



## Back to School!!

Today the Alberta government announced that schools will be back in session for Fall 2020! We are so excited to hear this news and while we realize there will be some changes to ensure students remain healthy and safe, we look forward to re-connecting and returning to a classroom learning environment. We know all learning is a social and emotional process that happens best thru conversation and interaction with others. We are excited that this will be our plan for Fall.

We know that students and parents are anxiously waiting to hear their class assignments. We will be sending those out as soon as possible, at the beginning of next week, through email. We will have some new routines and procedures at the school to comply with Alberta Health guidelines and remain vigilant in keeping our students healthy. A few weeks before school starts, we will share that information with you. For now, I wanted to share a few important details and documents that might help answer some of your questions about back to school.

Our first day back this year is August 31. This will be an orientation day during which time each grade level will attend school to learn about the new health and safety protocols at Cardston Elementary. As you can imagine, this would be difficult to do with a building full of 600+ students. So we will be working in grade level teams to schedule a time for each grade level to attend an orientation. We realize that for some out of town parents, this is more challenging. We feel this is essential to the new routines and expectation of the school year. All of the decisions we have made about these routines and expectations are made with student health and wellness in mind. I would imagine some of the new routines will improve health and wellness for the future, not just during COVID. There is always good that comes thru trials and change! The schedule for this day will be sent home with class assignments next week.

Thanks for your continued support!

## Returning to School Safely Video

Great Back to School video for kids from the Alberta government to help them anticipate what back to school may look like.

[Link to Video](#)

## 2020/21 School Fees

We also have some changes to the school fees for this year. The Westward School Board passed a motion to collect a \$50 school fee for each student attending a Westwind school. This decision was announced last Spring. Our hope is that the reduction in the school supplies fee will help off set this new fee for families. Our Cardston Elementary School fee will be \$50 for all students K-5, a slight reduction from \$51.50 last year. These fees are also included in the supply list attachment.

## School Supply Changes

In consultation with our school council, we are changing our school supply program at CES. In the past, parents have paid a \$45 fee and all supplies were provided to students by the school. However, we feel that parents can save money by purchasing their own school supplies. This year you will receive a school supply list that will indicate what supplies you need to purchase for your student according to their grade level. We worked hard to limit the lists to only those supplies that are essential for each student. Some items, like water bottles and sanitizing wipes, support the new health protocols related to COVID. The \$45 school supply fee will no longer be a part of your child's school fees. The list is attached to this message as well.

## Return to School Questions

The Alberta Government has provided a number of resources to answer your questions and assist parents in preparing students to return to school. I have some of the highlights here and am providing the [link to the website](#) where you can find more detailed documents as well.

Here is the [link to the return to school announcement](#).



Below you will find a few of the brief details related to reopening and some of the changes you will notice at our schools. Specific details about Cardston Elementary will be sent in August.

## KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE



- Physical distancing recommendations
- New drop-off/pick-up procedures to limit contact between households
- Reorganization of rooms to allow for more physical space
- Strict stay-at-home-if-sick policy
- Postponing field trips and activities requiring group transportation
- Discouraging large gatherings such as assemblies

## KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE



- Routine self-screening for all staff and students
- Continual reminders of the importance of hygiene rules
- Cohorting of children and students by class where possible
- Specific measures for school buses

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Principal Stacy Jacobs through email at:

[stacy.jacobs@westwind.ab.ca](mailto:stacy.jacobs@westwind.ab.ca)

JULY 2020

**CES IS A PLACE WHERE WE LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER!**