

February 2023

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
mercy.rosborough@psd.ca

Secretary:
Tracy Davis
tracy.davis@psd.ca

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

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

Facebook:
facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/

It's Survey Time!

As part of the annual survey month in February, we will prepare to engage students, teachers, and parents through the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey. As a yearly report on the education system, the AEA results will allow Parkland School Division and Blueberry School an opportunity to look closely at what our stakeholders are saying about what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

In February, parents of students in grades 4 and 7 will receive a survey package from Alberta Education in the mail. This package will provide instructions to complete the survey online as this is the quickest way for Alberta Education to receive a response. Parents may request a paper copy of the survey, and directions for this process are included in the mail out package. Students in grades 4 and 7 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school. All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly by mail or complete it online. The deadline for parent completion of the survey is February 24, 2023.

While the survey provides feedback on specific topics, please know that we always welcome your thoughts about the work we are doing at Blueberry School. If you have feedback, we welcome it as we are always striving to improve.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information

KINDERGARTEN



OPEN HOUSES

Please bring your child along with you to our in-person events!

Kindergarteners must be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2023.

JOIN OUR IN-PERSON SCHOOL EVENTS ON

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 16

6-7 pm



2023-2024 ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 13.
Must be completed for every student across the division, new or returning (Pre-K to Gr. 12).

Blueberry School
blueberry.psd.ca

Brookwood School
brookwood.psd.ca
incl. PSD Christian Program

Copperhaven School
copperhaven.psd.ca

Duffield School
duffield.psd.ca

Entwistle School
entwistle.psd.ca

Forest Green School
forestgreen.psd.ca

Graminia School
graminia.psd.ca

High Park School
highpark.psd.ca

École Meridian Heights School
meridianheights.psd.ca

Millgrove School
millgrove.psd.ca

Muir Lake School
muirlake.psd.ca

Parkland Village School
parklandvillage.psd.ca

Prescott Learning Centre
prescott.psd.ca

Stony Plain Central School
stonyplaincentral.psd.ca

Tomahawk School
tomahawk.psd.ca
Preschool/Kindergarten

Wabamun School
wabamun.psd.ca

French Immersion Kindergarten
Open houses are on February 15.
For details, visit broxtonpark.psd.ca or meridianheights.psd.ca.

Nature-based Kindergarten
Open house details will be posted on psd.ca/programs/programs-of-choice/nature-based-kindergarten once available.

WHERE IS MY PSD SCHOOL?
Use the School Locator Map on

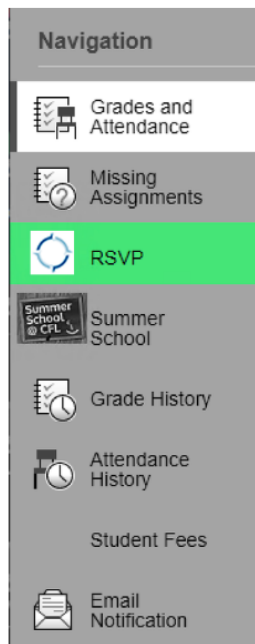
psd.ca

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 2023-2024 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 24, 2023. 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:

- **Monday, February 13, 2023**- Registration opens. The New Student Registration 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 (i.e. students currently enrolled in a PSD school) complete the registration process starting in [PowerSchool](#).
- **Friday, March 24, 2023 at 4:30pm**- Registration deadline. For further information, visit our [Registration](#) page.
- **Friday, June 23, 2023** - Bus pass deadline to make payment arrangements or pay-in-full.
- Bus passes and route numbers will be mailed to parents starting at the beginning of July.



Returning Parkland School Division Students

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.

New to PSD or Returning Evergreen and Private School Students Registering for Busing

Register online using the 2023-2024 New Online Registration Form if your student is not currently enrolled in a Parkland School Division school, or is registering for busing as an Evergreen Catholic or area private school student who uses PSD's Regional Transportation system. A link to the form will be posted in the Quick Links section of the website when registration opens on **Monday, February 13, 2023**.

During the registration process, it will be important to select the *2023-2024 School Year* to register for NEXT year. The option to register for 2022-2023 will remain for incoming students who wish to register for the balance of this current school year.

Please note: The 2022-2023 New Student Registration form is still open and accepting registrations for the current school year. The 2022-2023 form cannot be used to register for 2023-2024. When registering, please make sure to select the correct school year in the drop down menu for the field 'Select School Year'.

Complete information on the registration process can be found on our [Registration](#) page.

