

MAY 2021 BULLETIN

## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Blueberry School 1532 Parkland Drive, Parkland County T7Z 1Y6

> PH: 780-963-3625 Fax: 780-963-4491

**Email:** blueberry@psd70.ab.ca blueberry.absence@psd70.ab.ca

Website: <u>blueberry@psd70.ab.ca</u>

**Principal:** Mrs. Sheryl Bridgeman

Vice Principal: Mrs. Michelle Visscher

> Secretary Tracy Davis

Head Secretary Cynthia Wozny

Please see the <u>website</u> for Upcoming Events and Important Information!

> Facebook: Blueberry School

#### A special message from Mrs. Bridgeman:

It is with mixed emotions that I share that for the 2021-2022 school year I will be taking on a new role in Parkland School Division. I will be one of PSD's Division Principals helping to lead the work in the area of Curriculum and Achievement.

Over the next two months, Mrs. Visscher and I will be connecting with Mr. John Tyler, Blueberry School's new principal. For more information on Mr. Tyler please see PSD's announcement.

#### It has been my honour and privilege to be part of the Blueberry School community for the past 7 years. It is a school with an incredibly talented and dedicated staff serving a very special group of students and parents/guardians.

Typically in May, our Grade 6 and 9 students would be preparing to write the first portion of the Provincial Achievement exams. This year, Parkland School Division students will not be writing these exams. Please see this <u>news release</u> for further explanation. Junior High students can still anticipate writing final exams in June 2021. These exams serve as a cumulative review of all previous concepts and inform the next year's teachers about student achievement and understanding.

Recently, the Government of Alberta launched a new draft K-6 curriculum and invited teachers and schools to participate in piloting that curriculum in the fall of 2021. PSD staff took time to review what that might mean for our division. Regardless of the draft curriculum content, scope, and sequence, Parkland School Division has made the decision not to pilot the draft curriculum in September 2021. It simply is not in the best interest of our families and staff who continue to face the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see this <u>news release</u> for further details. If you would like to provide input into the draft K-6 curriculum to Alberta Education, you can do so by following <u>this link</u>.





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## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION:

As the weather warms many students are eager to be outside and enjoy the fresh air. A gentle reminder that students are not permitted to stay after school without parent/guardian supervision. Students must go home after school as we do not have after-school supervisors.

As we begin looking towards next year, teaching staff are designing classroom configurations for the 2021-2022 school year. Much time is invested in developing balanced classrooms accounting for academic achievement, work habits, friendship, etc. We will be letting students and families know their homeroom teacher for 2021-2022 in late August. This information will be made available through Power School and we will send a message through School Messenger informing you when it is available.

Blueberry School is pleased to continue to offer Zen Den for May and June. This program supports children experiencing difficulties with anxiety. Activities focus on anxiety reduction (e.g., relaxation exercises) and social skills development (e.g., roleplaying positive communication skills). The activities and skills are taught in an engaging and developmentally appropriate manner. If you believe your child would benefit from this program please contact your homeroom teacher, Sheryl Bridgeman or Michelle Visscher for more information.

Grade 9 Farewell Photos will take place at school on May 7th starting at 9 am. The photos will be taken in the Jr High learning lounge. Due to AHS guidelines, students will not be provided with props for the photos (ex. cap, gown, bouquet). This allows us to maintain social distancing and prevent sharing of materials. We encourage students to dress as formally as they desire for these photos, as in past years gowns would have provided a more formal look. Unfortunately, students cannot bring props from home to use in the photos. If you have any questions about these guidelines please call the office or email Mrs. Visscher or Mrs. Bridgeman.

Please continue to reach out at any time to your homeroom teacher or to us as administrators. Your feedback matters to us. If you have any questions or feedback on how we can improve please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sheryl Bridgeman Principal Michelle Visscher Vice Principal



# GRADE 9 GRAD

# FRIDAY.

# MAY 7TH

\*\*See notes about photo's above in Admin Message.

#### **GRADE9** PARENTS **TO MCHS**



MCHS has pre-recorded videos for "First Time Parents" to MCHS. Each program has a video link that you can locate here to learn more!

# **OUTDOOR CLASS PHOTOS** WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2ND

## EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM RETURNS FOR 2021/2022!

Specialized supports to young children identified as having severe delay or diagnosis, as well as children with mild to moderate delays in their prekindergarten year. Play Partners also welcome! See this link for more info!

