

# Northwest School Division Transportation Newsletter

OFFICE INFORMATION: 318 Railway Avenue, Box 280 Turtleford, SK S0M 2Y0  
www.nwsd.ca \* Telephone: 306-845-2150 \* transportation.department@nwsd.ca

We are very excited to have this new form of communication back again! If you have ideas or information that you feel would be good for all of us to know, please let Lee Sitter know and it will be added to the next edition.

## Joke of the Month

A nice old lady on a bus offers the driver some almonds. He is happy to have the nuts, but he noticed that the old lady isn't having any herself.

The driver asks, "Excuse me madam, why aren't you eating any of the almonds?"

The old lady says, "Young man, they are too hard on my poor teeth, I can't."

The bus driver, confused, then asks, "Why did you buy them in the first place then?"

The old lady replies, "You see, I can't eat any of the almonds, but I sure love the chocolate they are covered in!"

## Message From Our Bus Doctors

As the weather warms up, please remember to open your winter front flaps to let your bus breathe. Once it stops freezing at night, please be sure to switch to summer fronts.



## Upcoming Events

### March 29

PPE and Safety Equipment Training Due

### April 2 – April 9

Easter Break – No School



All log sheets need to be handed in on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the last day of the month. All attendance sheets are handed in every Friday.

### PPE and Safety Equipment Training is due March 29<sup>th</sup>

Please contact Lee Sitter if you need any help with these courses.

## Driver Interview

### Interview with Kim Ducherer – Neilburg Bus Driver



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

**Kim:** The best part of my job are the kids and seeing their smiling faces every day. Hearing their stories of the day or of their weekend and just interacting with them.

**Lee:** Do you have a memorable moment on your bus that you would like to share with us?

**Kim:** A moment that stands out the most would be on my first trip as a spare driver. It was a +30 and something day and the radiator hose on my bus blew. The kids were all sweating and hot so I moved them all out of the bus into a safe shady spot. We had some of the neighbors come over and bring everyone water while we waited for help. Of course, there was that one little guy who loved to fix everything who figured he could get under the hood and fix my bus. He was disappointed when he found out that he was not allowed near the bus to help out. This little guy is no longer with us and we miss him every day! He was always the Mr. Fixit!!

**Lee:** Do you have any advice or helpful hints you would like to give our bus drivers?

**Kim:** Yes, to be patient with our kids and most of all on our roads. We travel through many bad roads and severe weather conditions. Take your time, it's better to be late than to never arrive.

**Lee:** We would like to show our appreciation to all our bus drivers and what they do every day. Can you think of who you would like to give a salute to for a job well done?

**Kim:** I would definitely want to thank and send a salute to ALL our spare drivers because without them we would all be in a lot of trouble but one that particularly stands out to me is Amy Herbert.

## A Bus Driver Salute to AMY HERBERT

Amy Herbert is a spare driver for the Neilburg area. She has always been there for me and even at the last minute. She goes out of her way to pick up or drop off my bus if I am not feeling well and always puts the kids on the bus first by making sure there is always a safe bus ride to and from school for them. Thank you **AMY HERBERT!**



### Student Attendance Sheets and Seating Plans

Please continue sending your attendance sheets to our office every Friday. These attendance sheets play a very important role if contact tracing is ever required. If there were to be a positive Covid case on your bus these attendance sheets will indicate which students were riding the bus during the time the infected student was also riding the bus. This also all falls in with the importance of our seating plans. The seating plans need to be updated anytime you make changes on your bus. For example, if a student is removed from the bus or if a new student/s are added to your bus, then you will need to update the seating plan and send a copy to our office as well as the school/s your drive for. Please remember to only have two students to a seat unless they are from the same household or daycare.

### Covid-19 Self-Assessment Declaration

Please remember to fill out your Covid-19 self-assessment declaration every Monday morning before you start your run. This form is found in AppliTrack. Please read AP 162-Appendix A for more information and details.

## Positive Interaction with our Students.....

Bus drivers are responsible for very precious cargo. Their primary focus is to safely transport children from home to school or to school activities and back again. Drivers receive training on learning the necessary skills to safely operate the school bus and navigate traffic, but rarely receive information or training on how to manage disruptive behaviors on the bus or how to be a positive influence to each and every student.

