

May 2023



Message from Administration

Blueberry School
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T7Z 1Y6

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blueberry.absence@psd.ca

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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

Mental Health Awareness Week

The onset of spring brings renewal and rejuvenation, key themes in both our environmental and personal well-being. Fittingly, May 1st-7th 2023 is Mental Health Awareness week, a time to promote and understand personal strategies to support well-being. As a school community, we will be taking part in classroom and school wide events to recognize the importance of positive mental health..



Counsellor Update

We are excited to welcome Miss Farah Merchant as our counsellor at Blueberry! Miss Farah brings experience as both a teacher and counsellor to our school and is passionate about supporting students and staff. If you would like your child to access counselling services at school, please speak to your homeroom teacher. These services are very popular, and we will prioritize based on need.

Website:

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

Calendar:

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

Facebook:

<facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/>

Upcoming Events

May and June promise to be busy times at our school as we prepare for school wide events, field trips, PATs and final exams. Please watch for communication from your child(ren)'s teacher and the school calendar, for important upcoming dates, and reach out at any time.

Student Placements 2023-24

Current teaching teams are now creating class lists for 2023-24. This is a complex undertaking, based on many different factors including work habits, academics, social connections and relationships. For these reasons, individual requests for classroom placements will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed. If you will be moving out of our area, or are a family new to Blueberry, please contact the office so that we can plan accordingly. Families will be informed of their child(ren)'s teacher in August 2023 via Powerschool.

Combined Classes

Combined class organizations result from imbalances in the number of students in particular grade levels. In today's reality that often means that schools include some combined classes. Many areas of the student's growth are considered in a student's placement such as social skill development, leadership potential, personal initiative, and academics. Consideration is also given to previous placement in a combined class. Please rest assured that if your child is placed in a combined class, the grade appropriate curriculum that is prescribed by the Ministry of Education will be taught.

Community Coaches 2023-24

Are you interested in coaching an extra curricular team for the 2023-24 school year? With the assistance of a staff representative, we are looking for community members who can use their skills and passion for sport to enhance our school community. If you are interested in these opportunities, [please complete this form](#). Please note that community coaches are required to complete [a current criminal record check and vulnerable sector check](#).

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to email, call or arrange a meeting in person. We look forward to hearing from you.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information



Parkland School Division manages one of the largest student transportation systems in the province, serving not only our division but also Evergreen Catholic School Division and local area private schools. Our drivers operate over 150 contracted buses, providing a safe ride to and from school for over 7,000 students. Collectively, our buses travel more than 19,000 kilometres every school day.

To all of our bus operators, today and every day—thanks for going the extra mile!

Registration Information

- **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.
- 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

May 3rd	Hats on for Mental Health
May 4th	Gr 6 Second Round Immunization
May 5th	School Assembly led by Grade 2 Students
May 8th	School Council Meeting @ 6:30 library
May 11th	JH Advanced Theatre Option Field Trip
May 12th	Gr 3 Clay Masks
May 15th	Gr 9 PAT Part A English Language Arts
May 16th	JH Track and Field - Duffield
May 17th	Gr 6 PAT Part A English Language Arts
May 18th	JH Animal Health Option Field Trip
May 19th	PD Day - No School
May 22nd	Victoria Day - No School
May 24th -May 25th	JH Drama Production (Wizard of Oz)
May 25th	Kinder T/TH Family Picnic/Knopper
May 26th	Grade 1 Field Trip Chickakoo
May 26th	JH Track and Field - Stony Plain Central
May 26th	Kinder MWb Family Picnic (Knopper)
May 29th	Kinder MW - Grade 4 Class Photos
May 29th	Kokum Violet Visit
May 30th	Kinder TTh - Gr 5 to Gr 9 Class Photos
May 30th	Gr 4- 6 SPC Track and Field
June 2nd	Try-Me Triathlon
June 29th	Jr. High Year End Awards (9:00am) Grade 9 Farewell (1:00pm) Last Day of School for Students

“Wizard of Oz” Jr High Musical

Advanced Musical Theatre students are working hard to bring the magic of a classic story to the stage with our play, “Wizard of Oz”. Actors are memorizing lines and songs, backstage crew are creating sets and props, and tech team are getting sound cues ready along with making movie trailers and posters to advertise the play dates. It truly is a team effort with many moving parts - on stage, as well as behind the scenes - and the results will be a wonderful production!

“Wizard of Oz” Performance Dates:

We will give five performances of Wizard of Oz. Here are our play dates:

Wednesday, May 24th - 8:30 am: Morning Performance for Div 1 elementary students

Wednesday, May 24th - 12:45 pm: Afternoon Matinee for Div 2 elementary students

Wednesday, May 24th - 6 pm: *Evening Performance for parents and guests

Thursday, May 25th - 12:45 pm: Afternoon Matinee for Div 3 junior highs students

Thursday, May 25th - 6 pm: *Evening Performance for parents and guests

*Evening performances: All actors, backstage crew, and tech team members are to be at school by **5:00 pm** to get mic checks, costumes, and cast pictures. Doors to the gym open at **5:30 pm**.

