



WEC News

wec.srsb.ca

December, 2017

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe we are in the month of December already. As always, excitement is in the air as there are many *Christmas in the Village* events to enjoy.

We hope to see many of you at the *Festival of Trees* which will be held at the school during the Craft Fair on Saturday, December 9 (12:00-4:00). We are also looking forward to the Parade and Tree lighting on Friday night. During the Parade, the Student Council will be collecting food items for the food bank.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our parent teacher sessions last week. Student progress and achievement are always a priority. Ongoing communication between home and school is key in supporting children at school. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher, you do not need to wait until the next Parent Teacher, please send an email or call the school 902-756-2441 and leave a message with the Secretary.

On behalf of the WEC staff, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas season; celebrated with family and friends.

Shelley MacLean
Principal

Important Dates

December 8 – Christmas Parade/Tree Lighting (6:30)
December 9 – Craft Market/Festival of Trees (12:00-4:00)
December 12 – Mobile Library

December 19 – Christmas Program (7:00)
December 21 – Last day of School

Winter Weather

Dress for the weather conditions. The weather has turned cool and we are always guaranteed to have a breeze out on the playground. Wearing the proper clothing leads to enjoying the fresh air and exercise in the great outdoors.

Coasting

Due to safety considerations, coasting will no longer occur at WEC during recess and lunch. In accordance with School Insurance Program recommendations, coasting in the school setting requires supervision both at the top and the bottom of the hill. The supervisor at the top of the hill is responsible to control when the next child goes down the hill and the supervisor at the bottom of the hill is responsible to clear the landing zone. **In addition, there is a higher duty of care to be taken to protect students from harm when taking part in this type of activity.** Currently, we do not have enough extra supervision at recess and lunch to fulfill these requirements.

When we have enough snow, coasting will occur from time to time as part of our Physical Education Program or special classroom events in accordance with the Nova Scotia Physical Education Guidelines. Thank you for helping us to ensure the safety of our students

Communication

We strive to keep parents/guardians informed about events at the school through this newsletter, notices, our website (wec.srsb.ca), Twitter, and via text/email using the Alert system. If you have not received any Alerts from the school this year, please call the office to ensure the information we have on file is current.

Please check out wec.srsb.ca for up-to-date events information as well as past/current newsletters.

In addition, I would like to highlight the Board's Stay Informed feature - <http://srsb.ca/content/stay-informed> - that enables anyone to subscribe to receive bus route and/or class announcement notices via email and/or text.

The Strait Regional School Board also has a Twitter page. Our goal is to 'tweet' various pieces of information including notable events, Board decisions, good news stories, class/bus announcements, to name a few. If you would like to follow the SRSB via Twitter, please visit our profile at: <http://twitter.com/@StraitRSB>.

Bus Route Changes

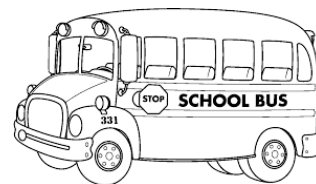
An alert was sent home (text/email) on November 23, 2017. Students who are affected by these changes received a notice. These changes begin December 4, 2017. **These changes affect students who formally travelled on Bus Route #163 driven by Glenn MacKay.**

Aberdeen Students – PM - will be driven home by Carl Campbell and arrive 10 minutes later

Roseburn Students – AM - will be picked up by Theresa MacNeil and driven home (PM) by Ken Hunter

MacInnis Road Students – AM and PM run will now be Arthur Ehler

Lake Ainslie Students – PM – will now be a 2nd run (Ken Hunter)



Bus Passes Reminder

A bus pass is required anytime a student is being picked up or dropped off at any location different than the one that is recorded as the regular bus stop on the official bus roster. **A request for a bus pass must be communicated in writing.**

There are two (2) types of bus passes:

Alternate Route: This is where the student is taking a different route and they are provided permission to travel on a different bus (space permitting). In this case, the student will get off the bus at the stop closest to their final destination as requested by the parent / guardian.

Same Route / Alternate Stop: This is where the student is traveling on their regular route but disembarks the bus at a stop other than their own registered stop. Dropping the student at the alternate location once again requires the student's parent / guardian permission.

School Advisory Council

Please consider coming to our next SAC meeting. We are trying to form a sub-committee to work on developing our playground.

Thank you to all who were able to participate in our first playground fundraiser; frozen cookie dough/muffin batter. As soon as we know the arrival date, this will be communicated.

Ukelele String Band

There will be a Grade 5 -8 Ukulele String Band, with Mr. MacInnis, starting in the New Year. It will be taking place after school on Day E. Permission forms will be sent home shortly.

WE Day

On Thursday, November 30, 2017, about 400 Strait Regional School Board Grades 6 to 12 students, staff and chaperones joined thousands of others at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax for an exciting, International and educational event, [WE Day Atlantic](#).

Founded by brothers Marc and Craig Kielburger, *WE Day* is an initiative of Free the Children. It is a movement which empowers young global citizens through the *WE Day* event, and promotes youth to take action right here at home in order to create positive change in the world. The initiative enables schools to implement programs that empower youth to make the world a better place locally and globally, and inspires them to take part in socially conscious acts that foster positive change. You cannot purchase a ticket to WE Day, students earn it through service. As such, each of our schools has committed to WE Act, a year-long educational initiative during which students are undertaking at least one local and one global goal that helps to promote positive change.

The WEC WE Day committee is comprised of students from Grades 6, 7 and 8. These students, along with chaperones, Lisa MacNeil, Kim Gillis and Rick Welton had a wonderful time at WE Day Atlantic.

The Commission on Inclusive Education

On March 24, 2017, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development created the Commission on Inclusive Education as an arms-length body under the provisions of the *Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017) Act* to examine the model of inclusive education in Nova Scotia.

The Commission is tasked to

- complete a literature review of national and international research
- identify best practices from across Canada
- consult broadly with the many partners in inclusive education
- reform inclusive education in Nova Scotia

- develop a strategic plan that includes recommended changes to:
 - policy
 - funding
 - resources
 - teacher training (initial preparation and ongoing professional development)
 - coordination and alignment of programs and services
 - monitoring of inclusive education
 - accountability
- Submit a final report by March 20, 2018

Consulting extensively with front-line teachers, parents, students, associations and seeking feedback from Nova Scotians is a priority for the Commission.

The main site for the Commission on Inclusive Education may be accessed at <https://inclusiveedns.ca/>

Information on the public consultations may be accessed at <https://inclusiveedns.ca/consultations/>

Information on the survey (and to complete the online survey) may be accessed at <https://inclusiveedns.ca/take-survey/>

Live links can also be found @ [wec.srsb.ca](https://twitter.com/wec.srsb.ca)



Junior Basketball Clinic

FREE for grades 7 and 8 students!!!

Inverness SchoolsPlus and Inverness County Recreation will be offering a basketball clinic! Come join us for a fun, instructional basketball clinic for 8 weeks from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at Bayview Education Centre.

Snacks and drinks will be provided!

Please contact Diane Stewart, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker, at 902-258-7126 or Rebecca Hoggard-Nauss, SchoolsPlus Facilitator at 902-258-5888.

Parents are responsible for getting students to Bayview Education Centre and for picking them up after the program.