

## September 2021

### Message from Administration

Blueberry School  
1532 Parkland Drive,  
Parkland County  
T7Z 1Y6

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[blueberry.absence@psd.ca](mailto:blueberry.absence@psd.ca)

Principal:  
Mrs. Michelle Visscher  
[michelle.visscher@psd.ca](mailto:michelle.visscher@psd.ca)

Assistant Principal:  
Mrs. Twyla Badry  
[twyla.badry@psd.ca](mailto:twyla.badry@psd.ca)

Head Secretary:  
Cynthia Wozny

Secretary:  
Tracy Davis

Website:  
<https://blueberry.psd.ca/>

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/](https://facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/)

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! Staff have been working hard to create incredible learning environments for your children. Our building has been filled with renewed feelings of optimism, and staff are eager to embark on a new learning journey.

As we enter into a new COVID reality, we encourage families to become familiar with Parkland School Division's protocols which can be found [here](#). For the most up to date information on COVID-19 guidelines please visit the PSD [website](#).

**Masks:** As outlined in [Parkland School Division's Frequently Asked Questions](#), masks are mandatory for all students when riding the bus and **strongly recommended** while at school. There may be specific situations where masks must be worn at school (for example a foods class with shared workstations) when physical distancing cannot be maintained. All students and staff will be supported regardless of their choice to wear a mask or not.

#### Alberta Health Services Vaccination Clinics:

Students under 18 WILL NOT be vaccinated in schools WITHOUT parent or guardian consent. Immunizations will be available through temporary clinics in schools for students in Grades 7 to 12 as well as teachers and staff. The clinics are operated by Alberta Health Services. The scheduled clinic date for Blueberry School is *September 15th*.

We recognize that there may be a range of emotions as you send your child(ren) back to school. With adjusted protocols, there can be feelings of excitement, but also those of hesitation and worry. Please be assured that our staff continue to prioritize the health and safety of your children and schools will continue to provide enhanced cleaning and work with Alberta Health Services.

As always we welcome your questions and feedback. Please reach out by phone or email, as we continue to limit visitors to the school at this time.

Twyla Badry  
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher  
Principal

## General Information

### PowerSchool Parent Portal - IMPORTANT

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is a valuable tool for parents, giving access to student attendance, report cards, and online fee payments. Address and contact information can also be changed from this portal. For security reasons, the report cards and fees are not available on the PowerSchool App - rather, you must access through the PowerSchool website @ <https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html>. If you are new to Blueberry School, or have not yet created an account, your child will bring home a paper with their "unique" username and password. You will need this when you are creating your new account, or adding a child to your current account. If you need assistance with PowerSchool, please contact Tracy Davis at 780-963-3625. It is important that we have the most current information on file, so please take a few minutes to login to your [PowerSchool](#) Parent Portal account to make any necessary changes under the Family Information tab. If there are changes to Guardianship/Custody, please contact the school office.

### School Fees

[School fees](#) will be added to your child's Powerschool account shortly as they are under review. Fees can be paid with a credit card online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html>. You can also see any fees that are added, such as option fees, as well as your account balance. Fees are posted to the website.

### Timetable

Blueberry is on a 4 day timetable in which Mondays are Day 1s, Tuesdays are Day 2s, Wednesdays are Day 3s and Thursdays are Day 4s. Fridays will rotate- please see the [school calendar](#).

### Bell Times

7:45 am	Buses Arrive
7:58-8:06 am	Classes Assemble/Attendance/Announcements/O Canada
8:06-10:05 am	Blocks 1-3
9:45-9:59 am	Kindergarten Recess
10:05-10:20 am	Grade 1-6 Outdoor Recess/Grade 7-9 Break
10:20-11:38 am	Blocks 4-5
11:07-11:37 am	Kindergarten Outdoor Play
11:38am-12:08 pm	Grade 1-6 Recess/Grade 7-9 Lunch/Kindergarten Lunch
12:08-12:38 pm	Grade 7-9 Recess/Grade 1-6 Lunch
12:38-12:39 pm	Announcements/Attendance
12:39-2:36 pm	Blocks 6-8
2:36-2:43 pm	Dismissal/First Bell for Buses
2:43-2:45 pm	Last Bell/Buses Depart

