

APRIL 2021

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Parking Lot Patience!

We wanted to thank our parents for their patience as we have adjusted as a community to the increase in traffic flow at Blueberry School. Your patience and care are much appreciated as we keep our students safe and move vehicles along as quickly as possible.

It's Survey Time!

Blueberry School wants to hear from you. As part of the annual survey, we will prepare to engage students, teachers, and parents through the Accountability Pillar survey. As a yearly report on the education system, the Accountability Pillar results will allow Parkland School Division and Blueberry School an opportunity to look closely at what our stakeholders are saying about what we are doing well and where we need to improve. In April, all students and teachers in grades 4 and 7 will be completing their surveys online at school. All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school.

Parents/guardians of students in Grades 4 and 7 should receive a survey package in the mail. To encourage online participation in this year's parent survey, the survey package mailed by Alberta Education will not include the paper survey, but rather, include the Random Access Code (RAC) needed to access the parent survey online.

Parents still have the option of completing the AEA survey on paper. Requests for the paper survey can be directed to Sheryl Bridgeman or directly to System Assurance using the contact information:

System Assurance Branch System Excellence, Alberta Education Phone: (780) 643-9193 (in Edmonton) or 310-0000 (Toll-free within Alberta) Email: EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca



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





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Continued from page 1.

Each of the student, parent and teacher surveys will have a learning mode question that asks the respondent to identify their/their child's primary mode of learning/teaching at the time of survey completion.

The choices are: o In-person o Learning at home due to COVID-19 o Online in an online learning program

In addition, several items related to COVID-19 have been added to the end of the survey in order for the Ministry to collect some basic information about the student, parent and teacher experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to complete your survey promptly.

While the survey questions parents and guardians in grades 4 and 7, please know that we always welcome all Blueberry stakeholder thoughts about the work we are doing at Blueberry School. If you have feedback at any time (phone call, email, or GMeet!) we welcome it as we are always striving to improve.

Have a wonderful break with your family. Looking forward to having the students back on Wednesday, April 7th, 2021 as Tuesday, April 6th is a

PD day.

Sheryl Bridgeman Principal

Michelle Visscher Vice Principal





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GRADE 9 PARENTS TO MCHS

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

GRAD PHOTOS FRIDAY, MAY 7TH

OUTDOOR CLASS PHOTOS

Wednesday, June 2nd



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 your

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 or need help creating an account, please contact Tracy Davis in the school office at 780-963-3625.



Students have had the opportunity to view the items, prior to Spring Break and the remaining items will be donated to a local charity.



AHS - IMMUNIZATION All Immunization dates have

been postponed until further notice. We will advise when 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.





Student Absences

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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.

Online Registration & Verification for 2021-2022!

Current PSD families, email for the link with instructions to verify your upcoming school year registration. The deadline for submission is <u>March</u> <u>25</u> for a guaranteed bus pass for school start up. If you do not meet that deadline, please continue to complete the form! Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Spring Break ~ NO School: March 26th - April 6th Students return Wed, April 7th

Zen Den is back!

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

Blueberry School is offering a program to support 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. Last session is May 2021!



Thank you for completing the **Thought Exchange!**

Please complete the Accountability Survey!

Parkland Public Libraries are OPEN! Check out the <u>website</u> for info!

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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Fun ~ Carnaval de Quebec



















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www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool

If you have questions email blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com



Alberta Health Services

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

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>

Click the underlined text

to lok to the info!

CHECK OUT INFORMATION REGARDING <u>FREE ON-LINE PROGRAMMING</u> 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.

Monthly Newsletters for Families: The <u>AHS.ca/COVIDSchool</u> webpage has been updated with the newsletters for milies with Children & families with Teens.





STRONG FAMILIES

Take a few minutes to download the link in the email or on our <u>website</u> and read the Strong Families Series and check out the great upcoming free sessions and other free community activities for kids!

Strong Families Series: Supporting Emotional Regulation with Children on the Autism Spectrum

March 16, 2021 - 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, registered psychologists Larissa Predy and Ashton Parker will offer families valuable information about emotional regulation and how it relates to the behaviour of children with Autism, as well as practical tips for supporting their children on the spectrum in managing their emotions, so they can respond appropriately to stressful stimuli and know how to cope when faced with something that upsets them.

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021Time: 6pmLocation: Online Zoom Webinar / Discussion GroupPresenters: Larissa Predy & Ashton Parker, Registered Psychologists (Little Oaks Psychology)

Difficulties with emotional regulation underlie several challenging behaviours in children with Autism, including aggression and anxiety.

Psychologists Larissa Predy and Ashton Parker specialize in complex learners and behaviour profiles, as well as autism assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning. In this session, they will discuss strategies for improving perspective-taking and problem-solving skills, cognitive behavioural tools for dealing with "big" feelings and their related behaviours, and how to communicate and promote skill building in children with high needs.

Please register early to reserve your spot by visiting https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/supporting-emotional-regulation-with-children-on-the-autism-spectrum-registration-131635817273.



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AT FAMILY PHOTOS

COFFEE WITH RAE - ALL THINGS KINDERGARTEN FREE EVENT!

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Rae has some tips to help you and your child be ready.

Rae has many years of experience working in early education, kindergarten, nature kindergarten and will be sharing tips and strategies with families who have kiddos starting kindergarten in Parkland School Division this coming September. If you are curious, excited, or unsure about whether you or your child are kindergarten ready this is for you. Grab a coffee, have a seat and enjoy the wit and wisdom of Rae.

Date: April 8, 2021 Time: 10 - 11 am For more details about this event and to register, click <u>here</u>!



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!