While teachers change along the way throughout the school years many students see the same face behind the wheel of the big yellow bus for years, some, even from kindergarten until they graduate. Because of this reason, you play a very important roles throughout their school years. You, as a bus driver can set the day for every child that gets on your bus.

Greet students by name as they enter and leave the bus. This will impress them and gain more respect and support from them, especially when dealing with a behavioral issue. Ask them how their evening or weekend was when they board in the morning or what the best part of the day was when they board the bus in the afternoon. Showing children that you are interested in what they have done or what they accomplished that day makes a child feel important and recognized and in return, they will respect you as well as feeling more comfortable talking to you. Possibly, about an issue of importance such as possible abuse, bullying etc. You could be the person that makes a huge difference in their day and even in their future.

You are not just a bus driver. You are a teacher, a doctor, councilor and a friend! Positive interactions with your students will make a world of difference for the positive, in your day and theirs!

## Why I Drive Bus

We might often wonder sometimes why we do what we do. Such as driving under extreme cold conditions, bad roads, putting up with screaming fighting kids and anything else that may come our way when driving school bus.

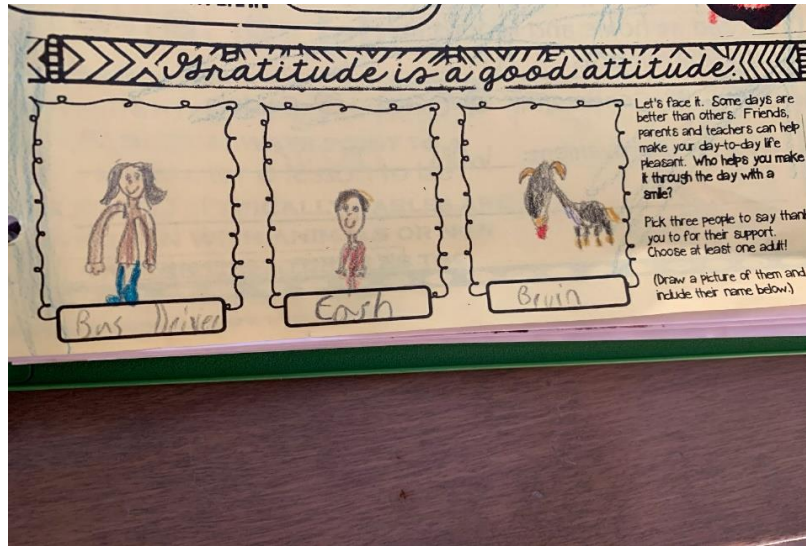
One of our drivers contacted me with a tear in her eye. Not a sad tear, but with tears of joy and feeling appreciated. At that moment she remembered why she does what she does and felt highly rewarded for being a bus driver.

Justina Connelly, Lloydminster driver shared this picture with me. This was sent to her from one of the parents just to let her know that she is appreciated and not overlooked. This is proof of how much you, as a bus driver, touch every child's life.

This was the message that came with the picture.

*Hey! Just thought I would pass this on as I know it feels like what we do sometimes gets overlooked. You are doing a great job with our kids and I appreciate the effort and care you take to make their day start and end right ♡*

Cobi had his interview on Tuesday and they made this to help with talking points. He said that he likes your conversations you have and you make him smile.



Keep up the good work Justina!

## Online Training

### CIRA (Cyber) Training

Anyone who has not completed the CIRA training that was due on **March 19, 2021**, please contact the office. I will make arrangements to meet with you, if needed, or guide you through the training on the phone. It is important this gets completed immediately! Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to complete this by the due date.

### PPE and Safety Equipment Training

PPE and Safety Equipment training is due on **March 29, 2021**. This was assigned to you on an email from Kaitlin Harman. Once you click on the link on the email it will take you directly to the training. It takes about 45 minutes and there are only two lessons and two short quizzes at the end of each lesson. If you have not received this in your email please contact myself, Lee Sitter and I can send you the link to begin your training.

## Driver Training

Anyone having an S endorsement coming due in the near future, please contact our office if you would like a refresher on the daily pre-trip inspection and we will make a time to meet with you.



**Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Easter break from the office staff and the staff in both Meadow Lake and Turtleford bus shops!!**

**Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!**

Contact: Email Lee at [lee.sitter@nwsd.ca](mailto:lee.sitter@nwsd.ca)  
Office Phone: 306-845-2150  
Cell: 306-480-8868

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