three fire drills this fall. Students and teachers are given fair warning for the first drill. We exit by assigned doors and assemble in the soccer field. Floors, rooms and washrooms are swept by staff to ensure everyone is safely out of the building. Attendance is taken and the drill is timed.

Students with mobility issues have their own exit plans. If you have a child who has mobility issues (e.g., new crutches), please contact sharon.maccoubrey@yukon.ca and we will develop a plan in the event of an emergency.

If your child has serious health issues, including life-threatening allergies, the school needs to be aware. Please fill out the health form included in the welcome package handed out on the first day.

Please be advised that there are video cameras installed at the front entrance of our school and a couple of hallways. Notices are posted in the vicinity of these devices. These devices have been installed for student safety.

We are required to share the Violent Threat Risk Assessment letter each year.



École Whitehorse Elementary

4181-4th Ave
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A-1J7

Phone 667-8083 Fax 393-6211

Web site: <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/wes/>

Principal: Sharon MacCoubrey Vice-Principal: Val Long



August 21, 2024, Re: Yukon Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The safety of our children is a top priority for everyone. The tragedies that have occurred where students commit violent acts against other students and educators in Canada and in the United States have caused government officials, educators, parents, students and other community members to assess how we make our schools and communities safe for our children and students.

Public Schools Branch staff members have been involved in an intensive safety training program with our community partners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, Yukon Department of Justice, and Yukon College. From what we have learned in this training we know that student acts of violence are not random; individuals do not suddenly 'snap' and commit serious acts of violence. In cases where serious acts of violence have occurred there have been many indicators and escalating signs that these individuals are on a path to commit serious harm to themselves or others. The training has helped our professionals to recognize these signs, assess them, and put in place interventions to support and reduce the level of risk. Together with our community partners, Public Schools Branch has developed a plan to respond to situations in which students may be demonstrating behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others.

We wish to advise parents that we have adopted a protocol, which requires schools to undertake a threat assessment in all cases of students making threats to harm others. These threats may be physical, verbal or written, they may be gestures or messages posted on the Internet. The purpose of the Yukon Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is to determine how best to support students considered at risk so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive to themselves or others.

The complete Yukon Education Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is available at www.education.gov.yk.ca.

Parents can play an active role in keeping our schools safe by advising the school of any information communicated to them from their children concerning threatening behaviours that their children may have been subjected to, in or out of school, and continuously monitoring their children's use of the Internet and Internet chat lines.

This letter is intended to provide you with notice that all Yukon schools will respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for safe, healthy, and caring learning environments. Any threats or threat making behaviours will be taken seriously and assessed accordingly.

We are pleased to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and appreciate having the ongoing support of our community partners.

Regards,
Sharon MacCoubrey