



ÉCOLE WILLIAM MCDONALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

WILDCAT NEWS
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

Principal's Message



It's hard to believe how quickly the first few months of school have gone by! October, November, and December have been full of learning, connection, and strong Wildcat spirit.

October brought engaging classroom learning, after-school clubs, field trips, sports, and the launch of our Wildcats Athletics Academy. We were so proud of our 18 WMS teams and more than 180 student athletes at the Junior Spike It Tournament, and we loved hosting teams from across the NWT at our Junior Spike It Dance.

In November, routines strengthened and students continued to shine through leadership, collaboration, and curiosity. Thank you to families for supporting parent-student-teacher interviews, classroom events, and the many activities happening throughout the month.

December has been a time of generosity, community and connection at WMS. We were pleased to welcome 20 students from Québec as part of the Experience Canada Student Exchange with 8F, creating meaningful learning and lasting relationships. Students engaged in meaningful shared cultural experiences, beginning the week by Feeding the Fire, grounding our time together in community, respect and reflection. We extend our sincere thanks to Ms. Madelaine, Snookie Catholique, Bobby Drygesse and Cody Drygesse (and Coco) for starting our week in such a good way.

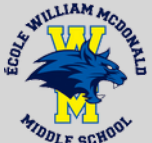
This spirit of connection continues through our 12 Days of Giving and the preparation of Holiday Hampers, aligned with the Dene Law, "Share what you have." We will also celebrate creativity and talent at our Winter Jam on December 16, highlighting music and performing arts at WMS.

Thank you to our students, families, staff, and community partners for your ongoing support.

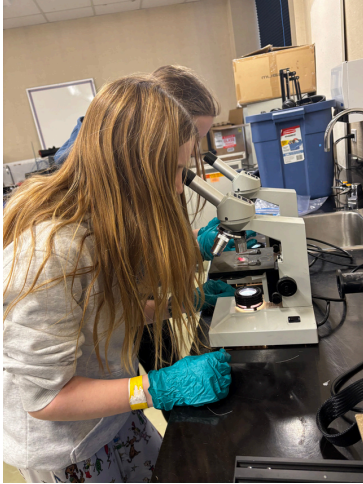
We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter break! WMS welcomes back students and staff on Monday, January 5, 2026!

Mahsi, Thank You, Merci, Wela'lin,

Jodi Lee-Lewis



SCHOOL WIDE INQUIRY STARTS CARIBOU PROCESSING



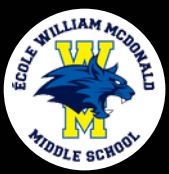
A sincere thank you to the Department of Environment and Climate Change for generously gifting WMS a caribou.

Mahsi Cho to Ms. Madelaine, Donovan Boucher, AJ Catholique and Snookie Catholique for sharing your knowledge and guiding us.

**Merci to our parents, guardians and community volunteers who joined students and staff for the first step of our school-wide Caribou Inquiry.
We loved having you learn with us!**

CARIBOU PROCESSING DAY 2





REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 10, 2025

- Mahsi, Merci, Thank You -

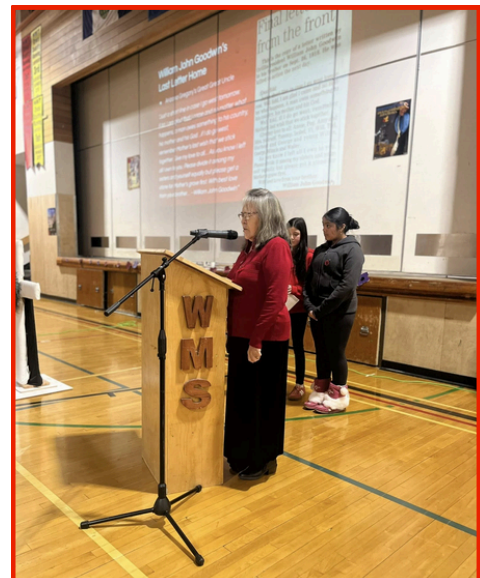
Ms. Madelaine for guiding us in Prayer

Major Ethan Labelle, Canadian Armed Forces.