Upcoming Dates

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan 30th | PD Day - No School for Students |
| Jan 31st - Feb 2nd | Book Fair |
| Feb 1st - 2nd | Parent-Teacher Interviews |
| Feb 1st | Jr Boys Basketball vs Woodhaven |
| Feb 2nd | Gr. 4 Play Parkland |
| Feb 7th | Sr Boys Basketball @ Copperhaven |
| Feb 7th | Sr Girls Basketball @ Meridian Heights |
| Feb 9th - 10th | Teachers' Convention - No school |
| Feb 13th | Registration for the 2023-24 school year begins |
| Feb 13th | School Council Meeting 6:30pm in the library |
| Feb 14th | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 14th | Sr Girls Basketball vs Muir Lake |
| Feb 15th | Jr Boys Basketball vs Graminia |
| Feb 16th | Ski Club |
| Feb 16th | Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 Play Parkland |
| Feb 16th | Kindergarten Open House |
| Feb 17th | PD Day - No school for students |
| Feb 20th | Family Day - No school |
| Feb 22nd | Pink Shirt Day |
| Feb 22nd | Jr Boys Basketball vs JP II |
| Feb 23rd | Gr. 4 Play Parkland |
| Mar 1st | Kindergarten In-School Field Trip |
| Mar 2nd | Gr. 4 Play Parkland |
| Mar 9th | Gr. 3 and Gr. 5 Play Parkland |

IMPORTANT - PARKING LOT SAFETY! - Please read

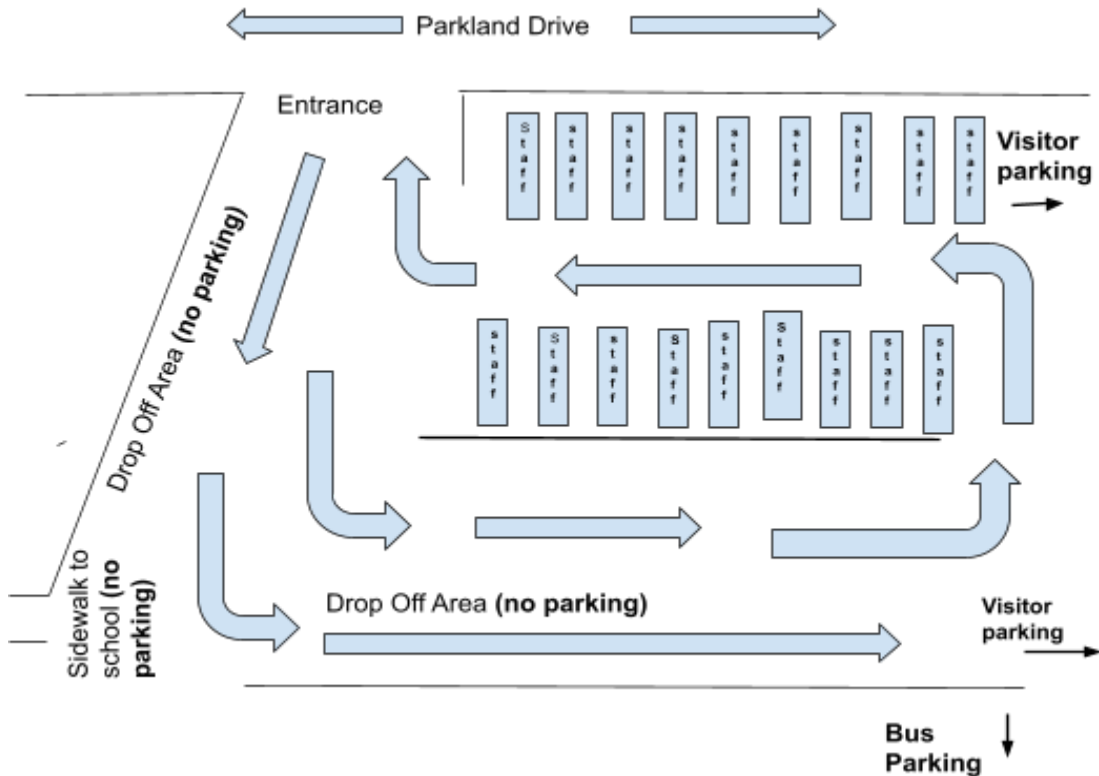
Please be mindful of posted signs and avoid parking in the “no parking” drop off area. If you are dropping off your children, please go around to the drop off area (see BELOW), and then continue around the parking lot to exit. **Please don't make u-turns at the entrance after you drop your children off.**

Our front parking lot goes in a “one-way” direction. Please be mindful of students and staff who are trying to cross the parking lot to get to and from the school, as it is now dark in the mornings and it's hard to see people walking. If you are parking to come in with your children, please use the far west side of the front (south) parking lot to park, after the designated staff parking spots (there is no parking in the drop-off area). The back parking lot (where the buses come in), is closed to vehicles while the buses are there (arrival and dismissal times). Also be mindful of the handicap parking stall by the gate.

