



JOURNAL NEWS

ÉCOLE WHITEHORSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We speak, we care, we grow, I belong

What's been happening at ÉWES?

Communicating Student Progress:

So far this year, we have shared progress through the Pre-Conference Progress Snapshot followed by parent-teacher conferences. We will be sending home Written Progress Reports in December before the break; this is the first of two formal report cards that communicate student progress in every subject.

Assessment:

Students have completed Fall assessments, which include the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in Literacy and Numeracy (grades 4 & 7), School Wide Write (English/French), reading evaluations (GB+ and Dibels), Early Years Evaluation (EYE - kindergarten), Phonological Awareness Screens (kindergarten & grade 1) in addition to classroom based assessments.

Learning Assistance and Small Group Support

ÉWES has four Learning Assistance Teachers (LATs) and one Francisation teacher to support our students' literacy skills in French & English and numeracy skills in French. LATs, administrators, the librarian and francisation teacher all support literacy groups. In addition to small group classes, our numeracy teacher is also working within the classrooms to support teachers with best teaching practice in the math classroom.

Sports, Activities and Outdoor Education

Classes supplement their Physical Education with many outings. We have classes who include outdoor learning in their programming as well as visits to the CGC. Grade 6 & 7 have Outdoor Education. Sports teams (Volleyball, Arctic Sports and Soccer) have all participated in events this Fall. We have a weekly running club and Dungeons and Dragons is a popular lunch time activity. The Clean-up Club as well as Crochet/Knitting Club meet weekly in the Art Studio. Homework club has started up again this year, which is supported by the grades 10-12 French Immersion students from F.H. Collins.

Bake Sale

Friday, December 5th

Family Sledding

Event: December 17th
at Shipyard's Park 3:30 - 5:30.

Pizza Lunch

December 19th - PJ Day

Written Progress Reports:

December 19th - sent home

Early Dismissal:

December 19th at 2:43pm

Winter Break:

December 22- January 2nd
-No School

First Day Back -

Monday, January 5th

Professional Development Day

Friday, January 16th

Pizza Lunch

January 30th

School Calendar

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

Les superheroes d'ÉWES

You may have noticed our superhero bulletin board when you were in the school for Teacher-Led Conferences in October. We have an amazing staff who all have their own special powers. We will be highlighting students from each class with special powers in the new year and will add them to our display. The search for superheros continues....



Weather in the Yukon and recess



Snow has arrived in the Yukon and the cold weather is coming! We have outdoor recess until -30 (including the wind-chill) as well as outdoor education (grade 6 & 7).

Please make sure your child is dress for the elements - it is no fun being cold. While our younger students are usually appropriately dressed, our older students often arrive less well prepared. Parents please check to make sure your big kid is dressed for success!

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

Let's get some fresh air and head outside!

Absent? Away sick?

Please contact the office @ ewesattendance@yukon.ca

If you are planning to be away for an extended period of time, please give the teachers a couple of weeks to get work together if you choose to request homework while away.

Remembrance Day Assemblies

Ecole Whitehorse Elementary held two assemblies for Remembrance Day. We have many people to thank for their contributions to the ceremonies:

- Myla and Jo shared a Commitment to Remember in both English and French. Charlotte, Isla, and Sylvia recited the poem Brave Soldiers, and our cadets—Mason, Jaxon, and Ethan—made important contributions to the ceremony.
- Mr. Max Fraser spoke to our students about his father's experiences and his own journeys to the war memorials in Europe.



Bus Late? Cancelled?

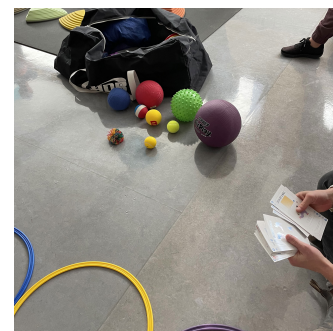
Sign up for My Bus Monitor @

<https://www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca/>

Or send a message to (867) 667-7891 and text "bus".

Professional Development- November 10th

Staff at ÉWES did some professional learning about supporting exceptional learners in the classroom. It was a day packed with useful information and practical strategies. Our Educational Assistants also had the chance to work in our Sensory Room with Janna Tait, (Physical Literacy Education Coordinator for Yukon Schools) on activities to support our students with regulation.



