



ÉCOLE WILLIAM MCDONALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

WILDCAT NEWS
SEPTEMBER 2026

Principal's Message

Welcome back, Wildcats! It has been wonderful to see our returning students reconnect with friends and staff, while welcoming so many new students and families to WMS. This year, WMS has over 350 students! There is a great energy throughout the school, and we are looking forward to building on such a positive start to the year.



Much of September and October has been spent building our classroom communities, establishing routines, and getting into the excitement of learning. Students have been exploring new ideas, working together, and developing skills that will support them throughout the year. Beyond the classroom, we have also been finding ways to strengthen our connections as a whole school. Our House Games gave us an opportunity to bring students together across grades and language programs, build school spirit, and create new friendships.

Student voice and leadership are off to a great start! Our newly elected Student Council has already started planning and we are looking forward to the ideas and energy they will bring to our school this year. Our students have also had opportunities to contribute beyond WMS, from supporting younger learners at cultural camps through Leaders in Action to asking thoughtful questions about the future of Yellowknife at our City Council Candidates Forum. We also appreciated the opportunity to welcome families into our school for Open House and share a little of what makes WMS such a special place.

One of the things we love most about middle school is watching students grow in so many different ways. Whether it's trying something new, making a new friend, taking on a leadership opportunity, or working through a challenge, these everyday experiences are an important part of their journey. We are grateful to be part of it and look forward to all that the coming months will bring.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for the energy, kindness, and care you bring to WMS each day. We are looking forward to a great year together!

Mahsi, Thank You, Merci, Wela'lin,

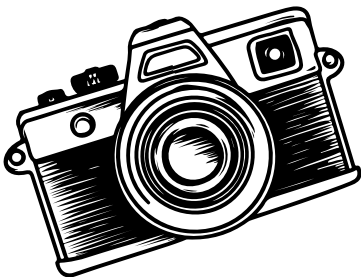
Jodi Lee-Lewis

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WMS MEDIA CLUB

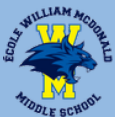


*Student
Author*

This year, our school newsletter is being brought to families by the School Media Club! The newsletter is created, designed, and produced by our students, giving them a chance to share the exciting things happening in our school community.

The Media Club is run by Mme Marie-Eve, Ms. Bromley, Ms. Anne, Mme Melanie, and Ms. Monique, who support our student journalists, photographers, editors, and creators along the way.

We're excited to give our students a voice and share our school community with you!



