



Westgate School

French Immersion

Kindergarten and Grade 1
Information Evening

Thursday, January 9, 2025



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



Calgary Board
of Education

Welcome and Introductions

- Julie Muhlberger – Principal
- Stephanie Leech – Assistant Principal
- Janell McDonald – 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
- Registration and General Information
- School Council

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 English and French
- 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 (...cont)

- School Development Plan – Math, Literacy, Wellness
- Leadership Team – leading system work on new curriculum/structured literacy
- Focus on promoting a love and appreciation of French history and culture
- Value student voice – Gator Gallery
- Extensive club program
- Off-site activities and community walks
- Parent Nights – Math, Literacy, other (Internet student wellness, financial literacy)
- Frequent communication between school and home
- COLLABORATION, COMMUNAUTÉ ET RESPECT



Alternative Programs



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to meet the unique learning needs of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science, Mandarin, Spanish), or teaching philosophy (TLC)
- 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 PE

Benefits to learning another language

Additional Language learning enables students to further develop their literacy, problem-solving and memory skills while building confidence and pride in learning another language.

- Expands the intellect
- Teaches responsible citizenship
- Develops enhanced feelings of self-esteem and pride in having acquired an additional language
- Strengthens English literacy skills
- 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
- Provides students with more choices for advanced education and career options
- Broadens students' cultural life through access to literature, art, music and theatre in another language (workshops – Matt Mailandt, Roger Dallaire)



Watch your child
become fluent.

D is for ~~DUCK~~
canard

**French Immersion Education, Your Gateway to the World Empowered.
Functionally competent. Equipped to actively participate in the world.**

French Immersion begins with a period of concentration on French language development so students can achieve a strong foundation in French.

Opportunity to become functionally fluent and acquire multiliteracy skills in both languages



[Early French Immersion - Westgate School](#) - informational videos and literature review executive summary on benefits of second language learning

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

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Taught in French

100%

K - 2**Taught in English**

0 %



80% in French

3 - 6

20 %

French Language Arts, Mathematics, Science
and Social Studies**7 - 9**

All other subjects are taught in English

French Language Arts, Social Studies and
Mathematics**10 - 12**

All other subjects are taught in English

OPTIONAL:

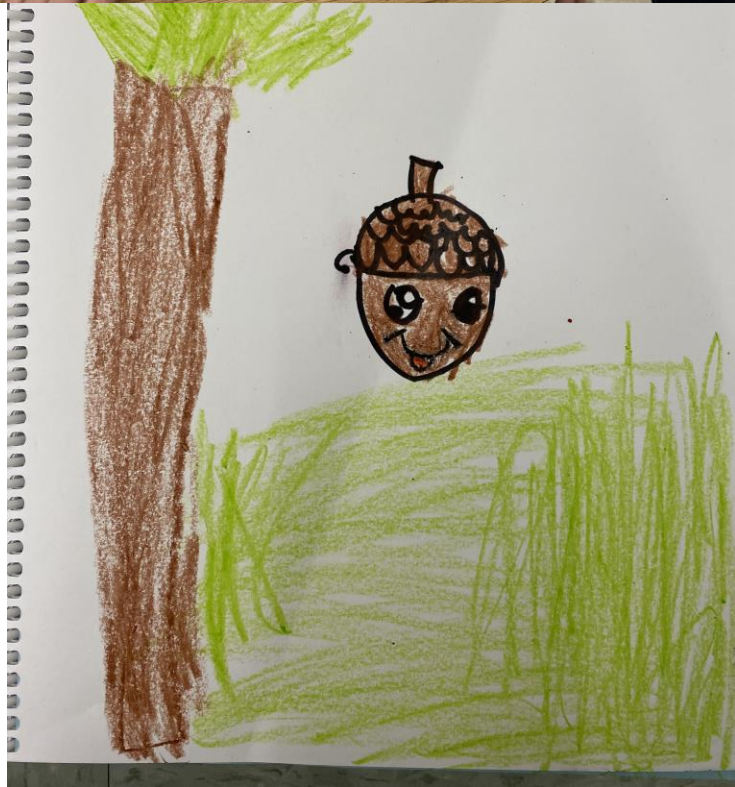
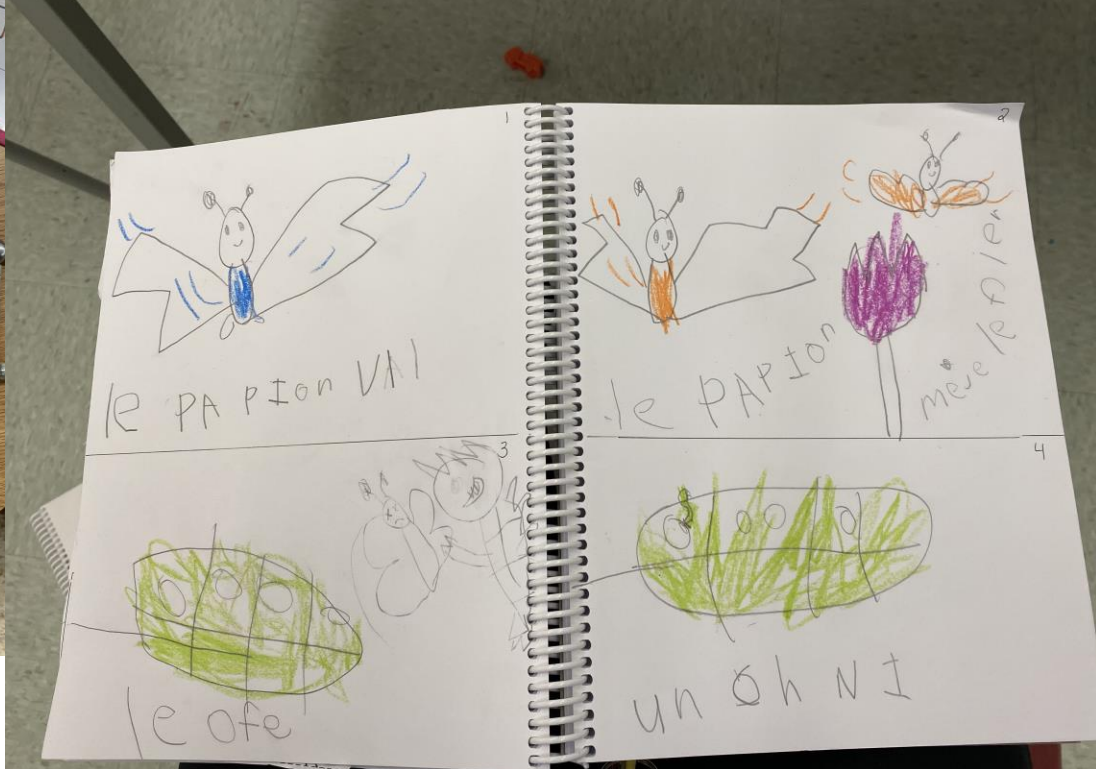
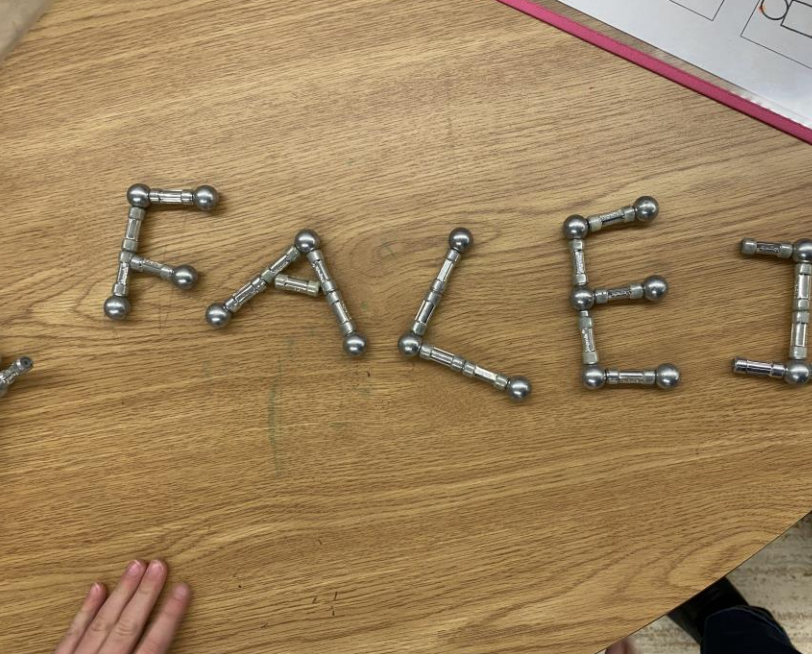
The DELF - official qualifications awarded by the French Ministry of Education to certify the competency of candidates from outside France in the French language. These certificates are valid for life.

