

Panda Press

WELCOME!
2021-2022

École Lacombe Upper Elementary (<http://www.elue.wolfcreek.ab.ca>)

(403)782-7410



Together Everyone Achieves More

Our Panda Press newsletter is emailed home at the end of each month. The focus of the newsletter is to inform parents and students of important upcoming dates and events, to recognize student achievements and to highlight a number of programs and activities that have been or will be taking place in the school.

If you have any comments, suggestions, questions or concerns, we would like to hear from you. Please call the office at 782-7410 to arrange an appointment. Your input and feedback is truly valued. The mission statement of École Lacombe Upper Elementary is:

Commitment, Teamwork, Quality and Caring are what we practice at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School.

École Lacombe Upper Elementary School is committed to working together to provide a quality education in a caring environment.

Respectfully,



Sonja Dykslag
Principal



Nicole Rawlinson
Assistant Principal

Welcome to École Lacombe Upper Elementary School!

With the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year, the staff and leadership team would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child(ren) to École Lacombe Upper Elementary School. For those of you who have children attending our school for the first time—Welcome! For those of you who have children returning to our school—Welcome Back! For those of you new to our community—Welcome to Lacombe and area!!

Parents and teachers have a common goal—success in school for our children. Research shows that learning improves when parents are involved with the school in their child's education. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their past involvement in their child's learning and to encourage parents to continue to work in partnership with our school.

Teachers appreciate, and our children benefit, when parents:

- help their children understand that learning is important;
- stress good work habits;
- set expectations for learning that take into account the child's ability;
- show interest in what the child is learning and in what is happening in school;
- read the memos and the information sheets that children bring home;
- inform the school if the child has a medical condition;
- talk with the teacher about what is being taught;
- discuss homework, expectations and discipline; and
- let the teacher know about situations which may affect the child's progress in school

Children succeed when there is an open exchange of information that links home and school.

We are looking forward to another great year at ÉLUES. By making a commitment to work together as a TEAM—students, parents/guardians and staff—we can ensure an exciting, challenging, and educationally rewarding year for each and every student.

Staffing for 2021-22 School Year

École Lacombe Upper Elementary will include the following homeroom classes/grades for 2021-2022 school year:

- 1** Grade 4 French Immersion
- 1** Grade 4/5 French Immersion
- 1** Grade 5 French Immersion
- 2** Grade 6 French Immersion
- 3** Grade 4 English
- 3** Grade 5 English
- 4** Grade 6 English

Principal—Mrs. Dykslag
Assistant Principal—Mrs. Rawlinson

French Immersion Homerooms

Grade 4	Mme Forman
Grade 4/5	Mme Miller
Grade 5	Mlle. Lebrasseur
Grade 6	M. Durocher
Grade 6	Mme Ince

Grade 4 English Homerooms

Mrs. Nelson
Mrs. Parsons/Mr. Epp
Miss Rimmer

Grade 5 English Classes

Mrs. Freitag
Mrs. Norris
Mrs. Wagar

Grade 6 English Classes

Mrs. Mackay-Hawkins
Mrs. Marshall
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Richter

Music—Mr. Epp

Inclusion Coach

Mrs. Armitage

Phys. Ed.—Mr. Miller and Mr. Richter

Administrative Assistant—Mrs. Broderson

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Brousseau
Mrs. Cornish
Mrs. Cross
Mrs. Ehr
Mrs. Kabatoff
Mrs. Kardish
Ms. L'Ecluse
Mrs. Poulin
Mrs. Wymann-Richter

Librarian - Mrs. Kabatoff

School Social Worker - Mrs. Wojtaczka

School Resource Officer -
Constable Michelle Wilzer

Custodians - Mr. F. Jackson
Mrs. C. Garcia
Mr. L. Ramos

21/22 Returning Student Demographics:

All parents must fill out a demographic update for returning students by September 15. You will find this form by logging into your Parent Portal and clicking on School Engage. **There are permission and information sections included on these forms that are very important. Please submit the forms ASAP.** If you do not have access to a device for online submission, please visit the school office where we can help you log onto one of our computers.