Corporal Alissa Adams, RCMP

Sergeant Marshall McPhail, RCMP

Mr. Sean Daly, Trumpeter



~ NOUS NOUS SOUVENONS ~ LES OEUVRES D'ART DE LA CLASSE 6J



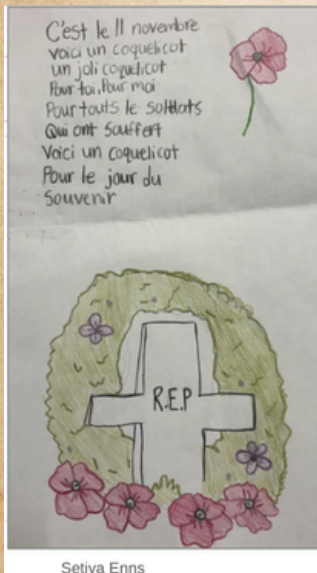
Lincoln Pontin



Jaida Dalton



Stella Schneider



Setiya Enns



Avery Godreau



Shino Koyanagi



Charity Tracy



Zak Benning



Jake Hilton



Calvin Cane



Lachlan Kohle





100 WORD STORIES

ELA



Students from 8F wrote 100 word stories for English Language Arts! Check them out!

Ding! The McDonald's machine went off as I was placing my order. I'm rushing. My flight is leaving very soon, and I am hungry because the flight would be super long. I tapped my feet while waiting for my burger. Then something happened that made me regret coming. The power went out. I'm panicking because my flight is supposed to leave in the next twenty minutes. So, it came down to two options: I could either wait for my burger or leave. Finally, I made my decision, and to keep it brief, I will say this. Flight missed—burger eaten.

Thelo Vaughn

Locked Doors

Rain pounded on the Walker house, Malia sat in her bedroom waiting for her mom to tuck her into bed. Instead of hearing footsteps walking up the stairs she heard the click of a lock. Getting out of bed, she walked down the hallway and saw the lock on her sister's door was horizontal. Malia was confused so she walked back to bed. Then her mom came upstairs, knocked on her sister Lea's door. Lea nodded at her then shut the door. Malia, confused again, peered through the crack of her door only to see a red glowing light behind her sister's door.

Hadley Dagdick

Boom!

Last night there was an explosion at the downtown offices. And I, Leon Greteo, junior detective, was sent to investigate.

I watch a video of the explosion that was taken from the street; the blast shatters a window and sends glass flying across the street.

It's two AM and I'm exhausted.

Before I know it I'm at the hospital interviewing one of the office workers.

"I just opened the door and then... boom!" she explains.

Suddenly I'm back in my room. The phone is ringing, I pick it up.

"Hello?"

"The office explosion... it was just a microwave malfunction."

A girl and her cow

Standing in front of the burning farm, the smoke smelt horrible. My home, the place where me, Baylie, and my best friend Sugar, who may or may not be a highland cow, spent our best days, skipping through the field that is now on fire. My parents had left just today for vacation and left me in charge of the entire farm and now it's gone. Gone and would cost thousands to get back and still wouldn't be the same. But in the end that's not what really matters, all that matters is that we made it out alive.

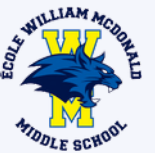
Caitlyn Jarvis

Leah Wood



100 WORD STORIES

ELA



A wolf in sheep's clothing

We have one rule here at our farm, never look it in the eyes.

I head outside to begin my chores.

"WOOF-WOOF!"

I jump, and see my shepherd barking at our sheep. I walk over and calm her down, I look up. Two empty eyes and an uncanny grin staring right at me. The creature with matted wool steps closer. I stare back. Memories of my fathers warnings rush through.

"Never look it in the eyes."

Looking down, slowly stepping back with my dog. We go inside but not before taking one last look at the wolf in sheep's clothing.

Mahina Khan

Miss Annie had a pet gold fish in her second grade classroom. The gold fish was named Bob. On the first day of school the new kids came in. They saw Bob and instantly ran to the tank to get a closer look. They just saw a normal orange gold fish in a tank. But that day Thomas, a little boy, was hungry. He had no more food left but he saw Bob in the tank. After lunch when everyone came back the tank was empty. Puzzled, everyone asked where Bob was. The teacher saw Thomas chewing on Bob's tail.

Wynn Henry

Me Against The World

Standing right in front of the broken mirror, toothbrush in hand, comb in the other trying to smile in this hell. I went outside, hiding from the danger, trying my best to find supplies before I ran out. It was until I lost Josh during a riot, then it just clicked inside of my head I had a change of perspective. If I really wanted to protect those who I love I can't let them drop before I can. I step out of the shadows standing right there all alone, no second chances, just me against the entire world.

