

September 2022

Message from Administration

Blueberry School
1532 Parkland Drive,
Parkland County
T7Z 1Y6

Phone:
780-963-3625
Fax:
780-963-4491

Email:
blueberry@psd.ca
blueberry.absence@psd.ca

Principal:
Mrs. Michelle Visscher
michelle.visscher@psd.ca

Assistant Principal:
Mrs. Twyla Badry
twyla.badry@psd.ca

Head Secretary:
Mercy Rosborough

Secretary:
Tracy Davis

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

Facebook:
facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/

Welcome to a new school year!

We are so thrilled to welcome back our K-9 students with approximately 570 students attending Blueberry this year. Our staff have been hard at work preparing classrooms and creating learning opportunities which truly meet Blueberry's tagline: Supporting all learners to meet their future.

September is always a busy month at school, and we encourage you to check out our [website](#) where you will find our school [calendar of events](#). Our website is also where you will find hot lunch registration, information about our school community and lots more!

As you may have seen in some of our welcome back messaging, our Playground Committee has been working tirelessly for the past few years to raise money for a replacement playground. We would like to thank the entire committee for their efforts on behalf of all of our students. Here is an exciting update from the committee:

The Blueberry School Fundraising Committee is excited to announce that we are a successful recipient of the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) provincial grant. We will be receiving \$115,279 from the provincial governments' Ministry of Culture and Status of Women to be used towards the new playground. This means that we will be able to complete both Phase 1 (already on order) AND Phase 2 together, and will only have Phase 3 remaining. A huge thank-you to all of the parent volunteers that have dedicated hours and hours to planning, fundraising and grant writing for this project. None of this is possible without their efforts.

Thank you for granting us the trust to work with your children. We welcome your feedback and would love to hear from you. Please reach out by phone, email or book a time to meet with us.

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, we will send an email with your Access ID and Access 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 the office 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](https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html) 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](https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html) 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. Rosborough (Head Secretary)
Mrs. Davis (Secretary)

Kindergarten:
Mrs. Campbell (M/W)
Mrs. Knopper-Singleton

Grade 1:
Mrs. Karamujic (1A)
Ms. Morrison (1B)
Mrs. Engle-Wood (1C)
Mrs. Weidman(1C)

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

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

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

Grade 5:
Mrs. Kleparchuk (5A)
Mr. Roth (5B)

Grade 6:
Ms. Clampitt (6A)
Mrs. Owen (6B)

Grade 7:
Mrs. Sawchuk (7A)
Mrs. Tofsrud (7B)
Mrs. Wolfater (7C)

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

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

Music:
Mrs. King

STEM/PE:
Mrs. Sharratt

Educational Assistants:
Mrs. Ropert
Mrs. Procter
Mrs. Braucht
Mrs. Antal
Mrs. Podhaniuk
Mrs. McIntosh
Mrs. Sykes
Mrs. Lancaster
Mrs. Pederson
Mrs. Brown
Mrs. Kempf
Mrs. Smith

Custodial Staff:
Mrs. Schwab
Mrs. Rieland
Ms. Lynch
Mrs. Sokolowski

Meet the Staff Night

We hope that you'll join us for our Meet the Staff night on Tuesday, September 20th from 4:30-5:30pm. Teachers will be explaining how to access information on PowerSchool and Google Classroom, as well as some of the routines in the classrooms. Families with last names beginning A-M will visit classrooms from 4:30pm-5pm and families with last names N-Z will visit classrooms 5pm-5:30pm. A food truck will be onsite for families interested in ordering at their own cost. We will do our best to manage lineups, but also ask for your patience and understanding.

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 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

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. 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. 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.