****Please note that if you have any specific concerns of an urgent nature regarding your child (i.e. medical concerns, custody concerns), please contact your child's teacher to apprise them of the situation. The forms take time to process so it's best that the teacher has this information right from the start of the year.**

First Day of School

In addition to this copy of the Panda Press, your child will be bringing a number of documents home during the first week of school. We would appreciate you taking the time to attend to them. They are:

1. 2021/2022 Calendar— keep this in a handy spot for quick reference.
2. ÉLUES pamphlet (grade 4 and new students)
3. Volunteer Application - complete and return to school if you think you might volunteer this year. (all students)
4. Chromebook letter and information package (grade 4 and new students)

School Council - Many hands make lighter work!

You can become involved in another dimension of the school through our School Council. Our Annual/Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 29th commencing at 7:15 p.m.

The first school council meeting of the year will be held virtually and a link will be sent home. Please join us on September 29 to learn how you can support your child's school.

School Activities

Enriching the students education through our extra curricular programs is a commitment the staff at ELUE make each year. A variety of extracurricular activities are offered during lunch recesses or after school. Some of the clubs and teams to look forward to are:

Numerous Sports Clubs
Panda Leadership Club
Cribbage Clubs
Peer Support Team

Running Club
Reading Clubs
Music Club

Marathoners Club
Homework Hotspot
Lego League

All students are encouraged to participate. Thank you to the staff that volunteer their time to these great activities!

MY CHILD'S LEARNING:

A Parent Resource

Be informed. Be involved.

Alberta is committed to creating an inclusive education system that inspires and enables all students to achieve success and fulfillment as engaged thinkers and ethical citizens, with an entrepreneurial spirit.

We recognize that parents play an important role in shaping the way their children view learning. As a parent, you understand more than anyone else how your child learns and processes information. This resource will provide you with a better understanding of Alberta's curriculum and how you can help your child. Here, you'll discover what your child is learning, how they're assessed and what resources are available to help them be successful from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

This resource also contains information on the variety of educational choices you have for your child, such as Catholic education and French immersion programming.

To learn more, go to:

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/>

"NO CASH SCHOOL" -

This school year will see us continue to be a no cash school. We are continuing to use a new payment program this year called Rycor. All payments will be paid online. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. Moving to this method of money collection helps us out tremendously.

If you need any help with passwords being reset or anything at all, please call Mrs. Broderson and she will be happy to help so we can get all our families set up before our first hot lunch!

COVID 19 Information

To do our best to reduce the spread of Covid 19 and other respiratory illnesses we will be following the [Guidance for respiratory illness prevention and management in Schools Guide](#). We would also ask that you use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with your child to ensure they are well enough to come to school. If your child starts to present symptoms while at school, we will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) and will send the student home. We plan to continue with daily cleaning procedures, disinfecting and sanitizing regularly and supporting students and staff that choose to wear a mask at school.

In addition, to reduce the number of people in the building we will be keeping the doors locked. Parents/guardians and volunteers can enter the building by appointment only. If you need to pick up your child during the school day, drop something off for your child or need to speak to them you can notify us by calling the school or by ringing the doorbell at the front door of the school. During our staggered entrance dates our staff looks forward to meeting your child at any of the school doors and we will assist your child in finding their classroom and getting their supplies to class. We thank you for understanding and supporting us in keeping our school safe for our staff and students.

GREAT Things are Happening in September...

Tuesday, September 7

*School Wide Virtual Assembly 9:00 a.m.

Theme - Try Everything

Tuesday, September 14

*Fall Photos

Friday, September 17

*Staff PD/Collaboration Day (No School for Students)

Tuesday, September 21

*International Day of Peace

Thursday, September 23

*Pep Rally

Thursday, September 30

*National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School for Students or Staff)

September 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Staggered Entrance Day 1	2 Staggered Entrance Day 2	3 All Students First Day	4
5	6 Labor Day	7 Welcome Back Assembly 9:00 am	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 *Fall Photos	15	16	17 *Staff PD/ Collaboration Day	18
19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22	23 *Pep Rally	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		

August 13, 2021

Dear parents and guardians of Alberta students,

With the 2021-22 school year starting up, I want to share information with you about what this school year will look like.