## Blueberry Staff

**Principal:** Mrs. Visscher  
**Assistant Principal:** Mrs. Badry

**Office Staff:**  
Mrs. Wozny (Head Secretary)  
Mrs. Davis (Secretary)

**Kindergarten:**  
Mrs. Feschuk  
Mrs. Knopper-Singleton

**Grade 1:**  
Mrs. Karamujic (1A)  
Ms. Morrison (1B)  
Ms. Palichuk (1C)

**Grade 2:**  
Mrs. Charleson (2A)  
Mrs. Dilling (2B)  
Ms. Paton (2C)

**Grade 3:**  
Mrs. Heemeryck (3A)  
Mrs. Krasnikoff (3B)  
Ms. Ducholke (3C)

**Grade 4:**  
Mr. Marcil (4A)  
Ms. Proctor (4B)

**Grade 5:**  
Mrs. Kleparchuk (5A)  
Mr. Roth (5B)  
Ms. Masterson (5C)

**Grade 6:**  
Mrs. Dawes (6A)  
Ms. Clampitt (6B)  
Mrs. Grundke (6C)

**Grade 7:**  
Mrs. Owen (7A)  
Mrs. Tofsrud (7B)

**Grade 8:**  
Ms. Abbas-Nejad (8A)  
Mr. Weinhandl (8B)

**Grade 9:**  
Ms. Lasuik (9A)  
Mrs. Maycher (9B)  
Mrs. Sawchuk (9C)

**Music:**  
Mrs. King

**Collaborative Teaching Partner:**  
Ms. White

**STEM/PE:**  
Mrs. Sharratt

**Educational Assistants:**  
Mrs. Ropert  
Mrs. Procter  
Mrs. Braucht  
Mrs. Antal  
Mrs. Podhaniuk  
Mrs. McIntosh  
Mrs. Sykes  
Mrs. Lancaster  
Mrs. Pederson

**Custodial Staff:**  
Mrs. Schwab  
Mrs. Rieland  
Ms. Lynch  
Mrs. Sokoloski

## Virtual Meet the Staff Nights

We hope that you'll join us for our upcoming virtual Meet the Staff nights. Teachers will be explaining how to access information on PowerSchool and GoogleClassroom, as well as some of the routines in the classrooms. Look forward to more details, as well as the links to join the meets, closer to the date.

- Grades K-5 - Monday, September 13 from 5:00-7:00pm
- Grades 6-9 - Tuesday, September 14 from 5:00-7:00pm

## Photo Days

Individual school pictures will be taken on September 28 (K-5) and 29 (K, 6-9).

## Early Student Pick-Up

If you are picking up your child early from school please **phone the office** to let us know. Students are not allowed to leave the building without confirmation from a parent or guardian. Thank you for helping us keep your kids safe!

## Student Absences

To ensure the safety of all of our students at BlueberrySchool, it is imperative that we are aware when they are absent from school. We ask that parents phone the school and leave a message on the *attendance voicemail* (Option 1) or email prior to 8:30 am to avoid the automated call out cut off at 8:45 am. **Please include your child's full name, homeroom/teacher and reason for the absence.**

Phone: 780-963-3625 (Option 1)

Email: [blueberry.absence@psd.ca](mailto:blueberry.absence@psd.ca)

## Administering Medication & Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

If your child requires medication during the school day, it is Division Policy that a signed consent form be completed in advance. This form requires a physician's signature. Contact the office for a form or further information. All medication brought to school must be kept at the office, and will only be accepted in the original clearly labeled bottle/box. Only prescription medication will be dispensed at the office. Please ask the pharmacist for a second labeled bottle to be kept at school, if needed. All medication that was left at the school in June has been disposed of. Note that medication will not be dispensed from the office for field trips. Parents are responsible for providing extra medication on field trip days if necessary. Students that may need an Epi-Pen are required to supply an Epi-Pen for storage in the school office and the required forms must be completed. If necessary, an additional Epi-Pen can be kept by the student.

Please assist us in gathering all information regarding your child's pre-existing medical conditions. Please submit one form per child, if you have not already provided the school with details.

<https://forms.gle/1wAWcVPio5v3Wid78>

## Entering and Exiting Blueberry

1. Students enter and exit the school through their designated doors.
2. Exterior doors are locked during instructional hours. Students who arrive after 8:01 are asked to call the office and a staff member will assist them in accessing the main entrance.
3. Parents picking up students at the end of the day are asked to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others.