We would also like to remind our community that parking three vehicles deep in the visitor parking is a safety concern. Please do not block vehicles during pick up time.

Thank you for your support in making our parking lot a safe environment!

Parking Lot



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will be holding our next round of parent-teacher interviews on February 1 and 2. This round, we will be offering one day for virtual interviews and one for in-person. Virtual interviews will be on Feb. 1 and in-person will be on Feb. 2. If you book a virtual interview, a link will be shared with you from your child's teacher, prior to the interview, via email. We look forward to sharing student success and next steps in learning with you!

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.

School Fees

[School fees](#) are added to your child's Powerschoolaccount. Fees can be paid with a credit card online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal <https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html>. You can also see any fees that are added, such as option fees, field trips as well as your account balance. Fees are posted to the website. Feel free to contact the office if you need further assistance.

Visiting Blueberry

To ensure our school day runs smoothly, we ask that you contact the office if you need to drop off a student after bell time in the morning. If a pick up is needed mid-day, parents/guardians can call the main office and the student will meet them there. All visitors are required to check in at the office.

Save the Dates

Please stay informed using our [school calendar](#), but also note some important year end dates:

- May 15: Grd 9 PAT English Language Arts Part A
- May 17: Grd 6 PAT English Language Arts Part A
- June 20: Grd 6 & 9 PAT English Language Arts Part B
- June 21: National Indigenous People's Day
- June 22: Grd 6 & 9 PAT Math Part A (Mental Math Portion)
- June 23: Grd 6 & 9 PAT Math Part B
- June 26: Grd 6 & 9 PAT Social Studies
- June 27: Grd 6 & 9 PAT Science
- June 29: Junior High Awards (am) and Grade 9 Farewell (pm) *Farewell will end in time for buses

Provincially Mandated Grades 1–4 Literacy and Numeracy Screening Assessments

As you may be aware the Government of Alberta has mandated [provincial assessments](#) for literacy and numeracy for students in grades 1-4. Assessments were administered in PSD schools for Grades 2, 3 and at risk Grade 4 students in September. Grade 1 assessments are being administered in January. For more information please see the [The Parent/Guardian Question and Answer Sheet](#) regarding the grades 1 to 3 mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments initiative.

Counselling Corner - Mrs. Granson-Heise

At Blueberry School, we recently acknowledged Bell Let's Talk Day, which funds Canadian mental health initiatives. Even though there is a day set aside with a mental health focus, it is important to remember that mental health is important all year long. To help with family connection and starting conversations, here are a few conversation starters that might be helpful.

Reaching Out

- “How have you been doing? Do you want to talk about what’s been on your mind?”
- “I’ve noticed... How are you feeling?”
- “Has anything happened recently that you want to talk about?”
- “I’m worried about you.”

Even if the person doesn't want to talk or doesn't think there is a problem, knowing that you care and that they can approach you may open up a conversation and help them feel less alone.

Listening

Listening to someone and giving them a space to be heard is often one of the best things you can do for someone who is facing a mental health challenge.

- “I’m here for you.”
- “I would like to hear more about what’s been going on for you.”
- “When is a good time to talk?”

It's our tendency to jump to problem solving when we want to help, but slowing down and just being with the person gives them a chance to feel connected and think about what would be most helpful for them.

Athletics

Intramurals

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



Basketball

Senior Girls and Boys play Tuesdays.

Junior Boys play Wednesdays.

Please contact your child's coach with any questions.