The safety and well-being of our children is what all of us want most. While there is no perfect solution to the very challenging problem COVID-19 presents, what I can tell you is I have studied the issue, examined the research and looked at our own data here in Alberta. I considered both evidence of COVID infection risks as well as the impacts that restrictions have had over the past 18 months on the mental health, learning and social interaction of our children.

As your Chief Medical Officer of Health, and as a parent of children in school myself, I believe the provincial approach we are taking balances the many competing risks our children face, and moves to a sustainable framework that can also protect kids from other risks such as influenza and other viruses. We cannot eliminate COVID-19, which means we must all learn to live with it, including in our schools.

Public health guidance

To prevent and manage all respiratory illnesses in schools, we have developed a guidance document that helps children safely stay in the classroom and considers all aspects of their health and well-being. In addition to the general guidance, if an outbreak of any respiratory sickness happens in a school, local health officials will work with school staff on additional measures as needed.

The general guidance includes an important practice that all of us need to follow: that anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory virus stay at home until they are well. COVID-19 testing availability for those with symptoms has been extended for six weeks to provide an additional monitoring period during the start of school, and it will remain a legal requirement for those with COVID-19 to stay home for 10 days during this time.

There has been much discussion about masks, and the use of face masks in indoor settings is one intervention that can decrease the risk of transmission of all respiratory illnesses. On the other hand, it can interfere with communication and interpersonal interactions, and last year was not mandated provincially in kindergarten through grade 3 for that reason. While masks are no longer required across the province, it is an expectation that schools continue to support those students and staff who choose to continue wearing a mask. In addition, I believe that local policy on measures in schools needs to be informed by local perspectives and context. School boards have the ability to implement additional measures where they deem it appropriate.

My team and I will be monitoring the back to school experience closely. We are continuing to watch COVID-19 in Alberta and will recommend any adjustments if needed.

Vaccines

The most important thing that adults and older children can do to protect themselves and others is to be fully immunized. Vaccines are safe and effective and protect against severe illness and outcomes. Together we are building a protective shield around those for whom the vaccine is not yet available.

Global studies are well underway to measure how COVID-19 vaccine works in children under 12. Until vaccines are approved for this age group, younger children rely on older Albertans who are immunized to strengthen our defenses to protect everyone in our province.

This is why, before the school year begins, I am asking all eligible students, parents, guardians, staff and teachers to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Now is the perfect time to add a vaccine appointment to your back to school list. The school year begins for most students in just a few weeks, and it takes about two weeks to develop the highest protection after getting your second dose.

To help make vaccine as accessible as possible, we also plan to offer COVID-19 vaccines in schools, like we already do as part of the routine school immunization program. Providing immunizations in school ensures we will be able to reach all eligible students in the province. More information will be provided to parents and guardians in the coming days, as parental consent will be required for in-school immunizations.

We have been through a lot in the past year and a half, and our kids' lives in particular have been profoundly changed. COVID has taken a lot from them by the impacts of the measures we needed to protect our communities. Vaccines have changed our community risk, and I believe it is now critical to make decisions for our children by looking at the landscape of all the risks they face, not just COVID infection. I will be monitoring closely what happens as this new school year begins, and will not hesitate to look at additional measures as required. I have said throughout the pandemic that we are all in this together, and this remains true. I deeply care about, and am committed to, the overall health of all in Alberta and I thank you for how you care for your families and communities every day.

I wish your family a safe return to school.

Yours sincerely,



Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Wolf Creek Public Schools 2021/2022 School Year Guide

Background

Wolf Creek Public Schools continues to prioritize the health and safety of students and staff, while providing a learning environment students are accustomed to and where they can succeed. Through the COVID-19 pandemic our Division has followed the medical and health guidance of the Government of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. For the 2021-22 school year that will continue to be the case, while ensuring we remain focused on the concerns of families and vigilant in maintaining schools that are safe and healthy for all.