WMS STAFF 2026–2027

Administration

Jodi Lee-Lewis - Principal

Darryl Mitchener - Assistant Principal & Technology

Yovina Pandoo - Finance & Administrative Assistant

Student Services

Laura Bromley - Program Support Teacher

Marie-Eve Raymond - Program Support Teacher

Amber Vance - Program Support Teacher

Andrew Gilmour - Wellness Mentor

Librarian

Sara Aloimonos

Teachers

Arlene Cliffe-Phillips - Grade 6 English & Outdoor Ed

Elise Cockburn - Grade 6 Immersion & PIF 8

Maude Frosst - Grade 6 Intensive French & Core French

Laura Mayo - Grade 6 Intensive French & Phys. Ed

Hannah Fournier - Grade 6/7 English & ELA

Jasmine Skyers - Grade 6 Immersion & PIF 7

Francis Labelle - Grade 7 Immersion

Kim Poitras - Grade 7 Immersion & Textiles

Adria MacPherson - Grade 7 PIF & ELA

Megan Ladd -Grade 7/8 English & ELA

Will Carpenter - Grade 7/8 Immersion & PIF 7

Dylan Eastcott - Grade 8 English & Futsal

Melanie Parisella - Grade 8 Immersion & Health

Joanne Townsend - Grade 8 PIF English & ELA

Federick Sonier - Physical Education, Outdoor Education & Hockey

Darren Wicks - Physical Education, Industrial Arts & Hockey

Kamey Fenwick - Music

Brooks Skyers - Core French & Educational Assistant

Education Assistants

Angela Gagnon
Brianna Bertolini
Caroline Ruest
Jessika Marier
Monique Robitaille

Anne Mobach
Cheyne Cole
Joanna Grant
Lanita Teke

Custodial Staff

Quyen Le - Day Custodian

Thanh Lao - Night Custodian



DAILY SCHEDULE



**STUDENT SUPERVISORS GREET
OUR STUDENTS OUTSIDE AT
8:05AM.**

***If a student arrives past
8:30AM, we ask that they
stop into the office for a
welcome slip.***

**GRAB'N'GO BREAKFAST SNACKS
ARE AVAILABLE FROM
8:05-8:20AM**



8:20 – 8:35	Homeroom
8:35 – 9:15	Period 1
9:15 – 9:55	Period 2
9:55 – 10:05	Break
10:05 – 10:45	Period 3
10:45 – 11:25	Period 4
11:25 – 11:55	Lunch/Activity
11:55 – 12:25	Activity/Lunch
12:25 – 12:30	Homeroom
12:30 – 1:10	Period 5
1:10 – 1:50	Period 6
1:50 – 1:55	Break
2:00 – 2:40	Period 7
2:40 – 3:20	Period 8

Follow us!



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facebook.com/yk1wms



wms_wildcats



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION SEPTEMBER 30



Thank you to YKDFN Drummers Cody Drygeese and Peter Charlo and Mrs. Cathy Modeste-Short for joining us on September 29th to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As always, a sincere Mahsi Cho to Miss Madelaine for focusing her teachings this month on reconciliation and the joy of Indigenous culture, as well as the message of “letting go”.

Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who went to residential school and never came home. It also honours the children who returned to their families but were not the same because of what happened to them. People are trying to make changes, but we still need to understand that residential schools continue to affect survivors, their families, and their communities today. That is why we come together on this day: to remember, to learn, to listen to our Elders, and to continue working toward a better future for everyone.





WELLNESS MENTOR



Welcome Our Wellness Mentor, Andrew Gilmour!

We are excited to welcome Mr. Gilmour (he/him) back to WMS this year! Many of you may remember Andrew Gilmour from his work at NJ MacPherson and as he started with us in the Spring. We are thrilled that he has returned to support our students in this important new role.

As a Wellness Mentor, Andrew works with students to build emotional health, healthy communication skills, and safe classroom environments. He helps connect students with resources in the school, community, and local mental health and wellness services, when needed. Andrew is also leading classroom lessons to support community and social-emotional learning. Andrew provides proactive strategies to support overall well-being. While Wellness Mentors are not therapeutic counsellors or therapists, they play a vital role in linking students to the appropriate level of care, including the CYC program.

Andrew grew up in Kingston ON. He always had a passion for being active and in nature. Working with youth since the age of 21, Andrew has learned the importance of building relationships and making connections. Working in education since moving to Yellowknife in 2015, Andrew quickly realized the importance of teaching youth social and emotional skills through mindfulness and self-regulation. In his spare time he enjoys training in martial arts, playing board games with friends and spending quality time with his family.

We're grateful to have Andrew as part of our Wildcats family and look forward to the positive impact he'll continue to make at WMS!



DRESS CODE

Because WMS...

- is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, positive, and inclusive
- respects students' rights to express themselves in the way they dress
- empowers students to make decisions that promote a positive sense of self and contribute to a respectful community

WMS will...

- respect a student's right to fairness, dignity, and respect
- NOT discriminate against students based on race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, socio-economic status or body type

WMS expects that student attire will...

- Be functional (example: indoor gym shoes vs flip flops)
- Be comfortable (example: wearing clothes that allow you to move about freely)
- Be safe (example: wearing warm clothing in the winter)
- Be positive (example: wearing clothes free from discriminating hateful messages or illegal activities)
- Be private (example: wearing clothing that does not show private areas)



CELL PHONES & WEARABLES



At WMS, we want to keep the focus on learning, building friendships, and being present during the school day. While students are welcome to bring cell phones or other devices to school, here are a few important reminders:

- Phones and devices must be turned off 8:20 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. (Entrance to Dismissal Bells)
- Devices must remain in lockers during the day and not be carried around.
- If a device is used during school hours, it will be kept in the office until the end of the day.
- After three incidents, the device will only be returned to a parent/guardian.
- If problems continue, we will meet with families to make a plan.

