



ABC/Westmount is in year fifteen!

2010-2011 is the fifteenth year for the school that began its life as ABC Charter Public School, back in Bridgeland School in 1996-1997. From two years in the little K-3 school with the big sloping schoolyard, to three years (with grades 4, 5,6 and 7 added) in the former military administrative building with the parade square as a playground, to the expansion to a full K-12 program in our current home at the Viscount Bennett Centre, ABC/Westmount has always sought to engage the diverse needs of gifted learners. While there are some commonalities between gifted learners, each has his/her own unique skills, needs, quirks and preferences that make this place so interesting!

What follows are some questions asked of the very first applicants to ABC Charter Public School in the mid-1990s, taken from a questionnaire entitled "Things my Child likes to do", first developed by Dr Jim Delisle at University of Connecticut and later revised by our first Principal, Mrs Joanne Koch. Parents were asked to assess how well these statements "fit" their child, in order for the school to get an idea of how to best address the child's giftedness:

- My child will spend more time and energy than his/her age-mates on a topic of his/her interest
- My child is a "self-starter" who works well alone, needing few directions and little supervision.
- My child sets high personal goals and expects to see results from his/her work.
- My child gets so involved with a project that (s)he gives up on other pleasures in order to work on it.
- My child continues to work on a project even when faced with temporary defeats and slow results.
- While working on a project (and when it is finished) my child knows which parts are good and which parts need improvement.
- My child is "doer" who begins a project and shows finished products of his/her work.
- My child suggests imaginative ways of doing things, even if the suggestions are sometimes impractical.

(Continued on page 2)



Fees Update



Please be assured that school fees are not yet overdue!! Invoices are in the process of being prepared and will be distributed very soon; payment will be due upon receipt of your invoice.

Watch for two emails: a school email indicating that the invoices and the online system are ready; and an email from *Payfees* with the invoice attached. Thanks!

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Donations & Fundraising

The **Westmount Music Association** has ongoing fundraisers. Co-Op and Sobey's shoppers can buy gift certificates, the Shop & Save program offers gift cards for numerous retailers and services. For all these, go to <http://www.westmountcharter.com/wma/fundraising.html>



Thank you to the Westmount community for raising \$670 for the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank via the annual elementary "Turkey Trot" and \$8567 school-wide through the annual **Terry Fox Run**. We'd like to make special note of five classes

who were the "top fundraisers" for the Terry Fox run: 4Kimble, 2Ramzy/Bence, 1Groot 7Byron, and 4Venugopal/Maxwell-Keen!!

Now for a donation of a different kind: Westmount students who have excess Hallowe'en candy are invited to participate in the second annual "Candy Buy Back". For every pound of candy (454 g) that's donated, \$2 will go to UNICEF!! Just bring your candy to the donation spot by Mrs Avey's classroom (#217), on

November 2!! Thanks to the student Healthy Active School Committee for organizing this!



The TMO Project: Unplugging and Reconnecting Outside is an interactive, educational and inspirational run across Canada focused on getting youth outside, active and reconnected to nature. Each day—day after day after day—they run a marathon, and stop at schools along the way (including Westmount) to do activities with students of all ages to promote putting down the video games and going outside. The TMO crew are currently semifinalists in the **AVIVA Community fund raiser** and rely on votes from the public to move on and perhaps get the money they need for support vehicles, food, gas, etc. Voting for the next round starts on December 2nd; please note that registering for the website is a bit of a tricky—they send an email to which you respond. The web address is

<http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf5461>



Westmount is once again collecting used eye glasses from October 20 - November 20, a project of the Lions Club to help people with vision problems in third world countries. Collection boxes for this student-initiated project are in the main office and Elementary office.

Purdy's Chocolates are on sale as a fundraiser for the **grade 12 grad**—find a grade 12 student prior to November 4 to place your order.



Westmount's 15th year...continued from front page

- When my child tells about something that is very unusual, (s)he expresses himself/herself by elaborated gestures, pictures, or words.
- My child uses common materials in ways not typically expected.
- My child avoids typical ways of doing things, choosing instead to find new ways to approach a problem or topic.
- My child likes to "play with ideas", often making up situations which probably will not occur.
- My child often finds humour in situations or events that are not obviously funny to most children his/her age.

For many ABC/Westmount parents, some items on the above list did not describe our children at all while others elicited a response of "yes, that's *exactly* my child—and I've got some great examples to share!" Such is the nature of our complex gifted population.

In year fifteen, it is gratifying to look at the ways that the founding vision has been embraced, and updated; the ABC Bridgeland teaching staff, half of whom are still at Westmount, have been joined by dozens of outstanding colleagues; and the new approach to gifted education proposed in the first charter has had countless innovations added over the years, many of which are true "best practices" in teaching. **Thank you** to everyone who has had, and continues to have, a role in the unfolding story of Westmount Charter School!!!

NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 PD	2	3	4	5 I-a	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 II-b	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 I-a	27
28	29	30				

I/a = mid-high Day One, Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten
 II/b = mid-high Day Two, Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(the school-only version of the Newsletter includes names and, occasionally, photos of student accomplishments but these have been deleted for this sample, publicly-available Newsletter)

Two Westmount students have been in Storybook theatre's production of *Annie*, which ran until October 30th.

Two WCS speech competitors both won Silver at the Stampede Debate tournament held October 15th.

Two of 2010's grade 12 grads have won additional scholarships: the Dean's Entrance Scholarship to the Schulich School of Engineering, U of C; and the 4-H's 2010 Linda Hebson Armstrong Memorial Scholarship Award.

A WCS student is a 2010 Alberta Silver Medalist for her grade 6 violin RCM exam. Silver Medals are awarded for each academic year in each province or designated region to the candidates in Grades 1 to 10 who have obtained the highest marks in each grade and discipline. To qualify for Silver Medals, candidates must have obtained at least 80 percent in the practical examination and have completed the co-requisite theory examinations for their respective grade.

Calendar of Events

- 2- QSP order forms due; candy buy-back, rm.217
- 4-Lockdown Drill in AM—a practice drill for all grades
- 5-Mingle with Martha, 2:00 pm, Chinook Cafeteria
- 5-Report Cards for grades 9-12
- 7-Standard Time begins!
- 8-UNICEF envelopes due
- 8-Destination ImagiNation, 3:15-5:00 pm—grades 5-8, registration forms available on school website, "school documents for download"
- 8-School Council meets, 7:00 pm, Board Room 137
- 9-final photo re-take day
- 9-10-Grade 6-7 Band Camps
- 10-Remembrance Day Assembly, 10:30 am, Main Gym
- 10-French & Spanish books available for sale, Atrium
- 10-Gr 9-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 4:00-7:00 pm in classrooms; email teachers directly for appointments
- 11-12-Remembrance Day observed, no school**
- 15-grade 6-8 *Speak Out* Forum, details TBA
- 16-17-Intermediate & Senior Orchestra Camp
- 17-Charter Board meets, 6:00 pm, Board Room 137
- 18-grade 9-12 *Speak Out* Forum, details TBA
- 24-Westmount Charter School Society AGM—Elementary Gym, 7:00 pm, further details to be circulated by email
- 27-Fair Trade Market, main gym
- 29-Report Cards for Kindergarten to grade 8

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS PLEASE NOTE...

We appreciate the volunteers that help our students attend many field trips, games, music festivals, and other school events. For those who help with driving, please note that the driver application form is an annual form which must be filled out signed every year, and there are often changes from year to year. The current year's form is found on the "school forms for download" page of the school website.

- This year there has been a major change in the personal liability clause #3. This year, the **minimum public liability is \$2 million**. Last year's form said "\$1 million, prefer \$2 million." Administration will NOT approve drivers that are not carrying the new minimum liability rate.
- Volunteer drivers, please make sure you are aware of this change, and that your liability insurance is at least at this level.
- Finally, we do ask that parents fill out these forms prior to the day of the field trip. Time is needed between entering and verifying the information, and having the drivers' application approved by Administration, so day-of-trip applications are very difficult to process.

Thank You!!

Around the School: coming soon!

Rather than approaching Science Fair as an "everyone in grade 5" event, the Science Fair Club has been formed. It is open to grades 5, 6 & 7 students and meetings will begin in early November. Interested students need to sign up with their home-room teachers by November 3.

On November 19th 3B and 3BA are headed for an authentic Indian lunch and then the *Cantos Museum* for our final activity in Hearing and Sound.

Elementary Gym clubs will begin during lunch recess (12-12:20) at the beginning of November. Grade 3 students will come to the Elementary Gym on Tuesdays, Grade 5 on Wednesdays and Grade 4 on Thursdays. Due to space restrictions we can only have a maximum of 20-24 students in the gym at once.

The grade threes have begun their yearly Merchant's Market program in which they study countries around the world. Grade 3 students take turns being "merchants" and selling handmade food, toys and crafts specific to the culture of the country they have been studying, to the other grade 3s. The program culminates with an Elementary-wide Merchant's Market on June 2; next market dates are Nov 4 and 25.

Around the School: in October

On October 21, Mrs. Maxwell-Keen's uncle from Black Diamond, AB, demonstrated to the grade 4 students how farmers used to separate the grain from the shaft after harvesting, a process known as threshing. He lived on a farm and when he was twelve years old he worked on the family threshing crew. Their Thresher was driven by a large steam engine. His passion for threshing has never left him, so from November 2003 to May 2004 he built a 1/6 scale model of the family Thresher. A Global TV camera crew came out and they have posted the item on the Global TV website, under video/Gil Tucker/Features/"Old Thresher".

