



Transportation Newsletter

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The driver says: "Ugh, that's the ugliest baby I've ever seen!" The woman walks to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to the man next to her: "The driver just insulted me!"

The man says: "You go up there and tell him off. Go on, I'll hold your monkey for you."

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22nd - No School for NWSD schools

March 10th - Early dismissal Lloydminster Schools

March 11-12 Lloyd Catholic - No school

Endorsement Renewals & Road Test Bookings



Anyone that has an S endorsement renewal coming up, please remember that we don't just train new drivers. Anyone wanting a review on doing a daily pre-trip inspection please contact Lee Sitter at the Turtleford Office at 306-845-2150. We can set up a time and date to go over a proper daily pre-trip inspection.

Road Test Booking Procedures: Due to all the Covid guidelines, you can now call our office to book a road test. This will get you booked in quicker without being put on a waiting list. Some of you might have had extensions on your S endorsement. If you receive a letter stating that your S endorsement has been extended, please give our office a call and let us know so we can update your file.

Pink Shirt Day



Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and online.

On February 24, 2021, we encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that you do not tolerate bullying. Let's make this world a better place for everyone by encouraging, supporting and being kind.

For more information on pink shirt day and resources, please visit www.pinkshirtday.ca

Ten Bus Driver Tips

1. Usually drivers follow a strict time schedule, but under no circumstances should safety be sacrificed to maintain schedule.
2. The driver should conduct oneself in a manner appropriate for an individual employed by an educational system that provides services to children. Always deal with the public in a positive, courteous and respectful manner.
3. Pay attention to the traffic and safety measures. Do not text or talk on your phone.
4. Never wear a hood while driving as it can make it difficult in hearing and seeing traffic.
5. Ensure that all the children are safely seated before moving the bus.
6. Drive with the headlights on, even during daylight.
7. Be prepared to act accordingly during an emergency situation. Review our emergency procedures.
8. The 10-foot area surrounding a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Help other bus drivers by giving them a wide space and clear view of the area around their bus when stopping behind them.
9. Remain alert for ice, debris, or slippery spots on the road.
10. Do not smoke or consume alcohol inside the school bus.



WANTED: School Bus Drivers



We are always looking for spare drivers to cover regular routes. Once Covid restrictions are lifted, we will be needing drivers for extra curricular activities. We offer competitive wages and training. All you need is a criminal record check, a valid driver's license and a good driving record with a minimum of 5 years experience.

Contact Lee Sitter at 306-845-2150 for more information or email at lee.sitter@nwsd.ca. Come be part of the Northwest School Division Transportation Team!

ONLINE TRAINING



As you are all aware, there has been numerous on-line training courses assigned to all our bus drivers. These courses are a requirement of our Division and need to be completed on a timely manner. To those of you who have not yet completed this training, please have it completed by February 28, 2021. If you have any questions or need help logging in, please give Lee Sitter a call at the office during business hours or after hours at 306-480-8868. Spare bus drivers who have not completed all the assigned courses, will be removed from the spare driver list until courses are completed.

Mechanic's Message

You are expected to plug in your bus and ensure it will start in the morning. The plugin and wash allowance is allocated to assist with the additional cost to plug in your bus. All outlets used to plug in the bus must be checked to ensure it is in operational order. All buses must be plugged in for a minimum of 4 hours in weather colder than -5. All extension cords should be heavy duty. Idling times are as follows.

- 5 minutes when outside temperature is +10
- 10 minutes when outside temperature is +10-10
- 15 minutes when outside temperature is below -10
- 25 minutes when outside temperature is below -20

Diesel vehicles will not start to produce heat until they are being driven. Allowing your bus to continually run or run for excessive times will not "warm up" your bus and is discouraged.

Please make sure your buses are kept clean at all times and when bringing in for a service or any mechanical work.

Driver Interview

Interview with Gerry Litwin - Turtleford Bus Driver



Lee: What is it that you like most about your job as a bus driver?

Gerry: I love my kids and my parents on my bus.

Lee: Do you have any tips you felt were helpful when you first started driving that may help some of our drivers?

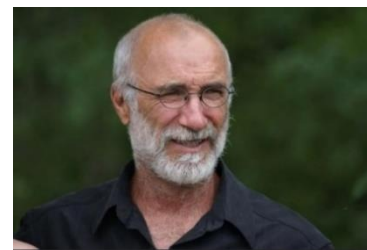
Gerry: Yes I do! My father always told me that if you want to be respected as a bus driver, you need to also respect your student and you will get it back. This goes the same for the parents of the students. I have great kids and great parents and I found that this little word of advice has helped me tremendously as a bus driver.

Lee: We want to make sure that all our drivers are appreciated and acknowledged for the work they do. Can you think of bus driver that you would like to give a salute to for a job well done and what they did?

Gerry: Yes I sure do! Rick Hartley!

A Bus Driver Salute to RICK HARTLEY

Rick Hartley drives for the Turtleford School. Rick is always going out of his way to help the school and students. On his own time, Rick buses students to his ski club at Elmhurst. He is always making sure that they always have a good time. Rick always tops up the day with a hot cup of cocoa and a bag popcorn for each student. Hats off to Rick Hartley! Thank you for all you do. You are appreciated!!



We want to hear from you!

If there is anything you would like to see in our newsletter, please contact Lee Sitter at the office or email at lee.sitter@nwsd.ca.