Tickets

To offset the costs of scripts, music, and rights to perform a play, we will be selling tickets to our musical production. Each Advanced Musical Theatre student will receive 2 complimentary tickets. Additional tickets can be purchased through Power School and at the doors to the gym.

- Matinee 12:45 performances - \$2 each on Power School (or \$3 if purchased at the door)
- Evening 6:00 pm performances - \$4 each on PowerSchool (or \$5 if purchased at the door).

Advance tickets may be purchased on Power School until **Wednesday, May 17th**. Advance tickets can be picked up at the office on Thursday, May 18th or Tuesday, May 23rd or sent home with your child.

It's time for
Class Photos!

Blueberry School
K, Gr. 4 May 29th

Class Photos will be available online 4 - 8 weekdays after photo day.
SmartOrders.ca



Bring your best smile!



Smart Photography Ltd.
#5, 10121 - 82 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1Z5
T. 780-944-0800 TF. 1-877-838-0800
www.smartphotography.ca
info@smartphotography.ca

It's time for
Class Photos!

Blueberry School
K, Gr. 5-9 May 30th

Class Photos will be available online 4 - 8 weekdays after photo day.
SmartOrders.ca



Bring your best smile!



Smart Photography Ltd.
#5, 10121 - 82 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1Z5
T. 780-944-0800 TF. 1-877-838-0800
www.smartphotography.ca
info@smartphotography.ca

If the weather does not cooperate for the outdoor class picture days, photos will be taken in the gym.

Junior Farewell Photo Day is Here!

Individual portraits will be taken at:

Blueberry School

May 30th, 2023



Please contact Smart Photography directly with any questions.

10121-82 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 1Z5 780.944.0800
info@smartphotography.ca www.smartphotography.ca

Hats On! For Mental Health

Blueberry will be participating in Hats On! for Mental Health Day on May 3rd to raise awareness for the importance of mental health. On May 3rd, Albertans are invited to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Students will also participate in lessons to build understanding of mental health and reducing the stigma associated with mental illnesses.



Visual Arts Celebration

Parkland's Visual Arts celebration will be hosted this year at Memorial Composite High School. The public is invited to view student artwork from around the division on May 9th and May 10th from 4:00pm-7:30pm.

Transportation Funding Changes for 2024-25

The Alberta Government is changing school busing in the province by adjusting the distance criteria used to determine whether a student is eligible for transportation effective September 1, 2024. Please see this [website post](#) for additional information.

Summer School at Connections for Learning

Parkland School Division offers Summer School for current and incoming high school students at [Connections For Learning](#). Students over the age of 18 are also welcome to register, and select courses are open to students who have completed Grade 7. Take one of our wide range of available courses, and:

- Upgrade your marks
- Make room in your high school schedule for courses that previously wouldn't fit
- Choose a course delivery method that suits your learning style
- Explore exciting career opportunities
- Earn high school credits—even on the job or at summer camp!

Registration for Summer School opens on Monday, April 3, 2023, and will remain open until Friday, June 23, 2023.

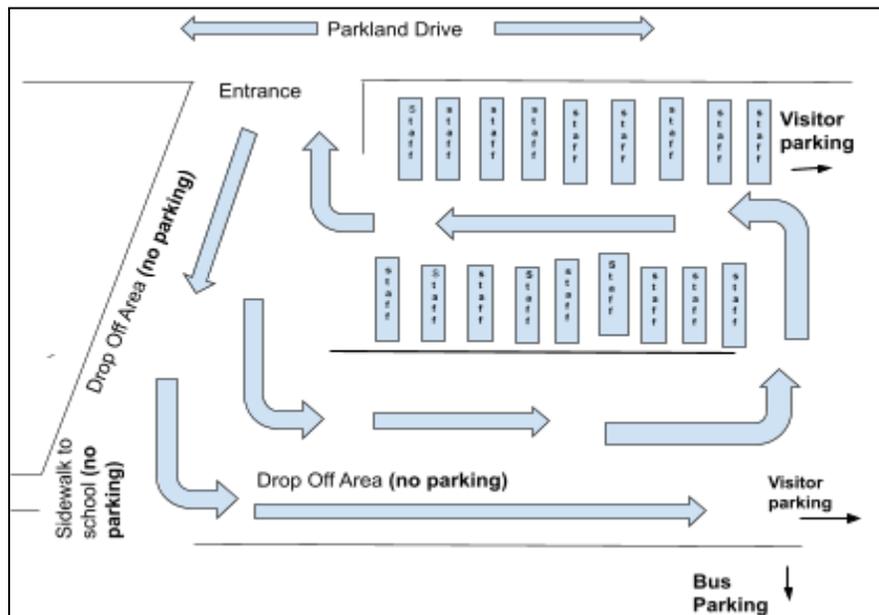
IMPORTANT - PARKING LOT SAFETY! - Please read

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!