Smartwatches & Other Devices

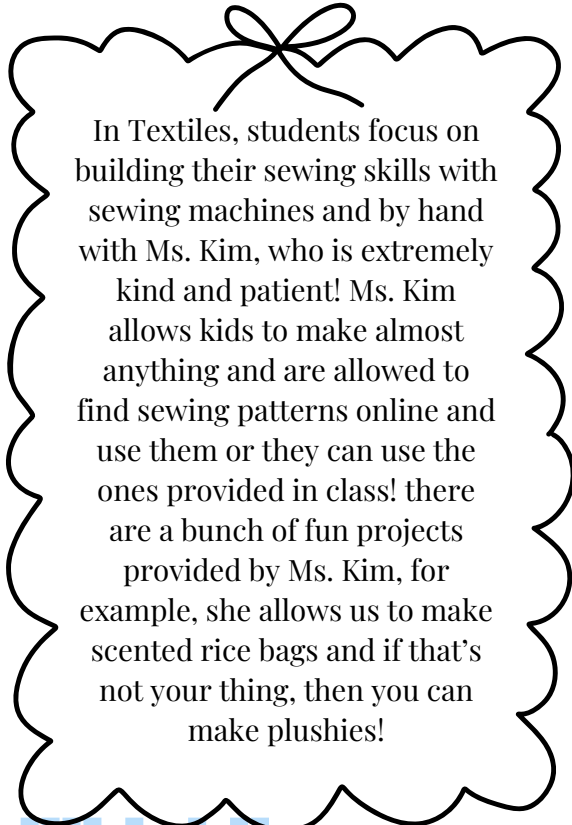
Smartwatches with cellular service must be set to airplane mode during the school day. If they are used in class, they will need to stay in lockers. Other personal electronics such as iPods and handheld gaming systems are not permitted during school hours.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to create a safe, focused, and distraction-free learning environment for all of our Wildcats!



APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES (ADST)

ADST provides students with hands-on, practical learning opportunities that encourage creativity, problem-solving, and skill development across multiple disciplines. At WMS, we are grateful to be able to offer a wide range of ADST courses, including **Industrial Arts, Technology, Culinary Arts, Outdoor Education, and Textiles**. These programs give students the chance to explore their interests, build real-world skills, and apply their learning in meaningful ways.



In Textiles, students focus on building their sewing skills with sewing machines and by hand with Ms. Kim, who is extremely kind and patient! Ms. Kim allows kids to make almost anything and are allowed to find sewing patterns online and use them or they can use the ones provided in class! there are a bunch of fun projects provided by Ms. Kim, for example, she allows us to make scented rice bags and if that's not your thing, then you can make plushies!

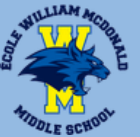
In tech, students focus on building computer skills and 3D printing skills! For example, we made pixel art and design with Mr. Mitchener. Throughout the classes students can make 3D projects and code fun Scratch games!



Industrial Arts (IA) is with Mr. Wicks in the wood shop. He has all kinds of cool tools like band saws and scroll saws. He also has lots of drill, big and small! In your first class, you go over the rules and expectations, after that you start on your projects. Some examples of the cool things we made are animals with the scroll saws, inukshuks which we made with glue and wood. For each group the project might vary.

Home Ec is one of my favourite ADSTs. For starters, the set-up is genius, putting us into groups to cook is a great way to build cooking skills while also building teamwork and trust. Another thing I like about how there are different food items every week to keep the students engaged and learning. The Home Ec teacher this year is Mr. Craig and Mr. Cockburn is the substitute while he is away!

STUDENT COUNCIL



At WMS, our Student Council plays an important role in building school spirit and giving students a voice in our community. Student Council members work together to plan activities, organize events, and represent the interests of their peers. By joining, students develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills while contributing to a positive school culture.

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward to run for WMS Student Council. We appreciate the courage and leadership it takes to address your classes and the school with speeches to share your ideas for making WMS even better.