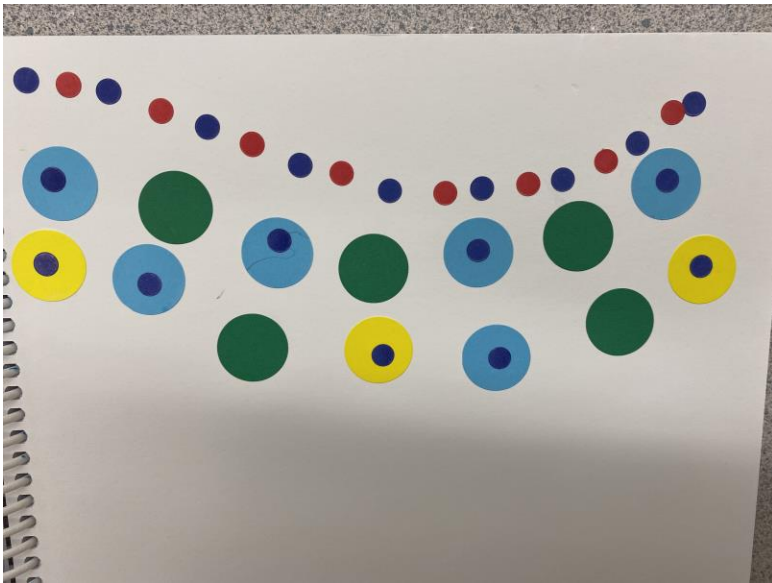
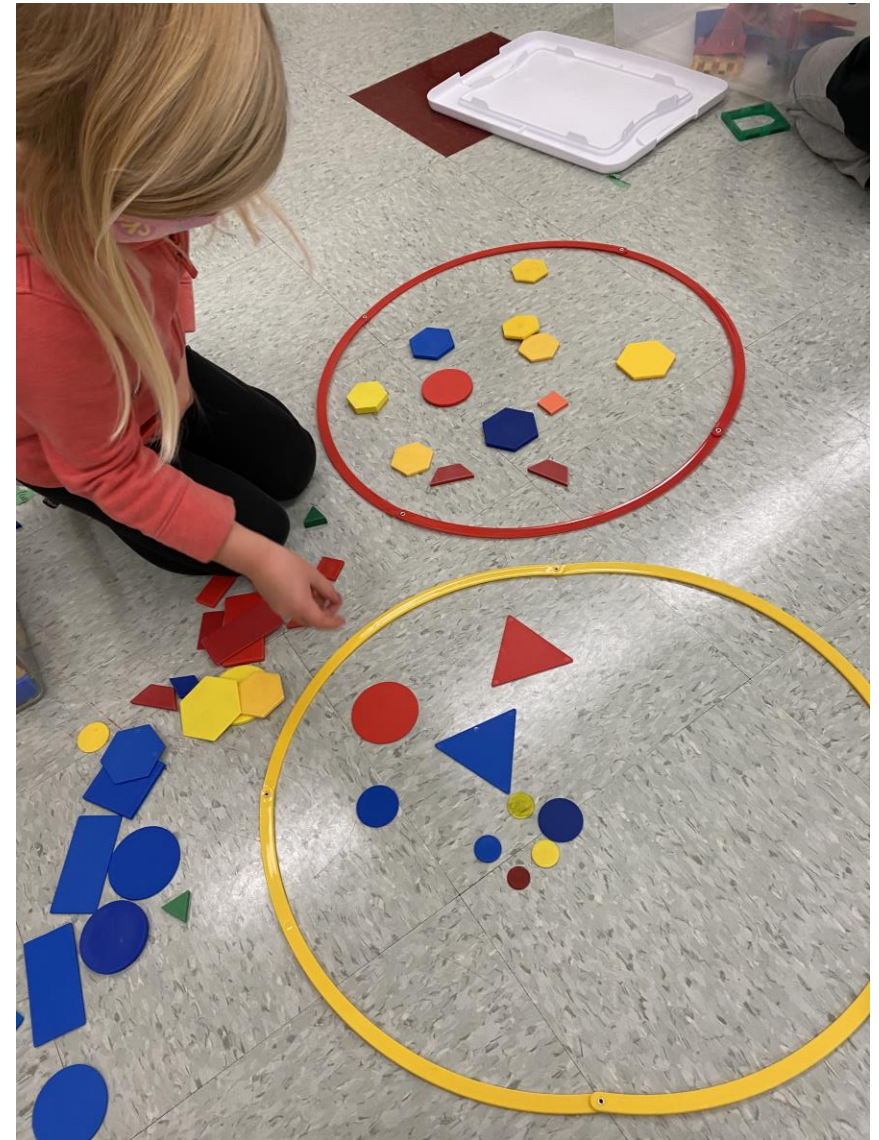
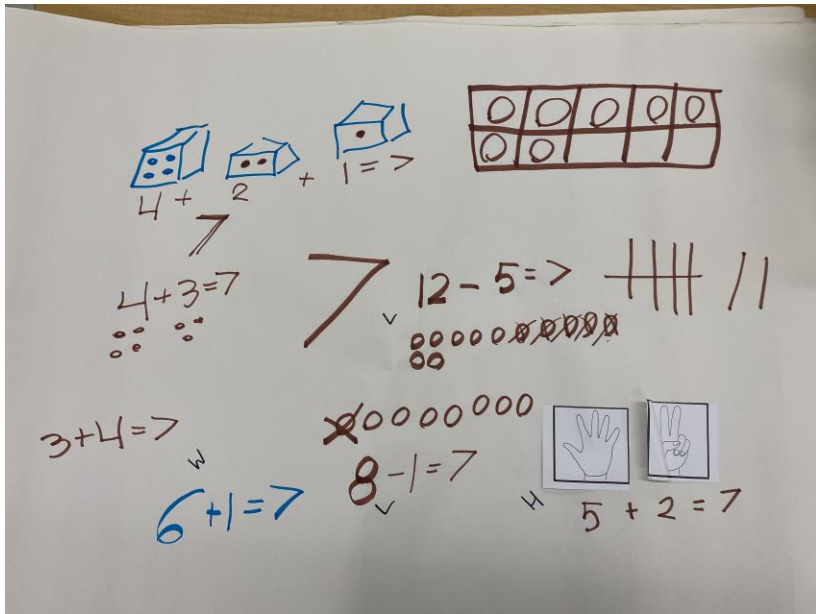
Kindergarten Program

