



Alternative  
Programs



# Westgate School

## French Immersion

Kindergarten and Grade 1  
Information Evening

Thursday, January 8, 2026

learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board  
of Education

# Welcome and Introductions



- Julie Muhlberger – Principal
- Stephanie Leech – Assistant Principal
- Christina Wilson – Kindergarten Teacher
- Darlene Holloway – Kindergarten Teacher

# Agenda

- Westgate School – An introduction
- Alternative Programs and French Immersion
- A Day in Kindergarten and Grade 1
- French Immersion Designated Area 7 Schools and entry years information
- Registration and General Information
- School Council – Stephanie Paquet

# About Westgate School

- Currently serving the needs of 600 students
- Westgate is a French Immersion Kindergarten to Grade 6 school
- Dynamic music program currently taught by two specialists
- Extensive library collection in French and English
- Resource team targets individual needs of students
- A variety of technology used to support teaching and learning
- Neurolinguistic approach to second language learning (NLA)
- Embrace and embed wellness, Indigenous learning and ways of knowing into teaching and learning



# About Westgate School (...con't)

- School Development Plan – Literacy, Student Well-Being
- Teachers leading system work on new curriculum/structured literacy (national recognition)
- Focus on promoting a love and appreciation history and culture
- Value student voice – Gator Gallery
- Extensive club program
- Off-site activities and community walks
- Parent Information Nights
- Frequent communication between school and home
- COLLABORATION, COMMUNAUTÉ ET RESPECT



# Alternative Language Programs

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- Providing families choices to meet the unique learning needs of each student
- Language Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish).
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child’s needs?

## Alternative Programs



# Key Messages

- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Curriculum with ATA certificated teachers
- All families are eligible to register for the lottery process (where applicable, but not out of bounds)
- There is a designated Alternative Program school for each home address

## Language Program



# Differences and similarities with community school programs

## Differences

- Strong focus on development of language and culture
- Integrate language and culture into holistic, global perspective
- Grounded in current language research

## Similarities

- Alberta Curriculum
- Daily Physical Activity

# Benefits to Learning Another Language

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- Enables students to further develop their literacy, problem-solving and memory skills while building confidence and pride in learning another language.
- Strengthens English literacy skills. Children who learn an additional language show either comparable or enhanced first-language literacy.
- Provides students with more choices for advanced education and career options as it gives them an edge in the global job market.
- Expands the intellect
- Teaches responsible citizenship
- Develops enhanced feelings of self-esteem and pride in having acquired an additional language
- Encourages the joy of lifelong learning
- Promotes exploration, understanding and appreciation of the many different cultures around the world and contributes to multilingualism and multiculturalism
- Allows students to compete internationally
- Broadens students' cultural life through access to literature, art, music and theatre in another language

# FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM DETAILS

## Proportion of French to English

**Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2:** 100% French

**Grades 3:** 80% French; 20% English

**Grades 4 - 6:** 70% French; 30% English

## Subjects taught in French

**Grades 7 - 9:** French Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies

**Grades 10 - 12:** French Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math

Language  
Program

**DELF – OPTIONAL FRENCH ASSESSMENT  
BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION**

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# Kindergarten Program

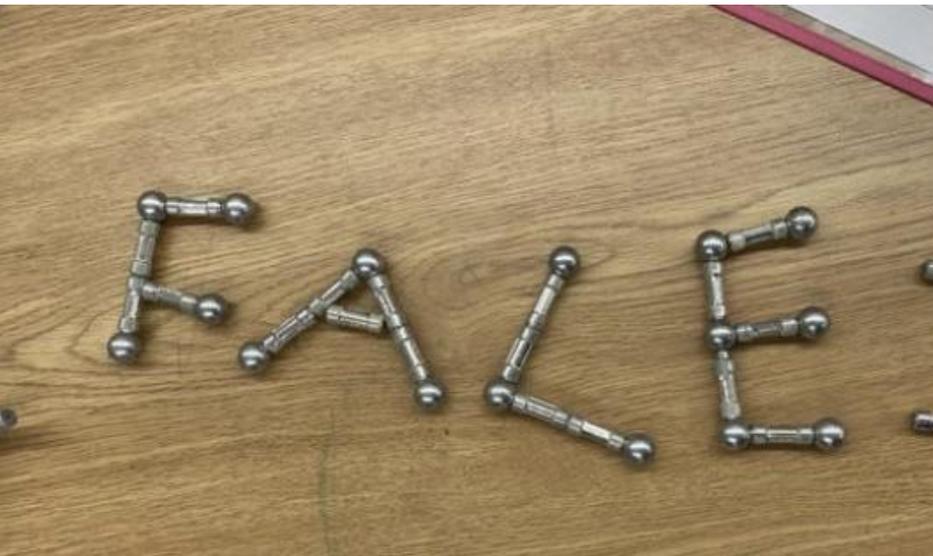
A Day in the Life of a Kindergarten Student