#### Classroom team

Teacher Educational Assistant Therapy Assistant

#### **Therapists**

Speech-language Pathologist Occupational Therapist Physical Therapist

Child & Parent

#### Other supports

Facilitator Family Support Worker **Contracted Services** 



# KINDERGARTEN "GARBAGE FREE" PICNIC! HAPPY EARTH DAY!





# 2021-2022 WELCOME TO KIND RGARTEN

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## MAY 28, 2021 By google meet

4-time slots available watch your email for an invitation to book your time!



TERM 2 REPORT CARDS are in the PowerSchoool Parent Portal

#### **Student Absences**

Thank you to all the parents who are either phoning in or e-mailing us with student absences.

As we continue to work to ensure the safety of all of our students at Blueberry School, it is imperative that we are aware when they are absent from school.

We ask that parents email their child's absence to **Blueberry.Absence@psd70.ab.ca** 

Please include your child's full name, homeroom and reason for the absence.

If you do not have access to email please phone the school (780-963-3625) and leave a message on the Attendance voicemail.

> PD Day - No school Friday, May 21st

Online Registration & Verification for 2021-2022!

Current PSD families, the deadline for submission was <u>March 25</u> for a guaranteed bus pass for school start-up.

If you have not already and plan to return to Blueberry, please continue to complete the reregistration information in your Parent Portal!

Click <u>here</u> for moreinformation.

Zen Den!

REMINDER: STUDENTS SHOULD LEAVE AT HOME ITEMS SUCH AS:

POKEMON CARDS, TOYS, BLANKETS, ETC. TO MAINTAIN SCHOOL CLEANLINESS.

IF THEY ARE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL THEY WILL BE STORED FOR PARENT PICKUP.

Pre-order 2020/21 Yearbook on your Parent Portal Zen Den for May and June. This program supports children experiencing difficulties with anxiety. Activities focus on anxiety reduction (e.g., relaxation exercises) and social skills development (e.g., roleplaying positive communication skills). The activities and skills are taught in an engaging and developmentally appropriate manner. If you believe your child would benefit from this program please contact your homeroom teacher, Sheryl Bridgeman or

Blueberry School is pleased to continue to offer

Michelle Visscher for more information.



Morning outdoor supervision starts at 7:45 am - Please do not drop off your child(ren) prior to this time unsupervised.

### Picking up your child(ren)?

Please call the school before arrival to allow us 5 minutes to bring your child to meet you at the door!

# Dress for the weather!

With the weather turning warmer, students are still required to dress for the **current weather**! Students will need to be dressed appropriately in order to safely enjoy outdoor activities such as recess and physical education classes, as some of them take place outdoors.

Please consider sending your child in rubber boots and splash pants!

Extra clean clothes are also recommended to be included in your child's backpack.

Please label your boots and any other articles.

#### POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL -IS YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

It is important that we have the most current information on file and TWO Emergency Contacts. Please take a few minutes to log into vour

#### PowerSchool-Parent Portal

account and make any necessary changes under the Family Information tab. If there are changes to Guardianship/Custody, please contact the school office.

School fees can also be paid through Powerschool.

If you have any questions about Powerschool o need help creating an account, please contact Tracy Davis in the school office at 780-963-3625.

## ru

All Immunization dates have been postponed until furthe

we have dates. Helpful tips for Pain Management click <u>here</u>.



## School Fees

See the <u>link</u> for the 2020-21 School Fee listing. <u>Please note that fees will be</u> <u>applied as the activities occur.</u> If there are credits on the account, they will be applied to new charges.







Why do fish like to eat worms?



Because they get hooked on them!

#### REACHING YOUR CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Cell phones can be a distraction and disruption to classroom learning. Our teachers and your kids have worked hard together to come up with routines so that cellphones are not disrupting class. Here are some things for parents to know about communicating with their kids while they are at school: \* During class time, your child has most likely turned off the phone. \* Your child may not be able to respond immediately.

 If you call the main office, secretaries can assist in getting messages to the students due to Covid protocols being in place.

We appreciate your support in minimizing disruption to classroom instruction.

If you have any questions about Blueberry's cellphone guidelines, please contact Mrs. Bridgeman or Mrs. Visscher.

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F! I J C O Y a O d



















Visit mentalhealthweek.ca for info and tools!





