

# update

## West Ridge School

Principal Update

April 18, 2016



### Contents:

- I. Meet the Staff
- II. Mascot and Colour Input Needed
- III. Construction
- IV. Grades for 2016 – 2017
- V. Start and End Times
- VI. WSCR Fundraising Society
- VII. Contact Information

## **I. Meet the Staff**

### **Vern Balogh**

Previous Schools: West Springs, Andrew Sibbald, Nellie McClung  
Subject: Humanities, Division 2



I am most excited about being part of West Ridge Middle School staff and having the opportunity to open a new school. I have been fortunate enough to have taught at West Springs for the past six years and I am thrilled to be able to continue to work in the community and teach the amazing students that will be coming through the doors of West Ridge.

I am passionate about sports and I like to take every opportunity to participate and watch many different sports. In my free time I love to explore with different types of art, especially sketching and photography.

### **Graham Cox**

Previous Schools: Arbour Lake, Nickle  
Subject: Humanities, Division 3



I am most excited about creating a new cohesive and proud community of students/teachers at our new school. I want to help create those building blocks where students are proud to be part of their school. When starting a new school, we get to create those traditions that schools hold so dearly and I am excited to help students create those traditions.

I am passionate about wrestling and strive to create a cooperative, competitive and fun wrestling team wherever I am. For the past 4 years I have been one of the Calgary Zone 3 wrestling coaches for the Alberta Winter Games and for the past 4 years, Arbour Lake School has had a very large, student involved wrestling team. I hope to bring my passion of physical activity and wrestling to West Ridge School and have the student body enjoy physical activity as much as I do.

### **Adam Eakins**

Previous Schools: Haysboro, West Springs, Woodman, Edgemont  
Subject: Math / Science, Division 2



I am most excited about the amazing opportunity for staff, students, and parents to work together to develop a dynamic, vivacious, and intellectually engaging environment in which authentic learning and growth can occur. Creating a myriad of opportunities for students to identify and pursue their passions is critical for fostering active citizens and life-long learners.

I am passionate about technology, the great outdoors, recreational sport, and playing music. The chance to share some of my pursuits with the students of West Ridge is an honour.

## **Janelle Hastie**

Previous Schools: West Springs, Langevin, Calgary Science School  
Subject: Math / Science, Division 2



I am so excited to join the West Ridge staff as a Learning Leader. I am most looking forward to fostering close relationships and connections with students and parents as well as building a vibrant, innovative and exploratory learning community.

My passions include inquiry, science, problem/project-based learning and beyond the classroom learning experiences. I also love to read, hike, camp and spend time with my family.

## **Matthew Littel**

Previous Schools: Thomas B. Riley, Ian Bazalgette  
Subject: Math / Science, Division 3



I am most excited about the opportunity to start new traditions and celebrations as a school community. I am also super excited for the new

building and the opportunity to build a great Science and Math program with no expectations of “what’s been done in the past”.

I am passionate about reading and I love reading fantasy novels especially by my favorite author, Steven Erikson. It is my goal this year to read 100 books, although I am including some books that I am reading with my newborn daughter! I also love watching and playing soccer and cheer for the Vancouver Whitecaps, although I will cheer for Calgary’s team as soon as we get one.

**Laura Moore**

Previous Schools: Twelve Mile Coulee, Valley Creek, O.S. Geiger  
Subject: Humanities, Division 3



I am most excited to meet the students and families of West Ridge School. I am looking forward to participating in the experience of opening a new school and helping to create an exciting and dynamic school culture. Go West Ridge!!

I am passionate about my two young children that take up most of my spare time, however I still make time to bake (and eat it!), and enjoy spending time outdoors (I have to after eating my baking!). I love reading and have a small addiction to Pinterest.

## **Janet Reid**

Previous Schools: Royal Oak, Alex Munro, Hawkwood, W.O. Mitchell  
Subject: Humanities, Division 2



I am most excited about collaborating with new peers and creating an engaging learning environment where all students can thrive and succeed.

I am passionate about music, good food and being in the company of people I can learn from.

## **II. Mascot Name and Team Colours**

Every school needs a team mascot and school colours. What will be our name and colours?? Students at West Springs and Wildwood Schools have had a chance to give their suggestions. Now it is time for Vincent Massey students, parents, and students who may have come up with new ideas to add their input.

Please take some time to think about possible names for our mascot and colours our teams could wear. Below is a link that will take you to a Google Form to provide your suggestions. Submit as many names as you like. We will provide an opportunity in May to vote on the suggestions. Please provide input by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

The Link: <http://goo.gl/forms/9By25w6oa1>

### **III. Construction Update**

It is amazing how quickly rumours spread! Since working at West Springs School I have heard a variety of completion dates; from the school being ready for September to the school not being ready until next March. The truth is that at this point construction is on schedule and we are still anticipating a January start in the new school.

### **IV. Grades for 2016 – 2017**

West Ridge School will be opening in January for grade five through eight students. The following year we will be a five through nine school that will be able to provide educational programming for all West Springs and Cougar Ridge students.

In January of 2017, all grade five through eight students who live in West Springs and Cougar Ridge, and who are enrolled at West Springs School, Wildwood School, or Vincent Massey School, will be moved to the new school.

West Ridge School teachers will be working at the three schools and be teaching those students who will be moving to the new school.

Next year's grade eight students at Vincent Massey will have the option to stay at Vincent Massey if they choose. Students and parents who choose to do so must realize that there will be no busing to Vincent Massey for the 2017-18 school year. Students in grade 7 and students at Wildwood who may want to stay at their current school will need to talk to the Principal of their current school to explain the extenuating circumstances that would require them to stay at the current school.

A survey was sent home during the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> to those students who will be in grade eight at Vincent Massey next year to declare whether they will remain at Vincent Massey or attend the new school.

## **V. Start and End Times**

There has been much discussion about the start and end times at West Ridge School. At School Council meetings a number of scenarios were presented. One scenario has the schools starting ten minutes apart to allow parents with children at both schools to make only one drop-off. The other scenarios have the schools starting forty minutes apart to perhaps alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

A survey (yes, another survey!) will be sent home within the next week to allow parents to provide input into these proposed start times. Please note that co-ordination of system transportation needs (busing) limits the number of scenarios that are feasible.

## **VI. Fundraising Society**

I was pleased to meet with the executive of the new school's fundraising society on April 12th. This group has great enthusiasm and lots of great ideas in terms of fundraising for the new school. While the school will be well supplied upon opening, I provided the group with suggestions on items that may not be provided that would be a bonus to have. I look forward to working with this group in the future and encourage families in Cougar Ridge and West Springs to join the society. You can join by going to their website: <http://wscrmiddleschool.ca/>. Once the new school opens, all parents will automatically be considered members of the society.

## **VII. Contact Information**

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. There are numerous ways to do so.

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ext. 2059 (principal)

ext. 2600 (secretary, begins May 2)

ext. 2235 (assistant principal, begins May 2)

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