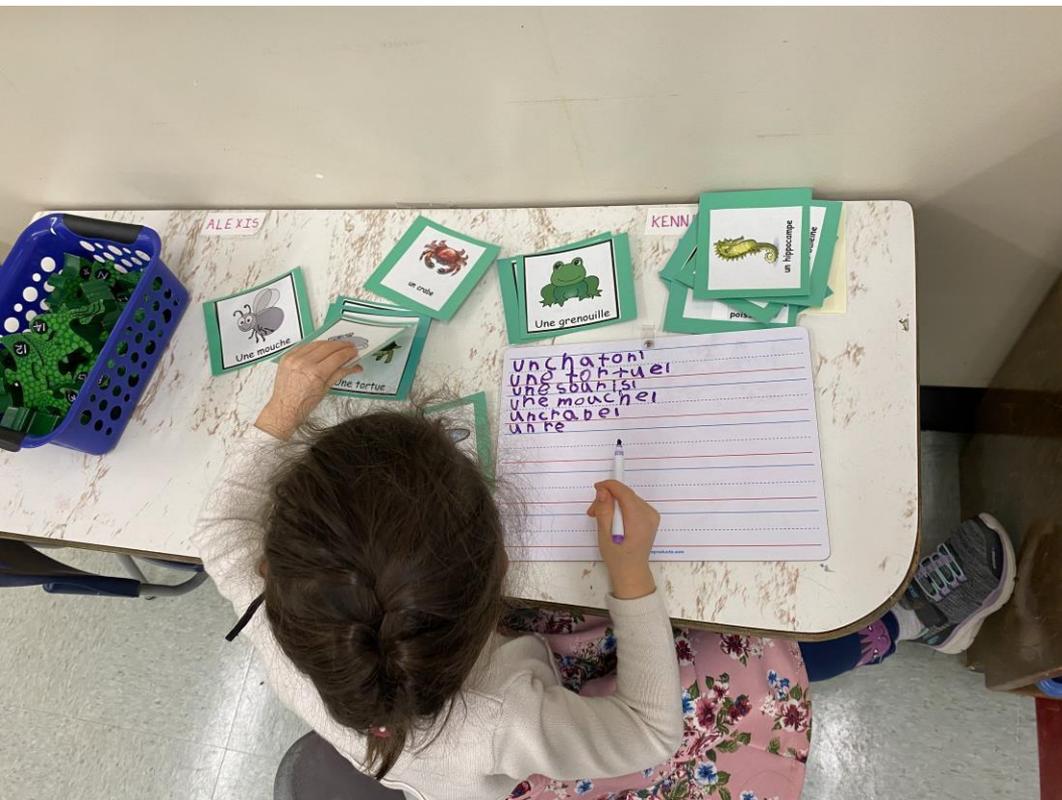
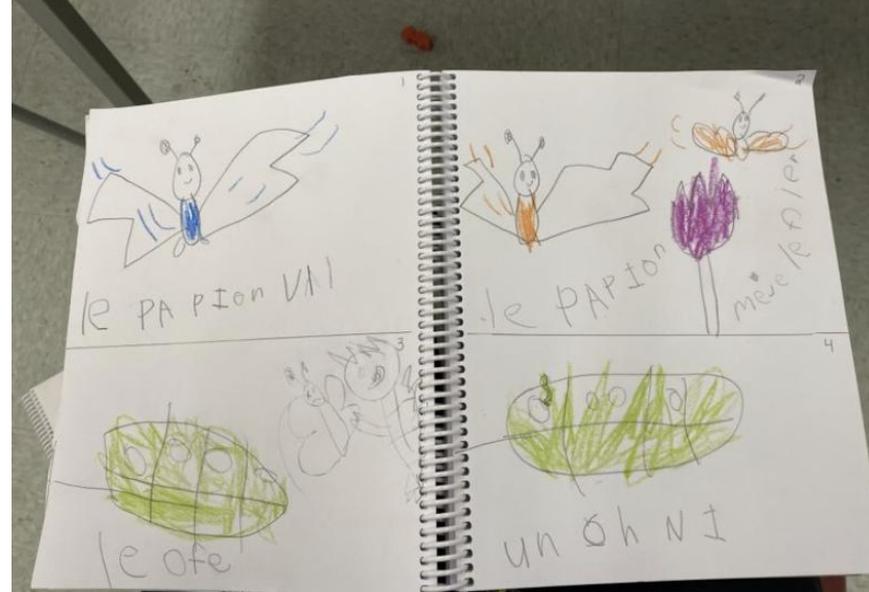