What to Expect

In WCPS, students and staff will come back to a return to normal scenario, with in-person learning. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, schools will follow the guidance and measures outlined in the following documents:

- [Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan](#)
- [Alberta Education's 2021-2022 Parent's Guide: Information for parents and guardians to prepare for school in September](#)
- [Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools](#)
- [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- [Parent letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans](#)
- [Vaccine Program: Questions and Answers For School Administrators](#)
- [Vaccine Program: Information for Parents/Guardians](#)
- [Vaccine Program: Consent Form for COVID-19 In-School Immunization](#)

For Students under the Age of 18:

The practice we all must follow is that anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 **MUST STAY HOME** until they are well. Students who have to miss class due to illness will be supported by their teacher, as in pre-pandemic school years. Parents/caregivers will be contacted to pick up students who develop symptoms while at school.

Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for having a runny nose or sore throat but **should** stay home until they are well.

Children under 18 **MUST** isolate for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer if they have the following core symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath or loss of sense of taste or smell.

Return to Work or School: Proof of a negative Covid 19 test and/or a medical note is not required to return to school, work or activities once the isolation period is complete.

Close contacts WILL NOT be traced by schools and will not be required to stay home, unless they too develop symptoms.

Additional Health Measures

Enhanced Cleaning: In our schools, enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of schools, especially high touch areas will continue. Soft cloth furniture, rugs and carpets are permitted, and will be cleaned as in a pre-pandemic manner.

Hand Hygiene: We will continue to promote frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette. This includes hand sanitizer stations available in schools.

Face Masks: Masks will be mandatory for **ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF** while riding the school bus, until further notice. They **ARE NOT** required to wear them in schools.

HVAC & Ventilation: Maintenance staff will ensure air circulation and (HVAC) systems are working properly. When possible doors and windows will be open in classrooms and workspaces.

Cohorting: Cohorting will not be required but may be recommended by Alberta Health for a short period if a school experiences a respiratory illness outbreak.

Monitoring Absenteeism: Schools will let AHS and the Division know if 10 per cent or more of students are home because they are or might be sick. AHS will investigate and may declare an outbreak of a respiratory illness at school. In the event of an outbreak, AHS may recommend additional health measures, such as: daily health checks, more cleaning and disinfection, cohorting, masking, limiting large gatherings and/or extracurricular activities.

Online learning: In Wolf Creek, an online learning program is being maintained for the 2021-2022 school year for those who may require it due to significant medical concerns.

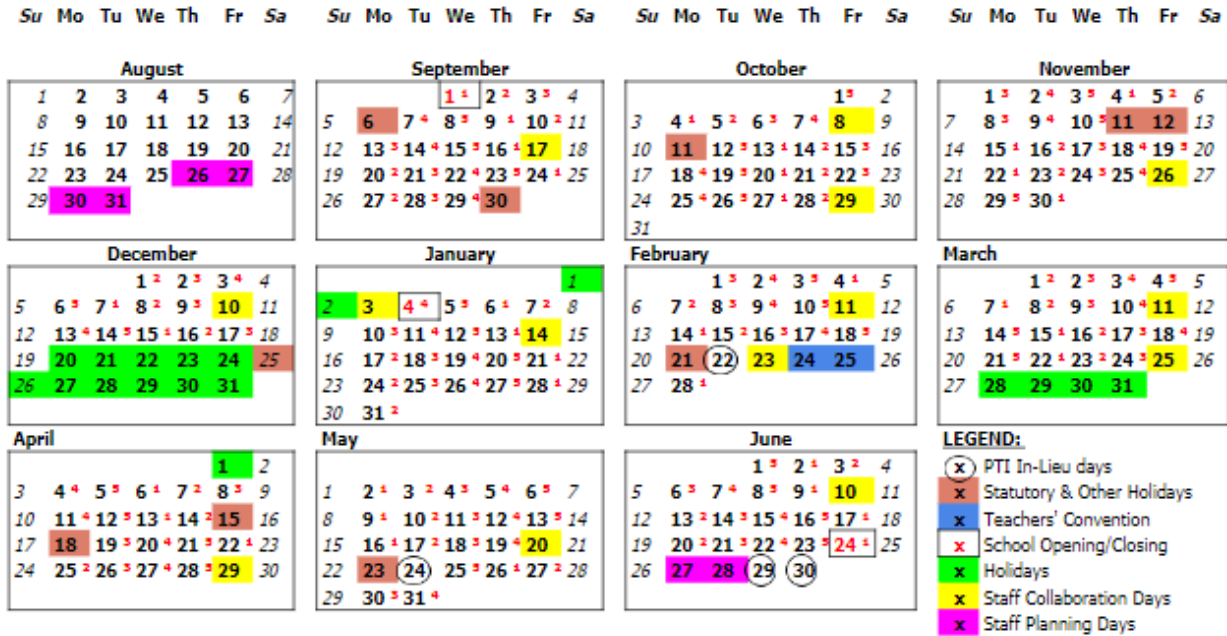
Notification of a Confirmed Case in Schools