The mid-school Math Fair was held October 20 in the main Gym. Mid-school students spent an hour being the experts at solving math problems, with posters and interesting manipulatives to help visitors be successful problem solvers too! Student participants kept track of their success rate via Passports.

Cross-Country Running Results

Westmount joined with seven other schools competing in the CAAA Cross Country Running finals. The school finished first overall in High School, second in Junior High and fifth in Elementary. Congratulations to all competitors, and thank you to coaches Mr Knoll, Mrs Oke, Ms Shanks, Ms Sim, Mr Hebert, Mr Manning, Mr McMaster, Mr Hooper, Ms Kimble, Ms Stovell, and many parent and student volunteers.

For additional up-to-date Athletics results, please check the *Westmount Wild Athletics* link on the school website!



Scholastic Book Fair at Westmount

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving soon, and we're excited about sharing the joy of books with our students. **We invite parents to participate in this year's Scholastic Book Fair from November 30 to December 2 by volunteering.**

The Book Fair will be open for Book Sales on Wednesday, December 1st from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, December 2nd from 3:00-7:30 pm (Students will have the opportunity to preview the books during the day on Wednesday and Thursday.)

The Scholastic Book Fair gives our school the opportunity to bring families, teachers, students, and books together. It's the ultimate book event! Additionally, a portion of the sales benefits our school. It's the best way to raise funds while encouraging kids to read. Our profits last year were almost \$4600 which went directly to purchasing books for our elementary school classrooms.

Being a part of something special is easier than you think. There are lots of ways to volunteer. We need people in a variety of areas, including:

- Book fair set up and pack up.
- Volunteering during the day on Wednesday, December 1st for student previews.
- Working at our Cashier Table and helping students and shoppers select just the right books.
There will be 5 shifts available for cashiers:
Wednesday, December 1st from 3:30-5:00
Wednesday, December 1st from 5:00-6:30
Thursday, December 2nd from 3:00-4:30
Thursday, December 2nd from 4:30-6:00
Thursday, December 2nd from 6:00-7:30
- Delivering any reordered books to students following the fair.

And... **there are a couple of perks for our volunteers!** You get 10% off at this sale, AND you get entry to the Scholastic Warehouse Sale on January 26th, 2011..

We are also looking for a parent volunteer to work with her this year and learn the ropes in order to take over next year as Sue is moving onto Middle School with her son. Please contact Sue if you are interested in taking over coordinating the book Fair next

Thank you in advance for helping to make our students lifelong readers – we couldn't do it without your participation.



While we're on the topic of books: parents of students enrolled in our second language programs, please note...

the owner of the French bookstore, will have tables in the Atrium on Nov 10 with **French and Spanish resources for sale.** Typically she takes cash, cheques or credit cards.



PEP Corner with Mrs. Mary Campbell

Elementary School Personalized Education Plan Goals

The PEP process is a partnership between parents, students and teachers and is all about achieving personal goals! We must all agree to learn together and work on the same goals if we want to have the greatest success. Read the suggestions below to see how you can be part of the PEP process at home:

Elementary Goal of the Month: Interpersonal Skills

At home, Elementary families might...

Learn about "Interpersonal" skills together: how do we get along with others, cooperate in groups, make friends, solve conflicts, show respect, listen to others, communicate clearly and confidently? etc. Find books at your local library to support these concepts.

Ask your child about the PEP work that they are doing at school. What have they learned about this month's goal? What does the goal mean to them?

What can they personally do to improve on the goal? Set up play dates for your child with other families in the neighborhood. Before you have the play date, tell your child that their goal is to find out one new thing about their playmate that they didn't already know.

When they come home, have them share about it. They might also share about how they used their interpersonal skills on their play date. Have family game nights – on these evenings, model strong interpersonal skills by sharing about your experiences and actively listening when others talk. You might also make a point of praising your child for their manners, good choices, reciprocal sharing, and cooperative skills.

Identify role models in your family, neighborhood, city, country that

exemplify the use of strong interpersonal skills, and, discuss their interpersonal qualities as a family!

Happy PEP'ing everyone!

THE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS INTERVIEW CONTEST

Interview a role model or "hero" in your life and make a poster to share about it.

Rules:

1. you should interview a real person
2. your poster should be no larger than 11x17
3. posters must:
 - a. tell why you chose that person
 - b. give the answers to any 5 interview questions you asked
 - c. have your name and homeroom teacher's name on it

All posters should be handed in to Mrs. Mismas in the Student Services Office by Friday November 26. All posters will be put into a draw and 4 of them will be chosen as winners. Winners will get a special prize and their posters will be displayed in the hallway.