$4 + 2 + 1 = 7$

$4 + 3 = 7$

$3 + 4 = 7$

$6 + 1 = 7$

$12 - 5 = 7$

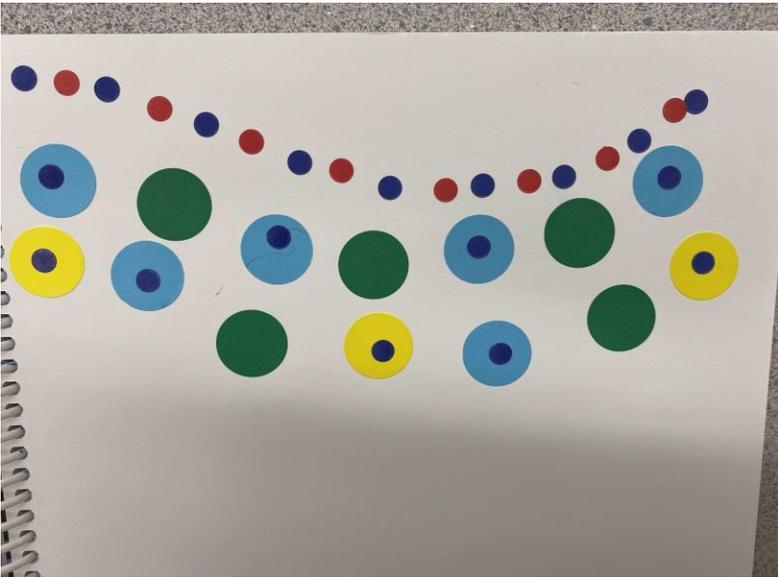
$8 - 1 = 7$

$5 + 2 = 7$

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# Grade 1 Program

## A Day in the Life of a Grade 1 Student



- Full day
- Students taking more responsibility for their learning
- More field trips
- Outside recess with Div I students
- Eating lunch in hallways (bench tables)

# Area 7 - French Immersion Schools

**For the 2026-27 school year:**

<b>Grades</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Address</b>
Kindergarten - Grade 6	Westgate School	150 Westminster Dr SW 403-777-8420
Grade 7 - 9	Bishop Pinkham School	3304 – 63 Ave SW 403-777-7840
Grade 10 -12	Western Canada High School	641 – 17 Ave SW 403-228-5363

**Language  
Program**

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Watch your child  
become fluent.

D is for ~~DUCK~~  
canard

## Who Can Register

- Children entering Kindergarten or Grade 1.
- Previous French speaking experience is not required and parents do not need to know the language.
- Entry points other than Kindergarten or Grade 1 are determined in conversation with the school administration



# Grade 1 Entry?

## It's easier to start in Kindergarten because:

- Same starting point for all
- They don't know any differently...school is just in another language
- Gentler start to learning a second language

## You can start in Grade One because:

- Students catch up around December
- Other students are helpful
- Additional language support is provided if necessary

Language  
Program

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# Kindergarten at Westgate

Kindergarten Hours 2026/2027 (Tentative)

Staggered entry – first two days | smaller classes

## Monday - Thursday

AM Class 8:00 - 10:53AM

PM Class 11:37AM - 2:30PM

## Friday

AM and PM classes alternate

8:00 - 12:00

## Class Sizes

Target 20:1

## Entry Criteria

A child, whose parent resides in Alberta, may be enrolled in any ECS program as long as space and resources are available in the requested ECS program. Enrolment in ECS does not guarantee enrolment in Grade 1.