Senior Boys Coach - karen.lasuik@psd.ca

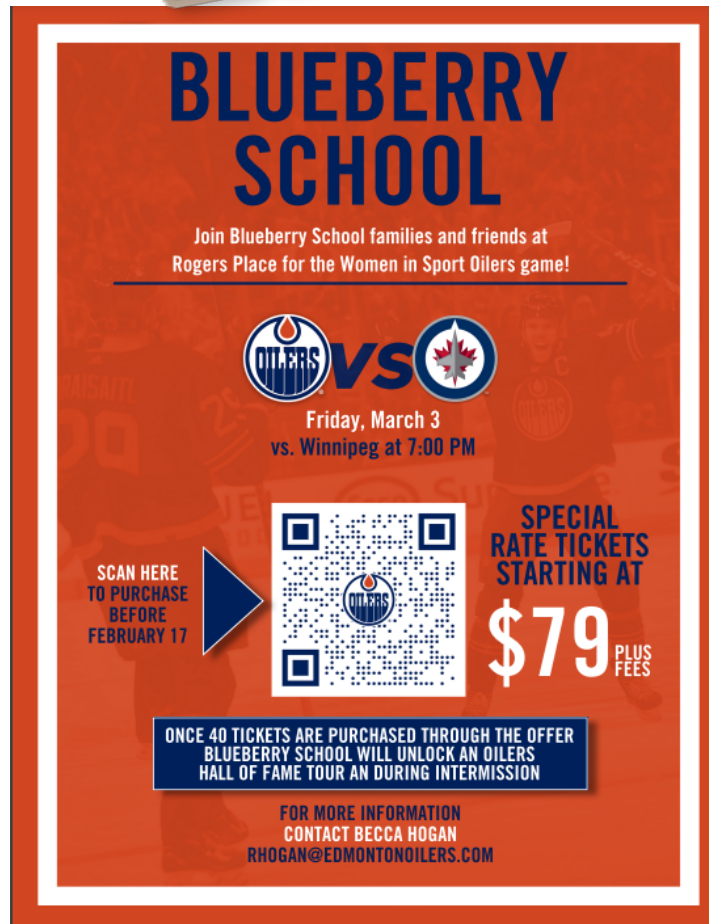
Senior Girls Coach - alice.baksa@psd.ca

Jr Boys Coach - [Christina Greaves](#)

A huge thank you to Mrs. Greaves who is coaching our Jr Boys basketball team. We appreciate our volunteers who help provide rich opportunities to our students.

Thank you to our Jr Boys Referees - Ian Palister and Dax Curry-Punk for their dedication and commitment!

Thank you to our student scorekeepers for giving their time to make games run smoothly.




BLUEBERRY SCHOOL

Join Blueberry School families and friends at Rogers Place for the Women in Sport Oilers game!

OILERS VS W

Friday, March 3
vs. Winnipeg at 7:00 PM

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE BEFORE FEBRUARY 17



SPECIAL RATE TICKETS STARTING AT \$79 PLUS FEES

ONCE 40 TICKETS ARE PURCHASED THROUGH THE OFFER BLUEBERRY SCHOOL WILL UNLOCK AN OILERS HALL OF FAME TOUR AN DURING INTERMISSION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BECCA HOGAN
RHOGAN@EDMONTONOILERS.COM

Please note this is **not a school fundraiser, but an optional opportunity for families to attend an Oilers game at reduced ticket rate.*

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

Blueberry School Council

Our next meeting will be held in person in the library on **February 13th at 6:30pm**. You can also join us online using this link: <http://meet.google.com/jpo-bhfa-wjb> Everyone is welcome, please come and have your voice heard and learn more about our amazing school.



Blueberry Fundraising

Join us in person for our next meeting on February 27th, 2023 at 7:00pm.



BLUEBERRY SCHOOL
Fundraising
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2022-2023

Little Caesars Pizza Kits

Order online -click here

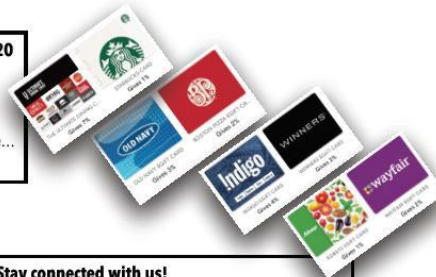


Fill out "new customer sign up" section.
Choose your pizza and bread kits and cookie dough!
Online orders must be placed by **February 5th**.
Paper order forms need to be sent to office by **February 3rd**.
Pizza Kit Pick Up @ the school the week of Feb. 20th.
More info to follow!

FlipGive FEBRUARY

www.flipgive.com/f/429820

Buy e-gift cards to places that you shop at regularly...
or shop hundreds of brands online...
And earn \$\$\$ for our school!!



Stay connected with us!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee
E-mail: 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. We will 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.

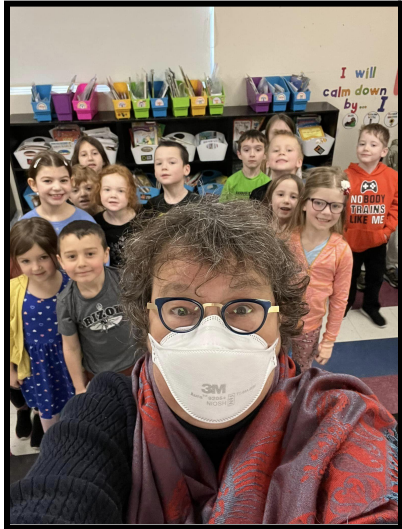
Ordering Lunch Online:



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.

Photo Album



Special Visitors to Grade One
Trustee Hennig & Senator Simons









Sometimes I feel like a Fox