Schools **WILL NOT** be directly involved in notification to parents in regard to a confirmed case of COVID-19. As with any health risk or illness in a school, schools and Division office will continue to communicate with families around health and safety measures and provide detailed information as needed, such as in the event of an outbreak. More information on these measures can be found in the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools document](#).

Schools will let AHS and the Division know if 10 per cent or more of students are home because they are or might be sick. AHS will investigate and may declare an outbreak of a respiratory illness at school. If an outbreak is declared, schools and Division office will share appropriate information with families.

Please note the paper calendar sent home with students on the first day does not show the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Please refer to this revised calendar and bell schedule:

WOLF CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REVISED 2021 - 2022 School Year
École Lacombe Upper Elementary School



August	Aug 26-31	Staff Planning Days
September	Sept 1	Students' First Day
	Sept 6	Labour Day Holiday
	Sept 17	Staff Collaboration Day
	Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October	Oct. 11	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
	Oct. 8 & 29	Staff Collaboration Day
November	Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
	Nov. 12	Day off for students and staff
	Nov. 26	Staff Collaboration Day
December	Dec. 10	Staff Collaboration Day
	Dec. 20	Christmas Holidays (Dec 20 - Jan 2 inclusive)
January	Jan. 3	Staff Collaboration Day
	Jan. 4	First day back after Holiday Break
	Jan. 14	Staff Collaboration Day
	Jan. 31	Conclusion of First Semester
February	Feb. 1	Commencement of Second Semester
	Feb. 11	Staff Collaboration Day
	Feb. 21	Family Day Holiday
	Feb. 22	Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)
	Feb. 23	Staff Collaboration Day
	Feb. 24-25	Teacher's Convention
March	Mar. 11	Staff Collaboration Day
	Mar. 25	Staff Collaboration Day
	Mar. 28	Spring Break (March 28 to April 1 inclusive)
April	Apr. 15	Good Friday
	Apr. 18	Easter Monday
	Apr. 29	Staff Collaboration Day
May	May 20	In Lieu Day (no school for students or staff)
	May 23	Victoria Day Holiday
	May 24	Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)
June	Jun. 10	Staff Collaboration Day
	Jun. 24	Students' Last Day (Conclusion of Second Semester)
	Jun. 27-28	Teacher Evaluation Days
	Jun. 29-30	Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)

Daily Schedule

Office hours at École Lacombe Upper Elementary are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

8:20 a.m.	Doors Unlocked
8:34 a.m.	Five Minute Bell
8:37 a.m.	Connections
8:44 a.m.	Classes Begin
10:23 ~ 10:36 a.m.	Morning Recess
10:36 a.m.	Classes Begin
12:15 p.m. ~ 12:50 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
12:50 p.m.	Five Minute Bell
12:55 p.m.	Classes begin
2:01 p.m. ~ 2:16 p.m.	Afternoon Recess
2:16 p.m.	Classes Begin
3:22 p.m.	Dismissal
3:30 p.m.	Buses Leave



Visit
lacombeminihockey.ca
for financial
assistance options

Come Try Hockey!