Mustafa Hamaddawoud

Share
your
Story

Wrong Ice Cream

Everyone is dying of thirst, we are all sweating so much we can fill a pool, it is the hottest day ever recorded in Phoenix, 68 degrees. Me and my mom were at the park until

she asked "Do you want to go get some ice cream, it's the perfect day?"

"Of course" I responded, "I was just craving something sweet."

When we got there, there were 7 ice cream flavours to choose from. The two that caught my attention were bubble gum and nutella flavour. I eventually chose bubble gum, and it tasted disgusting and I instantly regretted it.

Kael Enns

LES JEUNES AMBASSADATRICES 8F EXPERIENCES CANADA 2025-2025

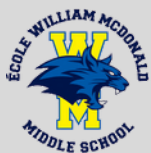
Hello my name is Mahina and I am one of the three ambassadors for this experience. I am 13 years old, and I am in the French immersion class of 8F. I was born and raised in Yellowknife even though my parents grew up in Bangladesh. I love Yellowknife because of the community and how everyone knows each other. I also love Yellowknife because even though it's small, it still has so many unique things like, the northern lights, the ice road, the Ingraham Trail, Folk on the Rocks Festival, and many more festivals and activities. I spend most of my time at the multiplex for figure skating, and I see a lot of support and positivity within the skating club.

Bonjour je m'appelle Mahina et je suis une des trois ambassadrices pour cette expérience. J'ai 13 ans, je suis dans la classe immersion de 8F. Je suis née à Yellowknife mais mes parents ont grandi au Bangladesh. J'adore Yellowknife parce que la communauté et tout le monde se connaît. J'aime aussi Yellowknife parce que même si c'est petit, il y a encore tellement de choses uniques, comme les aurores boréales, la route de glace, l'Ingraham Trail et beaucoup plus de festivals et d'activités. Je passe beaucoup de mon temps au multiplex pour le patinage artistique et je vois beaucoup de soutien et de positivité au sein du club de patinage. J'ai tellement hâte pour cette expérience et j'espère que vous vous amuserez bien!

Allo, je m'appelle Wynn, j'ai 13 ans et cette année je suis l'un de vos ambassadrices de la classe 8F. Je suis née et j'ai grandi à Yellowknife tout comme mon père. Ma mère quand à elle a grandi en Ontario, puis elle a déménagé à Yellowknife quelques années après ses études universitaires. Je passe la plupart de mon temps à Bella Dance, ou nous faisons plein de choses amusantes. C'est vraiment génial et c'est mon endroit préféré! J'aime Yellowknife parce que c'est une petite ville et qu'il est assez facile de ne pas s'y perdre. Mais, j'aime aussi parce que tout le monde se soutient quoi qu'il arrive. Je suis sûr que tous ceux qui viendront ici passeront un moment inoubliable et qu'ils se souviendront toujours!



Salut, je m'appelle Sunara et je suis une des trois ambassadrices pour cette expérience. J'ai 13 ans et je vais à l'École William McDonald Middle School, Je suis dans la classe 8F en immersion française. Je suis née et j'ai grandi à Yellowknife, mais mon père est né en Inde et ma mère au Québec. Yellowknife est une petite ville, mais ce sont les petits plaisirs qui le rend lui-même, les aurores et traîneaux de chiens sont uniques aux autres places et ici aller dehors en hiver est vraiment trop amusant ! Il y a beaucoup de sports d'hiver ici, les gens font des choses telles que la planche à neige, le patinage, le ski, etc. moi-même et beaucoup d'autres personnes adorent faire toutes ces choses! Ainsi que jouer au volleyball, cuisiner, faire des bricolages et simplement s'amuser avec nos amies! C'est une autre raison pour laquelle j'adore ici, tout le monde connaît tout le monde. Alors, je suis super excitée pour cette expérience et j'espère que tout s'amuse et reviennent au Québec avec de beaux souvenirs!



CAMP AKAITCHO

2025 – 2026 Participants

Aisha Benning
Aliana Lothiam
Allison Cane
Emily Brace
Juliet Goodman
Leah Stephenson
Lila Townson
Pippa Palmer
Vaida Marrai
Fynn Cuthbertson
James Decoste
Jayden Hwata
Kobe White
Kyle Thibeault
Oliver Bloudov
Trayon Pidborachinsky

Alternates

Caitlyn Jarvis
Kael Enns

Staff

Federick Sonier
Angela Gagnon
Tyler Craig
Jeff Seabrook

Thank you to Brian Chorostkowski of
Namushka Lodge for your ongoing
support and for accommodating our
group for 2025–2026!