Student Council (including some alternates) after their first event, the WMS Student-led Yellowknife Mayoral and City Council Candidates Forum

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT: FINN MARSHALL
VICE PRESIDENT: VIVI SCOTT

6CP: Autumn
6E: Loa
6J: Quinnie
6L: Marry-Ann
6M: Raine

6/7H: Hazelle
7M: Molly
7F: Maximos
7K: Antoine
7C: Trey

7/8W: Kieran
7/8L: Jaxon
8E: Luthando
8M: Vivi
8T: Emma

THANK YOU TO MME ELISE, MS. COLE, MME MAUDE, & MS. MEGAN
FOR BEING OUR STAFF LEADS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL!

YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL!

merci

Thank
you!



SCHOOL SPORTS

WMS WILDCATS ARE OFF AND RUNNING!

THE YEAR STARTED WITH CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING AND VOLLEYBALL

Mon Grade 6 Boys Vball 3:30 - 5:00	Tue Gr. 7 Boys Vball 7:15 am Gr. 7 Girls Vball 3:30 pm X-Country 3:30 - 4:30	Wed Gr. 7 Boys Vball 7:15 am Gr. 8 Girls Vball 3:30 - 4:30 pm	Thu Gr. 7 Girls Vball 7:15 am Gr. 8 Boys Vball 3:30 pm X-Country 3:30 - 4:30
	Fri Gr. 6 Girls Vball 10:00 am Gr. 8 Girls Vball 12:00 - 2:00	Sat Gr. 6 Girls Vball 10:00 am Gr. 8 Girls Vball 12:00 - 2:00	Sun Grade 8 Boys Vball 12:00 - 2:00

WMS Athletics Academy began the week of October 5!
Welcoming more than 180 athletes!!!



MONDAY: Hockey Academy
TUESDAY: Hockey Academy & Futsal Academy
WEDNESDAY: Dance Academy
THURSDAY: Hockey Academy, Futsal Academy, & Gymnastics Academy

Students must check the Academy Board in the front foyer for their assigned group & day!



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

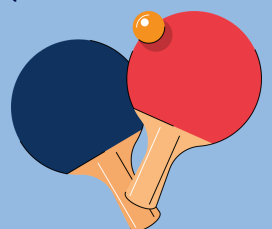


Cross Country Running
Fort Providence
October 9, 2026

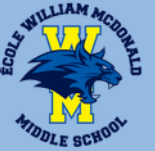


Spike It Tournament
October 22 - 25, 2026

UP NEXT: TABLE TENNIS!
(NOVEMBER)



PARKING



There are many ways to get to and from school!

Students may walk, bike, scooter, take the bus, or travel by vehicle.

Families are encouraged to consider walking or biking when it is safe and practical to do so.

Fewer vehicles around the school helps make arrival and dismissal safer for everyone.

Please use the Quick Stop Lane (Yellow) for students getting in or out of a vehicle.

Drivers must remain in their vehicle and keep the lane moving.

Please do not leave vehicles unattended in the Yellow Lane.

If you need to leave your vehicle, please use the Visitor Parking area (purple).

Accessible parking is available near the front entrance.

Please ensure that you come in the appropriate entrance.

The entrance and exits are one-way.

The parking lot is congested at the start and end of the school day.

Please keep traffic flowing.

Please be vigilant and watch for students walking and biking.

Your patience, cooperation and attention to safety is greatly appreciated!



BIKING

Student
Author

Lots of students at WMS bike to school, in fact the bike racks are close to full every day. While it is great to see so many of us getting to school using an efficient, energy smart, and fun way to get to school, there are some things to keep in mind.

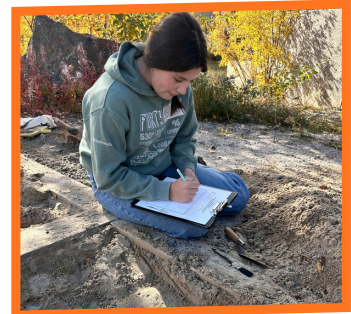
- Walk your bike! There are many vehicles driving in, out and around the school, and staying out of the way and walking your bike is the best way to stay safe and not get in anyone's way.
- Be sure to lock your bike up well! As many of us know, Yellowknife is prone to getting bikes stolen for whatever reason, and it's a pain to go through the process of getting a new bike, lock, and your trust in the community of Yellowknife again. Make sure that your lock goes through a sturdy part of the frame that can't be removed easily.
- Wear your helmet! This one is obvious, but extremely important. Wearing a helmet is the best way to protect yourself from potential falls or crashes. Make sure that the helmet is snug and covers your whole forehead, because there's no point in wearing a helmet if you don't wear it in a way that protects you.