Congratulations to last month's PEP Contest winners !

Gifted Education events

A big THANK YOU to the keynote speakers, presenters and participants at the Pillars of Gifted Education Conference, October 22-23. Countless thanks also are due to the Westmount organizing committee for looking after a myriad of details surrounding this first annual event!

For those who are interested in additional events, here are three:

The annual Convention of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is coming up in Atlanta from November 11-14. They are offering a "virtual convention" on Saturday, November 13—sign up at <http://www.nagc.org/nagcvirtualconvention.aspx>

The Frank Foundation presents Miraca Gross, in Calgary on November 16-17. In addition to a one-or-two day Professional Development event, there is a free event for parents on the evening of the 16th, entitled "Parenting the Gifted Child". For more info, see http://www.westmountcharter.com/pdfs/miraca_gross.pdf

For those keen to travel, the biennial World Conference for Gifted & Talented Children (last held in 2009 in Vancouver) will take place on August 8-12, 2011 in Incheon, Korea—see http://www.worldgifted2011.or.kr/conference/home/welcome_01.html

Community Education Service

Parenting a Child with Disruptive Behaviours

Presented by: Nicole Nagy, M.A., R.Psych. and Janet Guglich, M.A., Counselling, B.S.W.,
Member, Clinical Registry

November 24, 2010
Session: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Sign in: 6:15 pm
Alberta Children's Hospital
Conference Rm.2 (4th floor)
2888 Shaganappi Trail NW

Session is
FREE
of Charge

All participants please register no later than November 17, 2010.
Register by visiting www.fcrc.sacyhn.ca. Courses with low registration will be cancelled
one week prior to the session. Please register early to avoid disappointment.

Learn what your child is trying to tell you when they
misbehave, understand the basic ingredients for building positive
family relationships, and gain an understanding of various positive
parenting strategies.

Level I Activity: This activity presents an overview of Parenting a Child with Disruptive Behaviours
and would best meet the needs of families and/or professionals with
little to no knowledge of, or experience with this topic.

This session is presented by the Community Education Service of the Family and Community Resource Centre,
Alberta Children's Hospital in partnership with Collaborative Mental Health Care

For more information and/or if you are having difficulty registering for the session
please see www.fcrc.sacyhn.ca/calendar.php or email ces@sacyhn.ca



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The Centre for Excellence in
Gifted Education



Calgary's Public School for
Gifted Students since 1996

PLEASE refrain from sending
nuts or nut products to school—
a number of students have life-
threatening allergies to these
foods!

Westmount's 2009-2010 Report Card: Wow!

Students receive their first report cards this month. Westmount's official "report card" is the "Accountability Pillar", through which Alberta Education measures and reports school results to Alberta taxpayers.

Some of the measures are directly based on student performance: Diploma and PAT results, participation in 4 or more Diploma exams, 3-year High School completion rate, transition to post-secondary education rate within 6 years, dropout rate and rate of Rutherford Scholarship eligibility. The remaining measures are based on the surveys done by parents, students and teachers in February of each year.

Westmount had another tremendous year in 2009-2010:

- When compared with all other Alberta schools, Westmount was rated "excellent" in all categories, i.e., the top 5% of Alberta schools.
- When compared with our own performance over the three-year period 2007-2009, all areas were at least "maintained", with a number of areas either "improved" or "greatly improved";
- When these two ratings are combined they make an "overall" score, in which Westmount ranks as "excellent" in all measures—again, placing us in the top 5% of Alberta schools.

A more complete presentation of these measures, along with analysis and future plans, will be included in the 2009-2010 Annual Education Results Report and 2010-2013 Three Year Education Plan, which will be posted on the school website by the end of November.

Measure	Compared to all AB schools	Compared to 2007-09	OVERALL
Safe and Caring	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
Program of Studies	Excellent	Improved	Excellent
Education Quality	Excellent	Improved	Excellent
Drop Out Rate	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
High School Complet'n	Excellent	Improved	Excellent
PAT: Acceptable	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
PAT: Excellence	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
Diploma: Acceptable	Excellent	Improved Significantly	Excellent
Diploma: Excellence	Excellent	Improved	Excellent
Dipl.Exam Particip'n	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
Rutherford Eligibility	Excellent	Not Applicable (recently revised measure and/or insufficient number of years of statistics)	
Transition Rate	Excellent		
Work Preparation	Excellent	Improved	Excellent
Citizenship	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
Parental Involvement	Excellent	Maintained	Excellent
School Improvement	Excellent	Improved Significantly	Excellent