

December 2021

Message from Administration

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Welcome to December! As we reflect on the reality that faced us last year at this time (December, 2020), we are so thankful to be entering a “closer to normal” winter season. Although learning continues to be impacted by COVID-19, with many uncertainties, our staff remains grateful for the support of our community and our time with students.

Our staff are excited to enter into the holiday season. We know that in the past some families have chosen to send in treats, crafts, or gifts as part of a celebration of the season. When considering sending anything to school during the holiday season, we are asking our staff and families to continue to follow AHS guidelines. Here are a few things to consider:

- There will be no in-person Holiday concert this year. There will be virtual/digital access for families to pre-recorded songs and celebrations led by our music specialist Mrs. King. We appreciate your patience as we work through this.
- We cannot accept homemade items from students at the school. Although these are wonderful gestures, please do not send homemade items to share with friends. Staff will also not share homemade items with students.
- Please do not send any food items to school. Unfortunately we cannot accept food items from outside the school.
- Some staff are using this season to promote the gift of giving, by supporting local community partners such as the Kinsmen hamper online, as opposed to physical gifts for students

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information

Report Cards

Report cards will go live on December 3 at 3:00pm. On this day, you can access your child's report card through [PowerSchool](#).

Winter Break

Our last day of school before Christmas is Thursday, December 23. Students will return to school on Monday, January 10.

Bus Carry-On Items

Please note that for safety reasons, there are regulations on the size/type of items that can be brought onto our PSD school busses. In particular, please note that skates are only allowed in a sealed bag, with skate guards on. Hockey and ringette sticks are not allowed at any time. Please see [this document](#) for further information regarding allowable dimensions and approved items.

The Kinsmen Christmas Hamper

Thank you so much for your contributions so far to the Kinsmen Christmas Hamper! We are still collecting items until December 12. Please remember that 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, and gift cards.



Coffee and Cobs

A big thank you to our local [Starbucks](#) and [COBS Bread](#) for providing snacks for our staff! We felt so appreciated by this gesture.



Hot Lunch

Welcome back to the Blueberry School Hot Lunch Program.

The first lunch will be on Tuesday, December 7, Dominos Pizza - you must order by DECEMBER 2. Subway will be Wednesday, December 22.

You will have to sign up at blueberry.hotlunches.net before you will be able to order. See below for instructions.

If you have any questions please email blueberryhotlunch@gmail.com.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTING STARTED:

1. Register as a parent -
 - Click on "Click Here to Register" and enter Access Code: BBHL
 - After this first time you can log back in using whatever userID and password you choose.
 - The email address you provide will be used to send you confirmation of your orders, and a reminder each Sunday of what you ordered for your child(ren) for the following week.
 - Click on "Register Now" button at the bottom
2. Enter all your children into the system
 - Click on "Students" and follow the instructions to add each child in your family who attends our school
 - The system will automatically fill in their last name, but please edit this if their last name is not the same as your own.
3. Place all your orders for each child
 - Click on "Orders" and proceed to place orders for each of your children.
 - When ordering lunches, select all the items you want to order and then scroll down to check out. You may also order fundraiser items and hot lunch items together, allowing you to make 1 purchase instead of multiple purchases.
4. Pay
 - After placing all your orders, choose "Pay Now With PayPal" (to complete your payment online using PayPal or to pay by Visa, Visa Debit, Mastercard or American Express as a one-time transaction)
 - OTHER OPTIONS: If you are averse to paying online you may pay by e-transfer blueberryhotlunch@gmail.com print the remittance form and drop off exact cash at the office.

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 mindfulness.

You can also access the [Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#) to learn more information and find sessions regarding child/youth mental health and parenting topics.

Athletics

Intramurals

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

Basketball

Junior High Basketball tryouts have begun. Students are encouraged to listen to daily announcements to stay informed.

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 **January 17 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

Welcome to our new Fundraising Committee Chair, Danielle White!
 We do not have another meeting in December, but you can join us virtually for our next meeting on January 17 at 6:00, right before the school council meeting. Join with [this link](#).
 Stay connected with us: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>
 Questions? Email: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

Click [here](#) or on the newsletter below to see it full-size and to be able to access the live links:



Fundraising
 Healthy & Connected 2021-2022

Unfortunately our chair Carmen Thomas had to leave us, but we are happy to welcome our NEW Fundraising Chair, Danielle White.

Thank you to all who participated in our last fundraiser. We were able to raise \$1740 with Purdys Chocolates and \$533 with the Blueberry Spirit Wear.

Spirit Wear should be in the second week of December so watch for it coming home with your child - unless you have emailed us and made different arrangements.

Don't forget to stay connected with us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee

Thank you so much for your support, we couldn't do it without you!

If you have questions email blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET
 FUNDRAISERS THAT RUN ALL YEAR

SHOP ONLINE earn cash while you shop
 buy e-gift cards, shop from your favorite stores just click the link below before you start your shopping and the school gets a % back.
www.flipgive.com/f/429820

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



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 ICE MELTER / DÉGLAÇANT

- Fast Acting
- Long Lasting
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 OR
2 PAILS FOR \$50
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 BLUEBERRY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



COMING SOON... pails of Bear Tracks Ice Melter

Please place your order [here](#).

ORDER DEADLINE: DECEMBER 13th