

February 2022

Message from Administration

Blueberry School
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Laura Smith

Website:
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Calendar:
<https://blueberry.psd.ca/about/calendar>

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Welcome to 2022!

Once again, we would like to thank our community for your patience and help supporting students to adjust to protocols and impacts of COVID-19. We recognise that changes to planned activities have resulted in disappointment and we appreciate the open conversations and feedback from the community on how we balance student health and safety with unique school based opportunities.

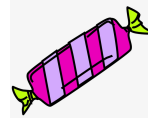
Parent/Teacher/Student Virtual interviews will be held the week of February 7th, 2022. Please see the information further in this newsletter regarding booking your virtual appointment. Our staff are looking forward to sharing student learning and celebrating their progress. If you have questions about your child's progress at any time, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Recently, the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services announced changes to the way schools are notified about outbreaks and positive COVID-19 cases. The province has indicated that schools will not be informed about individual cases of COVID-19. Blueberry School remains committed to keeping our parents/guardians informed as best we can by reporting the latest self-reported absences due to COVID-19 on our [website](#).

Typically February is a very exciting time for planning for Valentine's Day. We are asking our staff and families to continue to follow some guidelines. Here are a few things to consider:

- We know that in the past years some families have chosen to send in homemade treats. We are asking that you only send treats that are store bought (sorry no homemade items) and individually sealed.
- Students will have to consume treats in class and not take treats outside of the classroom.
- Protocols such as hand washing/sanitizing and distribution of treats by the teacher/adult will be followed.

→ Requests for individual treats may vary by classroom. Please connect with your child's homeroom teacher for specifics.



KINDERGARTEN



VIRTUAL
OPEN
HOUSES

Kindergarteners must be
5 years old by Dec. 31, 2022.

W E D N E S D A Y
FEBRUARY 16

ALL OPEN HOUSES WILL BE HELD ONLINE.

We invite families with students entering into Kindergarten in September 2022 to join us from 6-7pm. The Blueberry google meeting link is:
meet.google.com/mmg-hzpc-ide

We hope you and your family are healthy and well. If you have any questions or things we should consider, please give our office a call, send an email or schedule a time for a virtual meeting.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information

Student Registration

Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process is coming soon. **All Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2022-2023 school year.** Returning PSD students will receive an email reminder to log into their PowerSchool Account and look for the RSVP button in the side navigation to launch the registration process. All parents are required to complete the registration process by 4:30pm on March 18, 2022. This deadline allows us to determine the eligibility of bus pass applicants, the routing of buses, bus pass production and data verification before the summer break while schools are still operating.

Important Registration Dates:

- **February 14, 2022**
 - Registration opens. The Online Form for Evergreen Catholic, area private school students and new to PSD students will be added as a Quick Link on the homepage of psd.ca. Families of returning PSD students complete the process starting in PowerSchool.
- **March 18, 2022 at 4:30pm**
 - Registration deadline. For further information, visit our [Registration](#) page.
- **Friday, June 24, 2022**
 - Bus pass deadline to make payment arrangements or pay-in-full.
- **End of July, 2022**
 - Bus passes and route numbers will be mailed to parents at the end of July.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will be holding our next round of parent-teacher interviews on February 7 and 8. All interviews will again be held virtually. Starting at **8am on Friday, January 28**, you will be able to book an appointment using the [instructions here](#). Once you have made your appointment, find specific instructions on how to participate in parent-teacher conferences via Google Meet by [clicking here](#).

Shifting to at-home learning

There may be a time that it will become an operational requirement to shift a class, grade, or perhaps an entire school to at-home learning. Should that happen, we will provide as much notice to families as possible. Parkland School Division will work with Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services to determine when and if such a step is required. ([PSD Website](#))

Teachers' Convention and PD Day

Our teachers will be participating in Teachers' Convention on Feb. 10 and 11 and staff planning day on Friday, Feb. 18. Also, please note that Monday, Feb 21 is Family Day. There will be no school on these days.

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 23 is "Pink Shirt Day". Wear pink to show your support and commitment to treating people with kindness and respect.

AHS Information

As part of our annual communication regarding communicable diseases, and as this is the time of year that we may start to see an increase in instances, please take a moment to visit the [AHS website](#) for information on how to identify, prevent, and treat head lice.

Student Absences - Email Address Change

Please remember that our email to report student absences is different this year, so although the old address has been forwarding to us up until this point, it is no longer doing so. If reporting an absence for your child, please ensure you are using this address:

blueberry.absence@psd.ca (note the dot in between "blueberry" and "absence")

If your message has gone through, you should receive a confirmation email letting you know that your message was received by the school.

You may also phone the school at 780-963-3625 (Option 1 for attendance voicemail), if you would rather.

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.

Pets at Blueberry

A gentle reminder and request that if bringing your pet to school during pick up, it remains in your vehicle while retrieving your child(ren) from school grounds. Animals certainly bring joy to homes and the community, but we are asking for your help in keeping dogs and other animals away from main walkways and school grounds, especially during our busy pick up time after school. If you have any questions regarding this please contact the school 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.

Red Cross Youth Programs

Parkland County FCSS have arranged for Red Cross to facilitate a Stay Safe Program on February 12th in Blueberry. In essence, it is a program for youth aged 9-13 aimed at teaching how to manage being home alone safely. Please see [this link](#) for more information.

Strong Families Newsletter

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

Blueberry Playschool Announcement



Blueberry Playschool's Early Registration Night

Come register your 3 and 4 year olds for the 2022/2023 school year!

Wednesday March 16, 2022
6:00pm-8:00pm

Located in the lower level of Blueberry Community Hall.
A complete registration form and a deposit of \$50 is required to hold a spot for your child.

www.blueberryplayschoolassociation.com

Athletics

Intramurals

Our grade 7-9 students are continuing to enjoy intramurals in the gym at lunch recess.

Basketball

Our Junior High Basketball basketball teams have had a strong start to their season. Thank you to all players, parents and coaches for the support and hard work!

School Council & Fundraising Foundation

School Council

Our next meeting will be held virtually on **February 15 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

Please join us virtually for our next meeting on **February 28th @ 6pm**.

Stay connected with us: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>

Questions? Email: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

Click [here](#) to see our Fundraising Newsletter!

Photo Album