# Grade 1 at Westgate

## School Hours 2026/2027 (Tentative)

### **Monday - Thursday**

8:00 - 2:30

### **Friday**

8:00 - 12:00

## Class Sizes

Target - 20:1

## Entry Criteria

We accept registrations from everyone within our boundary. Non-residents are only accepted in extenuating circumstances (approval of Area Director, only if space and resources available)

# General information - Registration

- Registration begins on January 12, 2026. There is no rush to register as we accept all students in our attendance area.
- Choose Alternative Program when registering for a French Immersion Program
- Previous French experience is **not** required and parents do not need to know the language.
- Students registering for Kindergarten living within or outside the designated area can apply.
- Families of students living outside the designated area will be notified if we can offer a placement mid-March to June 1st, 2026. However, enrolment in ECS does not guarantee enrolment in Grade 1.
- Students who are not Canadian citizens must register through the CBE Welcome Centre. Once you have submitted the registration form through School Engage, Welcome Centre staff will contact you to arrange an appointment to complete the registration. If you require assistance, please contact the Welcome Centre at 403-817-7789 or [welcome@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:welcome@cbe.ab.ca).
- For more information on the learning | **as unique** | as every student



# Registration Documentation

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Prior to starting the registration process you will require the following information:

- **Proof of primary address:**

Where the child resides. It must include the parent / legal guardian / independent student name.

Examples include: bank statement, driver's licence, GST rebate, utility bill, home or renters insurance, income tax statement, mortgage statement, property tax assessment or the Canada Revenue Agency letter

- **Child's proof of age, citizenship and legal name:**

Examples include: Alberta Birth Certificate, Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship Card, Canadian Citizenship Certificate, Confirmation of Permanent Residence or the Canadian Certificate of Indian Status

- A **selfie** with the legal guardian / parent government issued photo identification

Additional documentation may be required:

- [Custody / Guardianship](#)

- [Student Health Form](#)
- [Student Assessment](#)

Students who are not Canadian citizens will be contacted after registration by the [CBE Welcome Centre](#).

# Registration is Online New and Current CBE Students

[www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca)



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  - Flexible Payment Options
  - Find My School Fees
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  - Fees, Sales and Services Terms and Conditions
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  - Back to School**
- Calendars**
  - Instructional Calendar
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  - Dates of Significance
  - Bell Times
  - Browse All ->**

# Current CBE Students Complete an Expression of Interest | School Engage

### Alternative Programs

Select One Of The Following Options

#### I Want To Register A Child

I have other children in the CBE and I want to register another child for an alternative program

Start Registration ↻

#### Moving From One Program To Another

My child is already registered in one program (regular or alternative) and I would like to move to a different program (regular or alternative)

Move Programs ↻

### Program Selection

Select One

#### Alternative Program

I am seeking to move in to an Alternative Program.

Alternative Program ↻

#### Regular Program

I am seeking to move into the Regular Program

Regular Program ↻

#### International Baccalaureate Programme (IB)

I am seeking to move into the IB Programme

IB Program ↻

# Alternative Programs | Registration Process

cbe.ab.ca

## Complete the Registration Process Following These Steps

1

### Create a SchoolEngage Account



1. Go to [SchoolEngage](#)
2. Click *Create Account* button
3. Complete the Account Form
4. Check your Email for Confirmation and Click on the Confirmation Link
5. Sign in to SchoolEngage
6. Add a student

Refer to [SchoolEngage Support](#) for detailed steps

Launch  
SchoolEngage 

2

### Complete Registration Form

In SchoolEngage complete the Registration Form

In this step you will select **both** your child's designated alternative program and regular designated program school.

#### **\*TIP\***

Remember to hit the green **Submit** button at the end of the Registration Form to ensure it has been fully completed.

3

### Completed Form Sent to School For Processing

Please be patient as the school works through all their completed registrations.

School staff will contact you if there are any questions or concerns.