As a result of mental health week, I feel more aware of creative things I can do for my mental health:

> ○ Strongly Agree
> ○ Somewhat Agree
> ○ Somewhat Disagree O Agree D Strongly Disagree

Share a short note about how this event supported your mental health:

good mental health.

One entry per household will be entered. Additional entries will be gained by attending an event or class.

or class. Grand prize winner will win \$200 worth of gift cards to local businesses of their choosing (max. 4) and will only be awarded to the person named on the entry form.

Draws are random. Winners have until May 31 to claim their prize. Unclaimed prizes will be donated to a local

Thank you to our organizers and sponsor



# **#GetReal**

WED

MAY



Additionally, there is a free screening of the film: The Great Disconnect which is most appropriate for grades 9 and up. Individuals can register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAufuyppjgiG9

yAN-IREBdyDg0Sv6Mi80QY After registering,

MEN'S NIGHT
SKETCHNOTES
INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY HELPERS
MOVIE NIGHT
WEEKEND REFRESH

Phone

Email

# OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE 5-10 YEARS OLD 11-17 YEARS OLD 18-34 YEARS OLD 35-64 YEARS OLD 65+ YEARS OLD

WHICH OF THE EVENTS DID YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ATTEND

○ 7 DAYS OF JOURNALING
○ DECLUTTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
○ WISE MIND WEDNESDAYS
○ MEN'S NIGHT



Hello Parents!

## **Blueberry School Council News (BSC)**

Two more months of school until the much-anticipated Summer Break!

A few notices and reminders for everyone.

The next BSC meeting will take place on <u>May 17 at 6:30 pm</u>. This will be the last meeting for the school year and we will be voting in next year's Executive council members (Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer). We will also have an opportunity to meet Mr. Tyler, our new Principal for 2021-2022.

If there is someone you would like to nominate or if you are interested in any of these positions yourself, please let me know!

Parents are always encouraged to attend as active members of the school council. Kasey Quinn - <u>blueberryscchair@psd70.ab.ca</u>

# Alberta Health Services

Information for Families with Children in Isolation: Information for families with children in isolation is now available on this webpage: ahs.ca/isolation

to lok to the info!

Monthly Newsletters for Families: The <u>AHS.ca/COVIDSchool</u> webpage has been updated with the newsletters for families with Children & families with Teens. Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School – Translated versions. The AHS Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare found at <u>ahs.ca/parentcovidguide</u>

CHECK OUT INFORMATION REGARDING FREE ON-LINE PROGRAMMING FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EACH MONTH!

LUNCH & LEARN WEBINARS ARE AVAILABLE! 60 MINUTE INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS LOOKING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CHILD'S/ADOLESCENT'S ABILITY TO THRIVE THROUGH LIFE'S CHALLENGES AND DISCOVER STRATEGIES TO HELP BUILD RESILIENCY.





### HELP US AS WE WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A NEW PLAYGROUND





buy e-gift cards, shop from your favorite stores just click the link below before you start your shopping

www.flipgive.com/f/429820



**FlipCive** 

LABELS because kids loose everything

label your kids school supplies, clothes, lunch containers and so much more... click the link below to start your order

www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool

If you have questions email blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com





# **STRONG FAMILIES**



## Stronger Families Newsletter <u>link here</u> for



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week, Parkland School Division is proud to partner with Alberta Parenting For The Future to present another FREE information session for local families.

In our upcoming Strong Families session, Jennie McLester of Alberta Health Services will offer families valuable information about mental health, how it influences our lives, our families and our communities, and how it differs from mental health disorders. She will also share practical tips for improving mental wellness, and highlight the various services and resources available to community members who are seeking help or wish to learn more.

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Time: 6:30-8pm Location: <u>Online Zoom Webinar / Discussion</u> <u>Group</u> Presenters: Jennie McLester (Alberta Health Services Youth Stabilization Program Supervisor)



apple you!

# PARKING & DROP OFF ZONE



Bus Parking

When dropping off your children, please go around to the Drop Off Area (see above), and then continue around to the parking lot exit. Please **do not** make U-turns at the entrance after you drop your children off. Our front parking lot goes in a **one-way** direction.

If you are parking to come to the school with your children, please use the far west side of the front (south) parking lot to park after the designated staff parking spots. There is no parking in the drop-off area.

The back parking lot, where busses come in, is closed to vehicles while the busses are there (arrival/dismissal times).

Thank you for making our parking lot a safe environment!