Homework Club

Does your child have French language arts, reading or math to complete and need some help. Grade 10, 11 and 12 students come from FH Collins and Mercier to support our grades 3-7 students on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30. If you would like some help with French, contact Mme Anne Harrison in the office to register.

Hurrah for warm hands!

A huge warm “Thank-You” to Sharon Searson, a kind member of our community who annually donates her beautiful hand-knit mittens to keep our students warm over winter.

If you have any yarn you would like to donate to Mrs Searson, please bring it to our office and we will be sure she gets it.



STUDENTS EXPLORE FRANCOPHONE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGH

From October 20 to 31, 2025, this year's Francophone Artist Tour brought Moov Ottawa Dance, a dynamic street dance company, to 16 Yukon schools across all three school authorities - including École Whitehorse Elementary!

About 1,750 students got to experience live dance performances and join in fun, interactive workshops. The energy was high, and students and teachers alike showed off their best moves!

This tour gave students a chance to explore Francophone culture through art and dance. The artists shared how the French language has shaped their lives and opened doors to exciting opportunities and students learned firsthand what it's like to be a professional dancer.



Bake Sale:

On Friday, December 5, Mme Sarah's Grade 4/5 class will be coming around class to class at lunch time to sell home-baked goodies and treats. They are organizing a bake sale to raise money for the Yukon World Cup Fund for our three local cross-country skiers racing at the international level: Derek Deuling (an EWES amazing alumni), Sasha Masson, and Sonjaa Schmidt. Derek, Sasha and Sonjaa will be heading to Prince George in a few weeks for Olympic Trials. Students may bring in a loonie or a toonie to buy a treat or two! Merci de votre support!



Mme Sarah's students will be going to each class during classes' lunch breaks. Here is a link with more information: <https://yukonworldcupfund.net/>



École Whitehorse Elementary School Activates Recess with a Whole-School Approach

An article written about our school participation in an Ever Active Schools Initiative

Walk into École Whitehorse Elementary School in downtown Whitehorse, Yukon, and you'll feel it right away—this is a place that hums with warmth, community, and care. Hallways are lined with art by students and local creators. Light streams in and plants bloom in sunny stairwells.



But despite its welcoming atmosphere, the school's urban location limits access to natural outdoor spaces for active learning and play. Combined with Yukon's climate and resourcing challenges, students have fewer opportunities to experience the restorative benefits, social connection, and learning readiness that outdoor, creative play provides.

That's where the Active Play Experience (APE) stepped in. Aligned with Yukon Education's core competencies for intellectual, personal, and social development, the APE Leadership program helped two Grade 6 classes learn and practice games they could lead with younger peers, laying the groundwork for peer mentorship and meaningful play.

From there, Ever Active Schools and Yukon's Physical Literacy Education Coordinator connected the school to the Everybody Plays initiative. Recess activation kits filled with imaginative loose parts were introduced. One joyful afternoon of experimenting and inventing followed.

The impact was immediate:
94% of students said they moved their bodies in a way they enjoyed
Yet only 58% felt confident leading play for younger students

They needed more support.

The next step: a professional learning session for all staff. Teachers explored the kits firsthand, becoming champions of creative play. Buddy classes began planning and playing imaginatively together, co-creating activities, and teachers use the kits with their own classrooms. Suddenly, recess was no longer seen as a break from learning, it was a vibrant extension of it.



Now, when you pass École Whitehorse Elementary, you might see students proudly wheeling the kits back inside, their cheeks flushed from activity and laughter. Active play is woven into the fabric of the school's culture of well-being.

This story is just one of many unfolding across the territory. Everybody Plays continues to promote well-being in Yukon schools - not only to increase physical activity and recreation, but to use evidence-based, health-promoting approaches to transform the learning environment. Because when we take a whole-school approach to something as fundamental as recess, we send a powerful message: every child deserves joy, movement, and connection at school.

Rooted in best practices from the Canadian Healthy School Standards and funded through the generosity of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, this work is about more than increasing movement. It's about building the conditions across policy, practice, and people for health and well-being to thrive in every corner of the school.