**Please do not call the school.**

4

### School Informs Parents

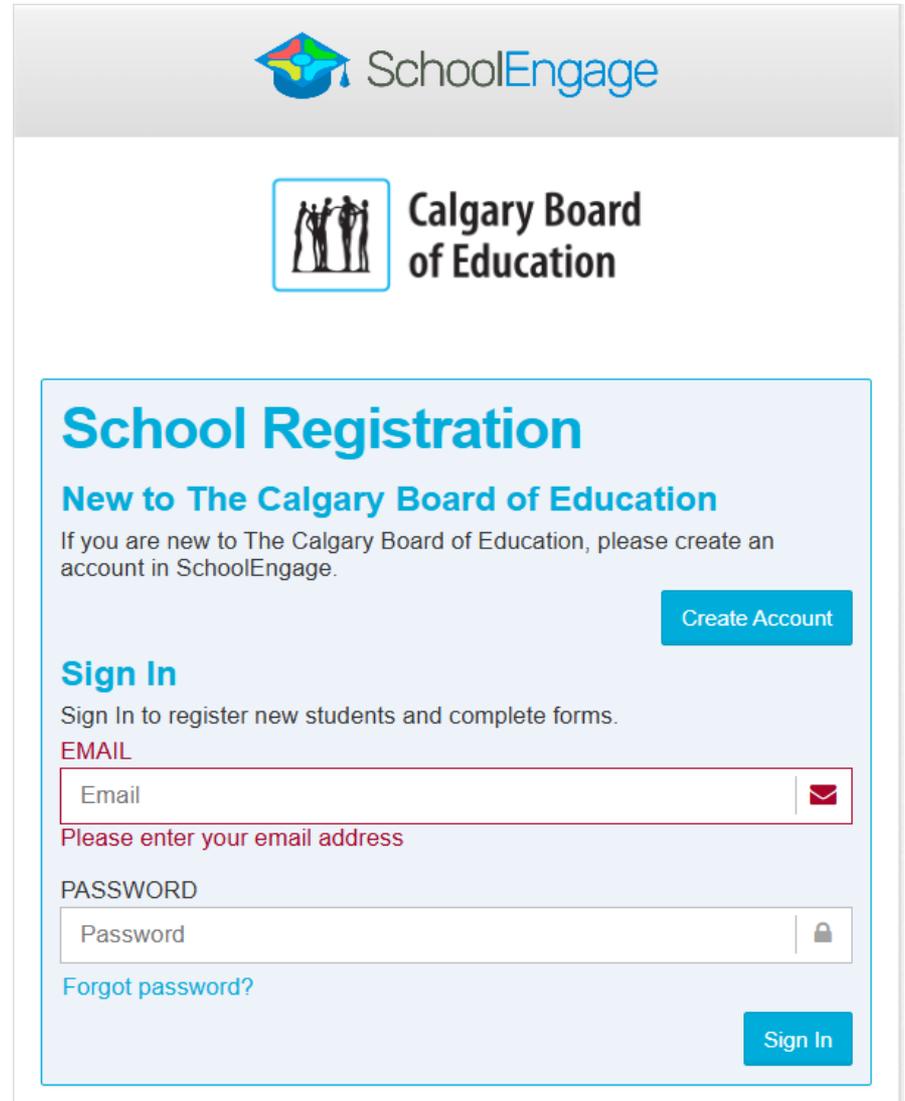
The school informs the parent they are accepted into the program.

School may require additional forms to be completed.



# Registration is Online with School Engage

- The registration form is approximately 16 tabs
- Ensure you have a few minutes to fill these out
- You may SAVE and return to the form
- Required documents prior to beginning your forms



The screenshot shows the School Engage registration interface. At the top, there is the SchoolEngage logo and the Calgary Board of Education logo. The main heading is "School Registration" in blue. Below it, a sub-heading reads "New to The Calgary Board of Education". A message states: "If you are new to The Calgary Board of Education, please create an account in SchoolEngage." To the right of this message is a blue "Create Account" button. Below this is a "Sign In" section with the text "Sign In to register new students and complete forms." There are two input fields: "EMAIL" and "PASSWORD". The "EMAIL" field has a red border and a red envelope icon on the right. Below it is the text "Please enter your email address". The "PASSWORD" field has a lock icon on the right. Below the password field is a blue link that says "Forgot password?". At the bottom right of the form is a blue "Sign In" button.

 SchoolEngage

 Calgary Board of Education

## School Registration

**New to The Calgary Board of Education**

If you are new to The Calgary Board of Education, please create an account in SchoolEngage.

[Create Account](#)

### Sign In

Sign In to register new students and complete forms.

EMAIL

Please enter your email address

PASSWORD

[Forgot password?](#)

[Sign In](#)

# Volunteers

- Parents are welcome to come and volunteer.
- All volunteers must have a valid Volunteer Security Clearance and must complete an Annual Volunteer Registration Form to volunteer.
- To apply for your Volunteer Security Clearance, you must start the process online through your MyCBE account.