GRADE 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG FOUILLE ARCHÉOLOGIQUE

Student
Author

Pendant le mois de septembre, la classe de Mme Kim, Ms. Hannah, Ms. MacPherson et M. Francis est allée faire une fouille archéologique au Centre du patrimoine septentrional du Prince de Galles. Ils ont appris au sujet des animaux anciens des TNO comme des baleines, des caribous et des mammoths. Ils ont lancé des atlatls, et la partie la plus excitante: ils ont déterré des fossiles! Les élèves ont appris comment utiliser les outils pour trouver des fossiles et l'histoire de tous les fossiles qu'ils ont trouvés. Le travail qu'ils ont fait au musée est lié à leur étude du temps préhistorique et l'évolution humaine.



During the month of September, Mme Kim, Ms. Hannah, Ms. MacPherson, and M. Francis' classes took part in an archaeological dig at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Museum. They learned about ancient animals in the NWT like whales, caribou, and mammoths, they threw atlatls, and most excitingly, they dug up fossils! The students learned how to use fossil finding tools and the history of all the fossils they found. The work they did at the museum connects to their studies about early historical time periods and human evolution.

TERRY FOX WALK

Student
Author

The Terry Fox Walk is when the school comes together at the soccer field, and we walk or run around the track to honor Terry Fox. It was from about 2:40–3:15. The school was also selling Terry Fox tattoos. We raised \$136 for cancer research, and we took some photos. Here are some of them!



Ms. Sara is hosting Library Helpers to keep our library neat, organized, and reading for everyone to find a book just right for them!

See Ms. Sara for more details if you're interested and missed the sign up!

Library Helpers

Your Next Adventure Is Just a Book Away.

Tasks include:

- putting books away
- tidy up the shelves
- put furniture back
- helping with book fairs

[JOIN NOW](#)

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIP



On Friday, October 9th, Mme Kim and Ms. CP took a crew of WMS students to Fort Providence to compete in the NWT Cross-Country Running Championships! We are so proud of all our runners, including Marin, Mairi, Loa and Anya who received the Fair Play Pins and all our athletes for receiving the Overall Award!



HOUSE TEAM COMPETITIONS



At WMS, we strive to build community across grade levels, programs, and language streams! One way we accomplish this goal is by separating our students into different Wildcat Houses and then competing in mini games throughout the school!



CURRENT HOUSE POINTS:

Bobcats	51
Cougars	40
Pumas	56
Panthers	58
Leopards	61
Lions	58
Cheetahs	64
Lynx	59
Tigers	50
Snow Leopards	53
Jaguars	49

Team Spirit Award



October

2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 WMS City Council Candidate Forum	7	8 U of T Basketball P.E. Clinics 	9 STIP DAY No school for students X-Country Running Championships (Fort Providence)	10
11	12 HAPPY Thanksgiving	13	14	15	16 Subway Day 	17
18	19 Outdoor Ed goes to the Climbing Wall! 	20 Grade 7 FSA Literacy Part A	21 PAC at 6:30 Library	22 Pep Rally!  Grade 7 FSA Literacy Part B	23 Junior Spike It! PD Day	24 Spike It Dance at RLN
25	26 ADST Round 2 Begins	27 Grade 7 FSA Numeracy Part A	28	29 Grade 7 FSA Numeracy Part B	30 Pizza Day  Costume & Door Decorating Contest	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 
1 November	2 PD Day	3	4 Film Festival Grades 7 & 8s 	5	6	7

NOVEMBER

2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 STIP DAY No school for students	3	4  Film Festival Grades 7 & 8s	5	6 Student Council Meeting at Lunch	7
8	9	10  Remembrance Day Assembly	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13 Pizza Day 	14
15	16	17	18 WMS PAC Meeting 6:30 - Library	19  Little Mermaid at SJF	20 Subway Day 	21
22	23 Report Cards Go Home	24 Scholastic Book Fair Parent-Teacher Interviews	25 Parent-Teacher Interviews	26	27 No School	28
29	30	1 Welcome December 	2	3	4 Pizza Day 	5