

November 2021

Message from Administration

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We had a spooktacular time during our classroom celebrations on Oct. 29th! Thank you families for your understanding in Halloween celebrations being adjusted to meet health and safety protocols. We were grateful for mild weather allowing for a K-6 outdoor costume parade, giving students a chance to enjoy costumes and get in the “spook” of things.

For the 2021-22 school year, each school has chosen a primary area of focus from the Division Education Plan. Blueberry has chosen *Teachers and Leaders Promote Literacy and Numeracy* as its element of focus, with a supplementary area of interest of *Students Demonstrate Well-Being*. If you would like to learn more about how Blueberry is creating strategies to support these elements, please join us at our next School Council meeting being held virtually on [November 16th @ 6:30 pm](#).

The newly elected members of The Board of Trustees had their most recent meeting on October 29th, 2021. Click [here](#) for the highlights.

COVID 19 Updates: Please see the following news items posted on our website.

- [Mask Reminder](#)
- [Outbreak Reporting in Schools](#)
- [Vaccinations in PSD](#)

Fall break is fast approaching. Please note that there is no school for students the week of November 8th. Classes resume on Tuesday, Nov 16th (Nov 15th is a PD day). We hope you are able to take time to rejuvenate with your families after what has been a successful first few months of school.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information

Remembrance Day

This year, Blueberry will not be hosting a Remembrance Day ceremony. As a school, we will recognize Remembrance Day on Friday, November 5th. At 11am we will play [The Last Post](#) on the announcement system and observe a moment of silence. Teachers will also extend learning and respect for Remembrance Day within their classrooms.

Halloween Photos

Click [here](#) to see the [Halloween Photo Gallery](#) from Friday on our school website!

Spirit Days

Our grade 3 Caring Kids have scheduled "Break a Rule Day" on Tuesday, November 2. Teachers will talk with their classes to determine safe and reasonable rules to break on this day.

Fall Break

November 5 is our last day of school before our week-long fall break. School will resume on November 16, as November 15 is a PD Day.

The Kinsmen Christmas Hamper

The Kinsmen Hamper is dedicated to making Christmas brighter for local families, and Blueberry School wants to show our support. There are so many amazing opportunities to make the world a better place, and this one starts right in our own community!

Due to Covid, the Kinsmen Hamper is NOT looking for non-perishable food items. However, helpful donations would include:

- Monetary donations
- New, unwrapped gifts
- Grocery cards
- Gift cards

Gifts will be distributed to children from 0 to 17 years old. We are asking for donations that are based on gender and age. For children 10 and older, gift cards are ideal!

Donations can be brought in to homeroom teachers beginning November 2, 2021. The final day for donations will be December 12, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration and we hope you have a very merry holiday season!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

We have been having so much fun working and learning with the students this year in our STEM classes. Part of our goal is to create meaningful Science and Math experiences by creating moments for young children to explore the world around them in such a way that it creates excitement about learning.

We have been trying to use engaging, age-appropriate technology and encourage students to learn-by-doing.

Some examples of the variety of different challenges in STEM class this year include creating Wave Machines, LEGO ziplines, Roller Coasters, Online Escape Rooms, Bridges, and starting to code online.

We encourage parents to ask what we are doing this week in STEM each week. When parents are engaged, they can continue the STEM excitement and ask STEM-related questions to drive conversation at home. I love hearing stories about students showing their parents something new or recreate a great idea they had at school that day.

Feel free to checkout some of the online websites our students have been working on this Fall:

<https://scratch.mit.edu/> (Coding Website)

<https://www.enchambered.com/puzzles/alone-together/> (Jr. High STEM)

My team and I are looking forward to the more STEM challenges coming up and celebrating learning together!

Melanie Sharratt

Student Absences

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 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

If your child is in grade 1-9, you can access activities while they are home on their Google Classroom.

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.

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.

Strong Families Newsletter

Check out this month's Family Supports Newsletter, ["Stronger Together"](#). The information and parent sessions for this month focus on regulation strategies for children and teens.

Athletics

Intramurals

Our grade 7-9 students have been enjoying weekly intramurals in the gym at lunch recess.

Basketball

Junior High Basketball tryouts will be starting soon. Stay tuned for these dates.

Calendar

Check out our [school website](#) to see our school's [monthly calendar](#). Here you can filter by type of event and you can also add our calendar to your own iCal or Google Calendar. You can also check out our rotating Fridays.

School Council & Fundraising Foundation

School Council

Our next meeting will be held virtually on November 16 at 6:30. We would like to invite all parents/guardians to listen in using [this link](#) to hear what's going on in our school and in our division.

Fundraising Committee

Join us virtually for our next meeting on November 16 at 6:00, right before the school council meeting. Join with [this link](#).

Did you know that we have a Blueberry School Fundraising Facebook Page? Stay connected with us on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>

Questions? Email: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

Click [here](#) or on the newsletter below to see it full-size:



spirit wear



BLUEBERRY BLAZE

Order your Blueberry Blaze Spirit Wear now.
ONLINE STORE CLOSING NOVEMBER 2ND

https://bit.ly/spirit_wear

any questions, please contact blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

tis the season



Purdys CHOCOLATIER

ORDER ONLINE (pay by Visa or MC):

1. Login or create a new account at fundraising.purdys.com
2. A search bar will pop up once you're logged in. Type 40036 into the search bar.
3. Click JOIN CAMPAIGN
4. Invite friends and family to help!

Scan Me

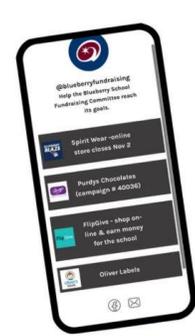


ALL OF YOUR FUNDRAISING LINKS IN ONE PLACE! JUST SCAN THE QR CODE.

DEADLINES:
SPIRITWEAR- NOV 2.
PURDYS- ORDER BY NOV 6.

ORDERS WILL ARRIVE BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

GET ALL YOUR FUNDRAISING LINKS IN ONE PLACE



<https://linktr.ee/blueberryfundraising>



Photo Album