A Day in the Life of a Kindergarten Student























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)

Kindergarten Common Age of Entry

- Effective fall of 2020, all school boards in Alberta have the same age of entry for children starting kindergarten.
- Children can start kindergarten in the fall of 2025 if they turn 5 years old on or before Dec 31, 2025.
- Entry in Early French Immersion is only Kindergarten or before Sept.30th in Grade 1

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French Immersion Schools

For the 2025-26 school year:

Grades	School	Address
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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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
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Kindergarten at Westgate

Kindergarten Hours 2025/2026 (Tentative)

Monday - Thursday

AM Class 8:00 - 10:53

PM Class 11:41 - 2:34

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 2025/2026 (Tentative)

Monday - Thursday

8:00 - 2:34

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)

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Staggered Entry

- First day of classes (September 2 and 3) for students is staggered by alphabet group
- Smaller class sizes so teachers can get to know students and help students feel comfortable
- Each student will attend one of these two days

Timeline for Registration

- Registration will begin mid-January for the 2025-26 school year
- Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 11, 2025, noon**)
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 12, 2025, noon**)
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter

Alternative Programs | Expression of Interest

Below is the process for submitting an Expression of Interest for a school not in lottery. This process applies to students currently kindergarten to Grade 8. Students currently enrolled and in Grades 9 to 11 must follow [the High School Transfer Process](#).