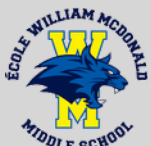


Planned Site Visits

January 16
January 30
February 6
February 20



Our Second After School Session:
Mitten Making!



JR SPIKE IT!



<https://sites.google.com/ykl.nt.ca/wms-sports>

**The Junior Spike It Tournament was held October 23 – 26, 2025.
We had 18 volleyball teams and 180 players participated, which is a new record!**



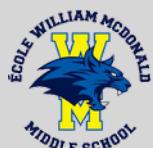
Results

**Grade 6 Girls – Silver, Bronze
Grade 6 Boys – Silver
Grade 7 Girls – Bronze
Grade 7 Boys – Gold, Silver
Grade 8 Girls – Gold
Grade 8 Boys – Gold**



THANK
YOU
😊

Thank you to all of the Wildcat athletes, WMS staff, community, student coaches, WHIPS and NWT School Sports for making this sport season possible!



JUNIOR BADMINTON

<https://sites.google.com/ykl.nt.ca/wms-sports>

Congratulations!



Results

Grade 6

Male: 1st Taran, 2nd Quinn

Female: 1st Tara, 2nd Charity

DBL F: 4th Natalie & Hailey

DBL M: 1st Emmett & Jesse
3rd Finn & Kevin

Grade 7

DBL F: 4th Isla & Em

Grade 8

Male: 1st Kael

Female: 2nd Lukka

DBL M: 3rd Kyle & Ben

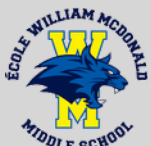
DBL F: 3rd Pippa & Hadley

DBL M: 2nd Kairo & James

Thank you!

*Thank you to M. Sonier and Mr. Wicks for organizing practices and coaching.
Mahsi M. Sonier, Mme. Laura, Mr. Brooks, Mme. Jasmine & Mrs. Lewis for
coaching and supervising during the weekend!*

Merci to family and friends for the encouragement during play!!



HOCKEY ACADEMY

<https://sites.google.com/ykl.nt.ca/wms-sports>

On Tuesday, December 9, Co-Ed Hockey Academy Groups (Grades 6 - 8) took to the ice for a game day!





HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Each year, two Elves join WMS for the month of December to spread some holiday spirit throughout the school.

With our resident elf, Peppermint, off this year with baby GumDrop, Snowball has enlisted her friend Tinsel to help lighten our dark December days!

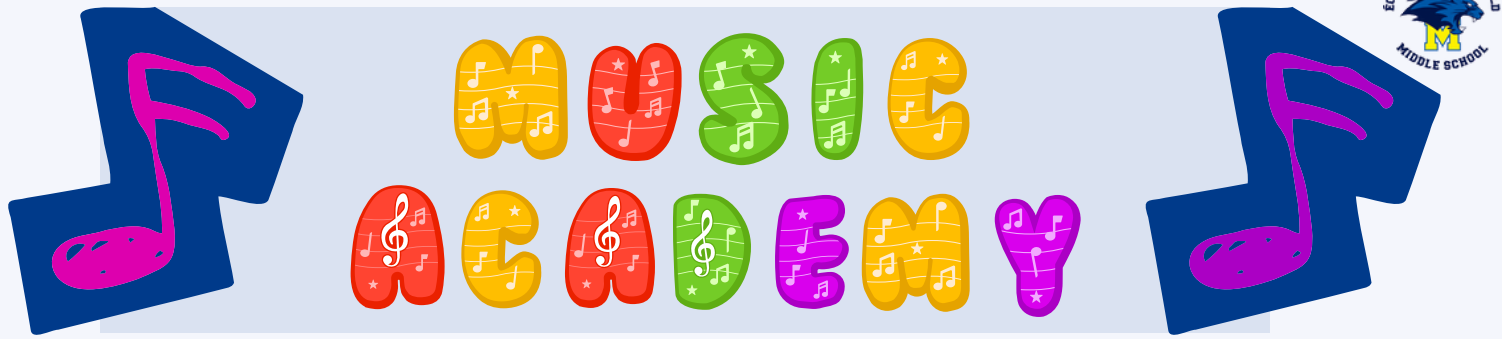
With the help of "Olivetheother", they've planned a series of events that we'll participate in together!