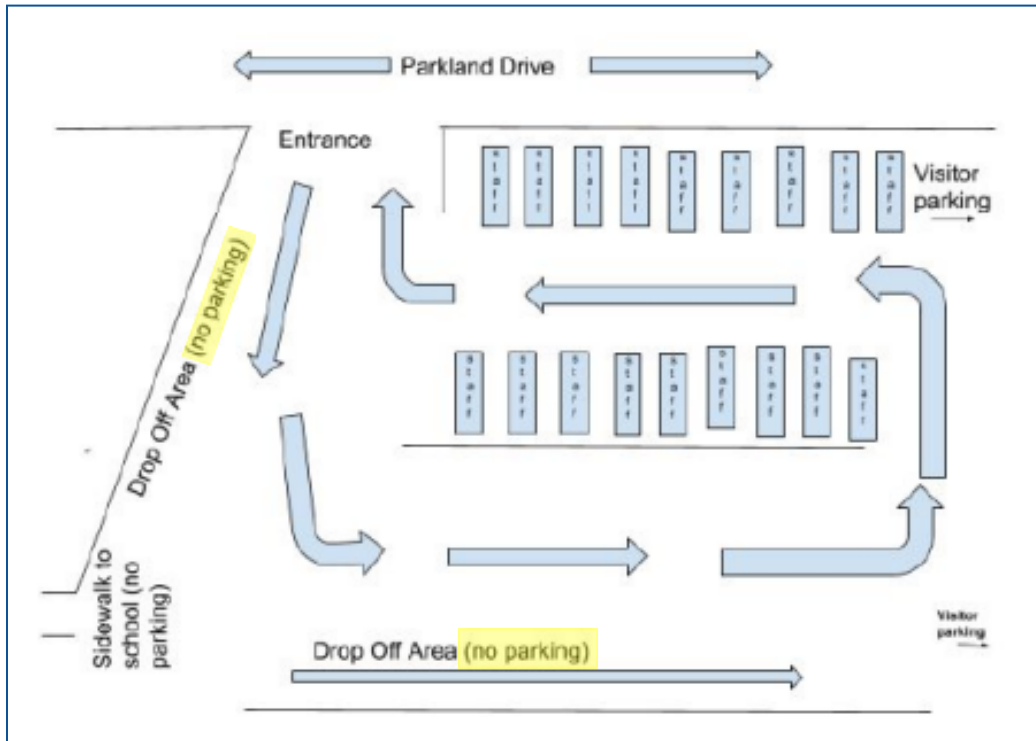
Entering and Exiting Blueberry

Students enter and exit the school through their designated doors. Exterior doors are locked during instructional hours. Students who arrive after 8:01 are asked to enter through the main entrance.

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 buses come in), is closed to vehicles while the buses 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.

Counselling

Blueberry is excited to welcome a new school counsellor to support our students. Molly James will be at Blueberry three days a week and supporting in class, small group, and at times, individual counselling. 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.

Cell Phones/Smart Watches/Headphones

Students are asked to leave their cell phones in their lockers during instructional time. Grade 7-9 students are permitted to use their cell phones prior to school (before first bell) and during the lunch hour. Elementary students are not permitted use of cellphones during recess, so that we encourage active play. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the office to ensure all staff are aware of any student needs/concerns. Students are asked to come to the office to call home. If devices such as smartwatches become a disruption to a student's learning, teachers will work with that individual. Headphones (such as airpods) should be left in lockers and not brought to class during instructional time. Students are encouraged to leave valuable items at home.

Volunteers

We are so happy to be able to welcome volunteers back into our school. Stay tuned for messaging from your child's teacher for opportunities throughout the year. Please remember that a current Criminal Record Check must be on file at the school for anyone who volunteers more than ten hours in a school year. All volunteers and visitors must check in at the school office upon arrival.

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. As schools will be closed on September 30 for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, please join us in wearing an orange shirt on Thursday, September 29th as schools and communities come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

School Busses

Just a reminder that students are only allowed to ride their registered bus and are not able to take a friend's bus at any time. PSD does not allow "guest riders" on buses. Thank you for making alternate arrangements if your child is going to a friend's after school.

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

Athletics

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

Upcoming Cross Country run dates

Race #1: Duffield – September 15

Race #2: Woodhaven – September 22

Race #3: Entwistle – September 29

Race #4: Meridian Heights – October 6

Race #5: Blueberry – October 13

Race #6: High Park – October 20

Calendar

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

School Council & Fundraising Foundation

School Council

Our first School Council meeting of the year is scheduled for September 12 at 6:30pm in the library. 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!

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.

Hot Lunch

Blueberry School provides a healthy, nutritious meal to our students through our hot lunch program. Hot lunch runs three days a week - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from October to May. Students are required to pre-order and pre-pay for these meals online.

There are some new offerings this year and gluten free and vegetarian items will be available with certain meals. Please note that if your child has a severe allergy, please contact the coordinator for more information on the menu options available. We will also be using a new website platform this year for ordering and paying for school lunches called Munch a Lunch, please follow the instructions below to register and Login.