Complete An Expression of Interest With These 5 Steps

1

Sign In to MyCBE

Open MyCBE 

*This process is only for currently enrolled K-8 students. High school students must complete the High School Transfer Process.

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

2

Open SchoolEngage

In MyCBE navigate to



SchoolEngage is located in the left menu.

3

Complete the Online Expression of Interest Form

Find and select the online Expression of Interest Form.

Read the information and complete all the fields in the form.

Tip

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

4

Completed Form Sent to School for Processing

Please be patient as the form works through all the steps. Once your completed Expression of Interest Form is received, you will receive an email confirmation.

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

Please do not call the school.

- Westgate School



Registration



All registrations will be completed through **SchoolEngage**.

- **Kindergarten** registration form for **new to CBE students** that will include a question about alternative programs with branching questions if the answer is yes.
- **Grade 1-9** registration form for **new to CBE students** that will include a question about alternative programs with branching questions if the answer is yes.
- Grade 1-9 alternative program **expression of interest** form for **current CBE students**.
- The expression of interest form includes:
 - parent email and phone number as contact info
 - a drop down menu to indicate the school the student currently attends

General information

- Registration begins on January 13, 2025. There is no rush to register as we accept all students in our attendance area.
- 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, 2025. 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.
- For more information on the registration process, please visit the [CBE website](#).

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 in order to volunteer.
- To apply for your Volunteer Security Clearance, you must start the process in the school office.



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

New slide

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.
- 2024/2025 bussing fees were set at \$260 (gr. 1-6) and \$130 (Kindergarten). The cost for transportation for 2024/25 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 2025 and must be completed prior to the deadline in June 2025.
- As of September 2020, there is no mid-day bussing

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

Child Enrichment Centre: (403) 240-0400

Clever Daycare: (403) 474-4157

Kids & Company: (403) 237-5437

KidZinc: (403) 240-2059

My 2nd Home: (403) 874-6273

Summit Kids: (403) 477-4346

ÉCOLE WESTGATE PARENTS SOCIETY

The registered charity exists mostly for the purpose of fundraising and financially supporting enrichment and support to the school community.

Host a few fundraisers throughout the school year

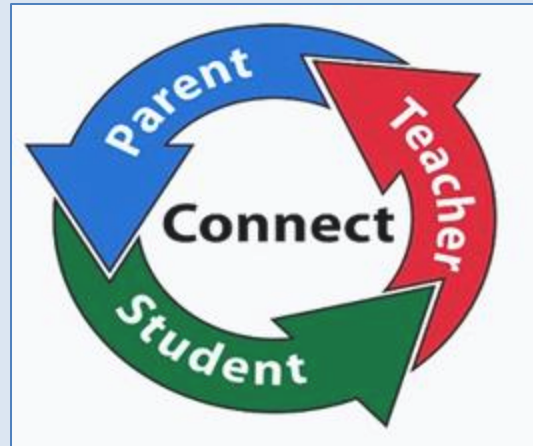
You are welcome at all meetings,
They *usually* occur directly after the Monthly School Council meetings.

To be in touch contact us via email:
westgateschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Chair: Stephanie Paquet

WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council at Westgate performs an important advisory role at the school, also the School Council helps ensure parent perspective is considered in school decision making.



As a parent or guardian, you are automatically a member of School council when you have a child attending Westgate

You are welcome at all meetings.

Support the school Spirit and Provide opportunities for enrichment to students

Questions:

contact us via email: westgateschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Chair: Stephanie Paquet

Question Period and Closing



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