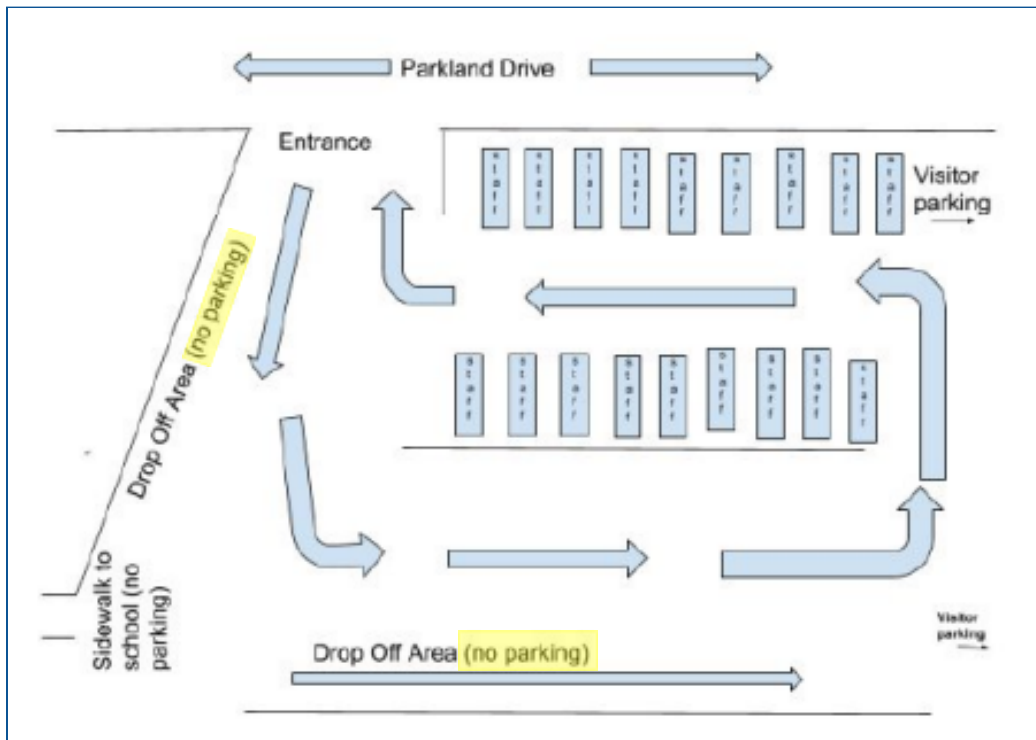
## Visiting Blueberry

As part of the guide provided by Alberta Health Services, we are required to limit access to the school of any non-essential visitors or volunteers including parents. This includes drop off in the mornings and pick up at the end of the day. If a pick up is needed mid-day, the parent can call the main office and the student will meet them there. The office will maintain records of contacts within the school by any visitors to the school. All visitors to the school are required to complete a COVID screening checklist upon entering, in addition to wearing a mask and sanitizing hands prior to entry. If you have questions about this please contact the office.

## Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Please note the following important information regarding **child safety** and parking at Blueberry School:

1. Reminder that there is **NO PARKING** in the drop-off areas in the morning from 7:40 - 8:00 am and from 2:20 - 2:50 pm daily.
2. Please be mindful of students and staff who are trying to cross the parking lot to get to and from the school.
3. Our front parking lot goes in a “one-way” direction. If you are dropping off your children, please go around to the drop off area, and then continue around the parking lot to exit. Please do not make u-turns at the entrance after you drop your children off.
4. If you are parking to come in with your children, please use the far west side of the front (south) parking lot to park (there is no parking in the drop-off area).
5. The back parking lot (where the busses come in), is closed to vehicles while the busses are there (arrival and dismissal times).
6. Note that the parking stall by the gate is designated as accessible for those people who require it. It is not for general public use.



We appreciate your support in making our parking lot a safe environment for all!

## Allergies

At our school, there are individuals with severe nut allergies. Consequently, we have processes in place to minimize the risk to these students. Whenever possible, please avoid sending nut products to school. We also have some severe allergies to scented products and ask that students and parents coming into the school refrain from using these products (perfumes, lotions, body sprays). Aerosol products are also not permitted in the school. Students are encouraged to bring underarm deodorant, but in a non-scented stick form.

If your child has serious allergies, please ensure that the school is aware by contacting the office.

## Zen Den and Counselling

Through a partnership with Aspire Psychology, we are again 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. role playing positive communication skills). The activities and skills are taught in an engaging and developmentally appropriate manner. Counselling will also be available to students. The demand for these supports is consistently high. If you believe your child would benefit from this program please contact your homeroom teacher, or Michelle Visscher for more information. Spots are limited and needs will be assessed by the administration team.

## Code of Conduct

Please take a moment to review [Blueberry's Student Code of Conduct](#) with your child.

## Volunteers

At this time, we are limiting the number of non-essential visitors to Blueberry School. Please look for future newsletters to update any changes to volunteering at the school.

## Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada. It grew out of Phyllis' story of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Join us in wearing an orange shirt on Thursday, September 30th as schools and communities come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

## School Busses

All students riding PSD busses will be required to wear a mask while riding and to scan when they get on and off. This will be strictly enforced. Also, just a reminder that guest riders are not permitted.

For bus status updates, please see the [PSD website](#) and/or download the [Bus Status app](#).



## Athletics

Sports practices and outdoor activities may proceed with appropriate risk mitigation strategies (i.e. no shaking hands at the end of the game).

Stay tuned for more information regarding cross country running and volleyball seasons starting soon!

### Upcoming Cross Country run dates

Race #1: *Entwistle – September 9 \*Blueberry not participating\**

Race #2: Meridian Heights – September 16

Race #3: Blueberry – September 23

Race #4: Tomahawk – September 30

Race #5: Woodhaven – October 7

Race #6: Living Waters – October 14

## Calendar

Check out our [school website](#) to see our school's [monthly calendar](#).

## School Council & Fundraising Foundation

### School Council

Our first **virtual** School Council meeting of the year is scheduled for September 21 at 6:30. We are always looking for new community members to join us. Being part of the school council allows you to have a voice in your child's school experience. Previous meetings have incorporated learning sessions around google classroom, parenting anxious kids and reviewing our education plan. Please join us, all are welcome! [Click here](#) to join from the comfort of your own home by Google Meet.

### Fundraising Foundation

The Blueberry School Fundraising Committee (BSFC) is a group of parents dedicated to supporting the Blueberry School learning community. All fundraising initiatives are designed to positively impact every student from Kindergarten through Grade 9.

Stay tuned for our first meeting date. For more information, email:

[blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com).