September 10
Gary Moe Sportsplex, Arena A

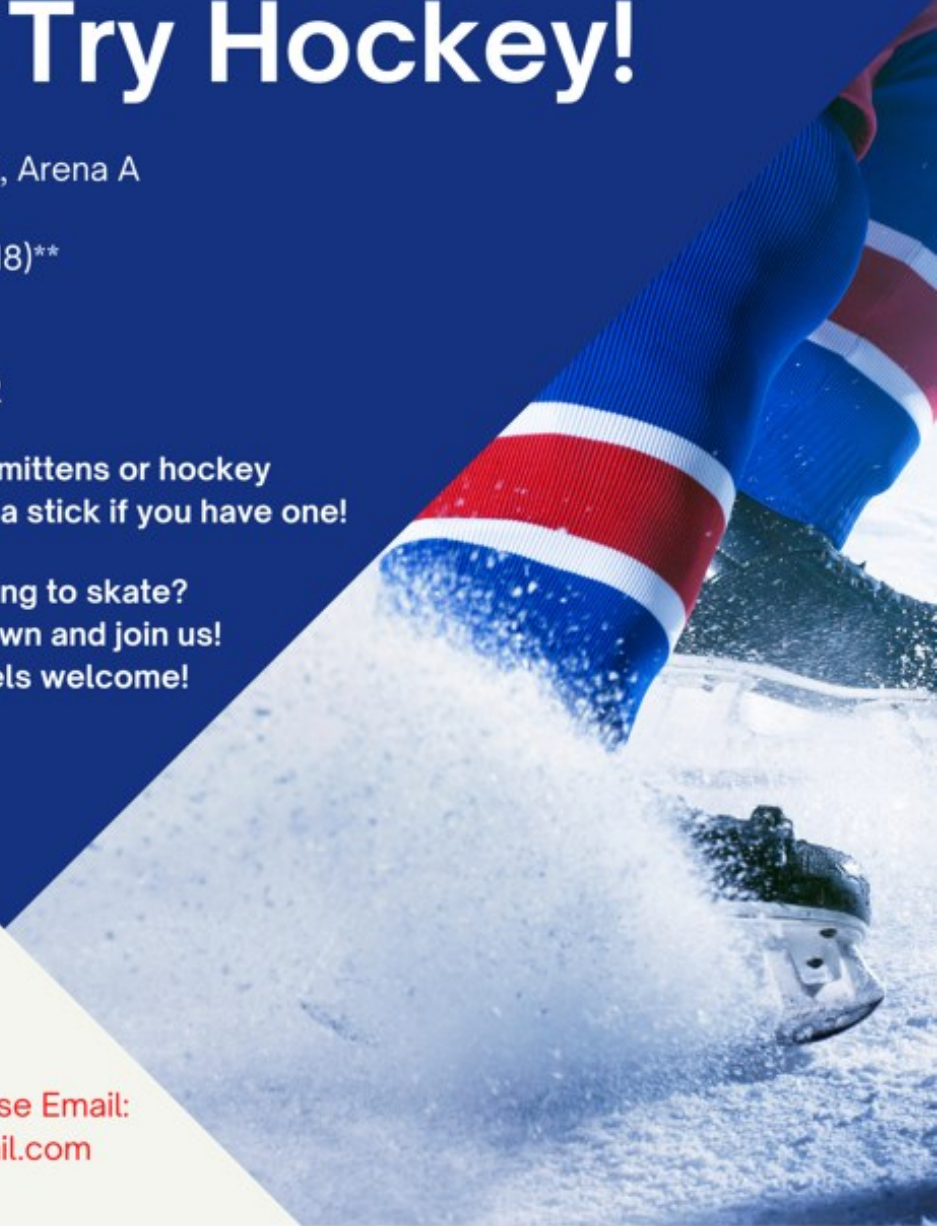
ages 4-11 (2010-2018)

4-4:45pm Group 1
4:45-5:30pm Group 2

Bring skates, helmet, mittens or hockey
gloves, snow pants & a stick if you have one!

Still learning to skate?
Come on down and join us!
All skill levels welcome!

Registration Requested Please Email:
lacombehockeysafety@gmail.com



Welcome Back!

Have a great school year!