They'll be popping into classrooms, spreading laughter, and bringing their famous Elf Challenges and Holiday Games. Challenges require teamwork, creativity and school spirit!

"Snowball Toss"

WEEK #1





The Wildcats Music Academy is a opportunity for students who are excited to grow their musical talents and be part of a collaborative group. The program is an enhancement to our regular music classes and is designed for students who are passionate about developing their skills in concert band. At-home practice is encouraged, and additional rehearsals may be scheduled before performances.

Music Academy 2025-2026

James
Aila
Gabriel
Aisha
Evelyn
Fynn
Emmitt
Mirren
Lila
Mahina
Leah
Maisie
Jocelyn
Khloe
Em

Music Academy is directed by the talented Mrs. Fenwick

WINTER JAM

WMS

Please join us for an evening of
Music and Performing Arts!

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00PM

École William McDonald Middle School Gymnasium

Admission by Donation in Support of
WMS Arts Programming

Performances by:

Grade 6 Choir

Drama Club

Rock Band 1 & 2

Dance Academy

Music Academy

Performer & Audience Sing-Along



STUDENT COUNCIL!



Winter Break Countdown!



Brought to you by Student Council



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>8</p>  <p>Festive Hat Day!</p> <p>Themed door decorating contest begins</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Holiday colouring contest!</p> 	<p>10</p>  <p>Candy Gram sales begin today!</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Red & Green Dress Up Day</p>  <p>Candy Cane Gram Sales</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Gingerbread house making contest!</p> <p>Candy Cane Gram Sales</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Festive Sweater Day</p>  <p>Candy Cane Gram Sales</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>"Mistle-Toes" Day</p> <p>Silly or Themed Socks or Shoes</p> <p>Candy Cane Gram Sales</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hidden photo contest</p>  <p>Last day of Candy Cane Gram Sales!</p> <p>Colouring Contest Judging</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Dress as your FAVOURITE HOLIDAY day!</p> <p>Candy Gram Delivery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>School Breakfast & PJ Day</p>  <p>Door Decoration Contest Judging</p>

12 DAYS OF GIVING **REVERSE** ADVENT CALENDAR

1 	CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER OR JAM 2 	3  FLOUR, SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR, OATMEAL	SHELF-STABLE MILK, CANNED/ BOXED POTATOES  4	5  DRY PASTA, CRACKERS, RICE
CANS OF TOMATOES, TOMATO SAUCE, SPAGHETTI SAUCE 8 	9  BOXED SNACKS - COOKIES, BEAR PAWS, GRANOLA BARS	PERSONAL CARE: SOAP, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, TP, ETC. 10 	11  CAKE MIX, FROSTING, CANDY, CHOCOLATE	PASTA, CRACKERS, RICE 12 
15  OIL, BUTTER, MARGARINE	16  CARROTS, POTATOES, APPLES	EGGS, BREAD, MILK 17 		

We encourage our students and families to participate in the 12 Days of Giving through our Reverse Advent Calendar. Items supplied will be donated to food hampers or the local food bank.





HOLIDAY CRAFT MARKET

COME SUPPORT THE WMS GRADE 8
POST-INTENSIVE FRENCH TRIP TO QUEBEC!

DECEMBER 13

10AM - 3PM

ECOLE WILLIAM MCDONALD MIDDLE SCHOOL
50 TAYLOR ROAD
YELLOWKNIFE



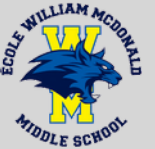
December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NO SCHOOL	2 Faye Brownlie @ WMS	3	4 Badminton Pep Rally	5 Carole Fullerton @ WMS Badminton Tournament	6
7	8	9	10 PAC Caribou	11	12 Pizza Day	13
		-----Grade 8F Quebec Exchange-----				
14	15	16 Winter Jam	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Winter Break ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️						
28	29	30	31			

*Students & Staff Return to Classes
on
Monday, January 5, 2026*

JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 BACK TO SCHOOL	6 ADST Round 3	7	8	9	10 Pizza Day 
11	12	13 Grade 7 Art Workshops with Darrell Chocolate	14	15 Camp Akaitcho First Aid	16 Camp Akaitcho Site Visit 1	17
18	19	20	21 PAC 6:30	22 Camp Akaitcho Snowmobile Course	23 No Classes for Students	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Camp Akaitcho Site Visit 2	31

2026