## Transportation Considerations

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE/PowerSchool**
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

# Transportation – Yellow School Bus

- Students are supervised from the time they get on the bus before school starts until they get off the bus at the end of the school day.
- 2025/2026 bussing fees were set at \$360 (grades 1-6) and \$180 (Kindergarten). The cost for transportation for 2026/27 has not yet been determined.
- Bussing is provided based on your home address.
- Stops will not be created for a day home/daycare.
- Registration through **MyCBE/PowerSchool** will begin in May 2026 and **must** be completed prior to the deadline in June 2026.
- As of September 2020, there is no mid-day bussing

# Kindergarten Fees

- Student Supplies Fees for the 2025-26 school year were set at \$20. Fees for the 2026-27 school year have not yet been determined.
- Fieldtrip fees will be added at the time of the fieldtrip.

# Grades 1-6 Fees

- Student Supplies Fees for the 2025-26 school year were set at \$40. Fees for the 2026-27 school year have not yet been determined.
- Lunch Supervision Fees for the 2025-26 school year were set at \$350. Fees for the 2026-27 school year have not yet been determined.
- Fieldtrip fees will be added at the time of the fieldtrip.



# Kindergarten Class Placement

- We are unable to accommodate requests for a specific teacher or classroom.
- If there are more requests than we can accommodate for either AM or PM, we will draw names. Further information can be found on our school website [Registration -> How to Register -> Kindergarten page -> AM/PM Draw](#) of our website.
- Parents will be informed of their child's placement by email mid-May.
- There will be an orientation in May, more details to follow

# Childcare Providers

Child's Play: (in school) (403) 919-5118

Summit Kids: (403) 477-4346

Kids & Company: (403) 237-5437

KidZinc: (403) 240-2059

My 2nd Home: (403) 874-6273

Kidsventures Dayhome: (587) 573-8529

# WESTGATE'S SCHOOL COUNCIL AND PARENT SOCIETY

**Westgate's School Council** performs an important advisory role at the school. The School Council helps ensure parents' perspectives are considered in school decision making. It offers an additional opportunity for parents to ask questions, provide feedback, and obtain information about the school. School Council also contributes to many school community building events such as Snow Ball (December), Carnaval (February) and Gator Fest (May)

**Westgate's Parents' Society** holds the primary function of fundraising and supporting programs in the school. Some initiatives funded by the Parents' Society include classroom and enrichment materials and equipment, and additional educational field trips.

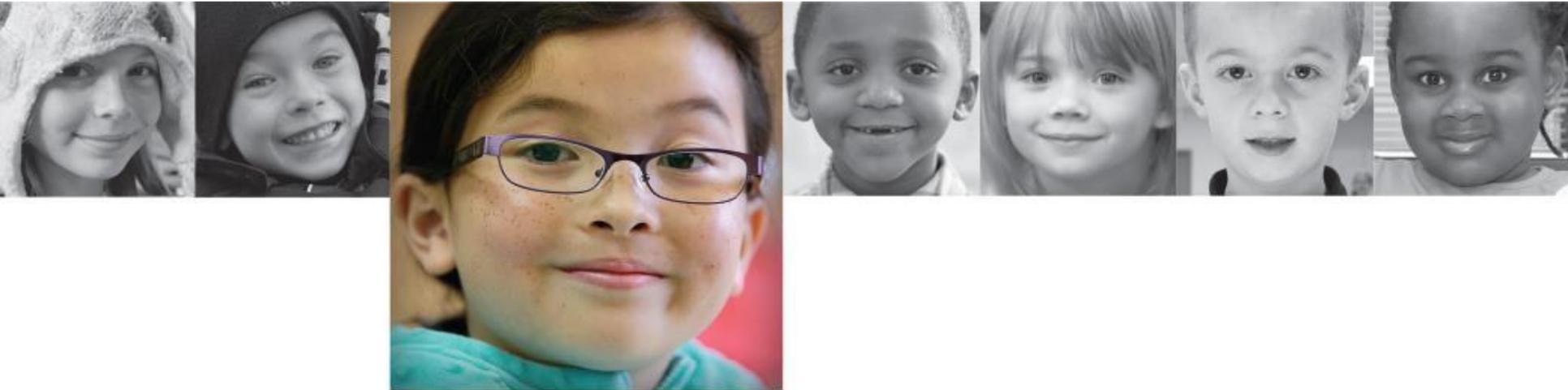


*As a parent or guardian of a student attending Westgate School, you are automatically a member of the School Council and Parents Society*

*You are welcome at all meetings- 8 per school year- and to attend all Westgate School community events*

Questions? Email us at: [westgateschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:westgateschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

# Question Period and Closing



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