Ordering Lunch Online:



1. Go to: munchalunch.com/schools/blueberry
2. Click the "Register Here" button. The system will guide you through
3. After adding your children, click the green "Order Lunch!" button to order
4. Next time, just click the "Login Here" button to access your account.

Contact Jennifer Fiddler at jenniferdavina@hotmail.com or 780-886-7344 if you require assistance or have any questions about the hot lunch program.

Community Services Educational Sessions for September

Alberta Health Services [Community Education Service](#) provides free public education sessions for parents and caregivers, with a focus on child and youth wellness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, live webinars can be viewed on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Pre-recorded sessions are available too.

These upcoming sessions may be of interest to families in your school community:

- [September 19: Screen time & teen mental health](#)
- [September 21: The gift of gratitude: Creating gratitude jars](#)
- [September 27: Words Matter! Supporting children and youth through the lens of Mental Health Literacy](#)

[Back to School Resources](#)

[Resources for families - Get the Latest - Healthier Together Schools](#)

[Back to School Health - Families | Alberta Health Services](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

- [National Addiction Awareness Week 50 Ways to Connect With Kids Poster \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
- [Digital Technology Youth & Digital Technology | Alberta Health Services](#)
- [Facts for youth \(alberta.ca\)](#)
- [Tips for parents \(alberta.ca\)](#)
- [Recreational Activities \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
- [Recommended Educational Resources \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

Fear-Less Triple P

A 6 week parenting program to help parents of children aged 6 - 14 to set a good example of coping with anxiety, coach their children to become more emotionally resilient, and develop a tool box of strategies and choose the most effective to respond to their child's anxiety.

- September 14th - October 19th.
- 9:30-11:30 am.
- Border Paving Athletic Centre.
- Childcare spaces available.
- Registration is required.

Scan the code below to register.

SPRUCE GROVE Family and Community Support Services WeBuildAlbertans

Alberta Parenting for the Future Association

parkland county FCSS SPRUCE GROVE TOWN OF STON' PLAIN

3 Part Series for \$30 (subsidy available)

Collaborative Communication Series

Conflict is inevitable in our lives, but it doesn't always have to be stressful.

In this three- part series, you will learn how to collaboratively communicate through conflict to gain understanding of the other party and to share your perspective in a way they can hear you. You'll have a chance to try out the skills you learn in a supported environment lead by a Conflict Resolution Practitioner.

- Session 1: Conflict & Conflict Styles
- Session 2: Listening Skills (Listening to Understand)
- Session 3: Speaking Skills (Assertive Communication)

November 15, 22, & 29, 2022
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Online Via Zoom
Registration:
www.sprucegrove.org/fcssprograms

Booking Code: 20SpruceGrove22

Children, Teens, and Technology: Raising Kids in the Age of Screens

This three-hour session supports both caregivers and professionals in finding technology balance for children, youth, and themselves. Participants will be presented with perspectives from both sides of the debate, current research regarding children and youth's relationship with technology and media, and strategies for healthy technology use.

September 22, 2022 Border Paving Athletic Centre
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 9 Tri Leisure Way
2nd Floor; Lodgepole/Pine Room

sprucegrove.org/fcssprograms

EDMONTON

Recovery College parkland county

Building Your Toolbelt: Caring for Others & Yourself

FREE COURSE

Learn to support and care for yourself while caring for others

Saturdays: Nov. 19 - Dec. 3, 10 AM - Noon

EDMONTON




ADULTING 101

FREE SESSIONS IN-PERSON

16-24 years, learn about relationships, money management, self-care and life balance in a safe and confidential space.






recoverycollegeedmonton.ca






FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS TRAINING

- ✓ Two full days of training
- ✓ Training will start at 8:30AM, with two coffee breaks and a lunch break
- ✓ Beverages and snacks will be provided
- ✓ Mental Health Commission of Canada will issue certificates through emails two weeks after completion of training

WHEN: SEP 19 - 20

WHERE: Great Horned Owl/Lodgepole Room at Border Paving Athletic Centre (9 Tri Leisure Way #100, Spruce Grove)
Registration password: 20SPFCSS22



To learn more or register for one of the training sessions, please scan the respective QR code and use the password provided!

WHEN: NOV 22 - 23

WHERE: Wabamun Jubilee Hall (5132 53 Ave, Wabamun)
Registration password: 20WabPark22