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 Powerschool account. 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, 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 Date

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

Athletics

Intramurals

Jr High Intraumurals have concluded for the year. Students will be enjoying the outdoors for the remainder of the school year. Thank you to Mrs. Sharratt and Mrs. Maycher for organizing our intramurals throughout the season.

Sun Run

On April 15th, 35 Jr High students participated in the Vancouver Sun Run, Canada's largest 10km race. Through a lot of rain, students showed their dedication to athletics and represented Blueberry as excellent ambassadors! Special thanks to our supervisors: Mrs. Dawes, Ms. Masterson and Mrs. Visscher.

Badminton

Junior and Senior teams have been selected and the season has begun. Good luck to all of our athletes.



Track and Field

Both Elementary (Grds 4-6) and Jr High Track and Field dates are on the horizon. Thank you to Mrs. Kleparchuk (Elementary) and Ms. Lasuik (Jr High) for leading our track teams!



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.

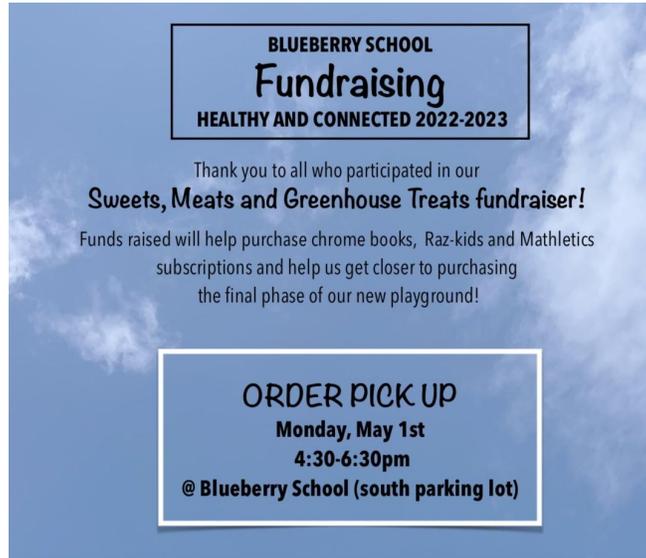
School Council & Fundraising Committee

Blueberry School Council

Our next meeting will be held in person on **May 15th at 6:30pm**. You can also join virtually 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 online for our next meeting on May 8th , 2023 at 7:00pm.



BLUEBERRY SCHOOL
Fundraising
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2022-2023

Thank you to all who participated in our
Sweets, Meats and Greenhouse Treats fundraiser!

Funds raised will help purchase chrome books, Raz-kids and Athletics subscriptions and help us get closer to purchasing the final phase of our new playground!

ORDER PICK UP
Monday, May 1st
4:30-6:30pm
@ Blueberry School (south parking lot)



Ordering school supplies for next year?
Make labeling easy for the upcoming school year with Oliver's labels and help support our school too!
www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool

Stay connected with us!



BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee
blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

Hot Lunch

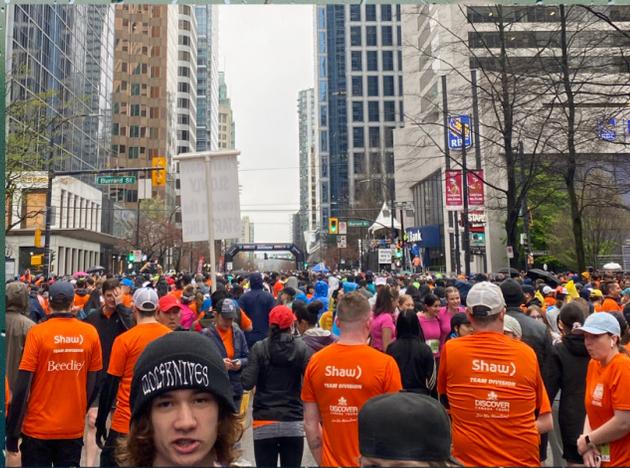
Blueberry School provides a healthy, nutritious meal to our students through our hot lunch program. Hot lunch runs three days a week - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from October to May. Students are required to pre-order and pre-pay for these meals online. **Contact Jennifer Fiddler at jenniferdavina@hotmail.com or 780-886-7344** if you require assistance or have any questions about the hot lunch program. 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

Photo Album

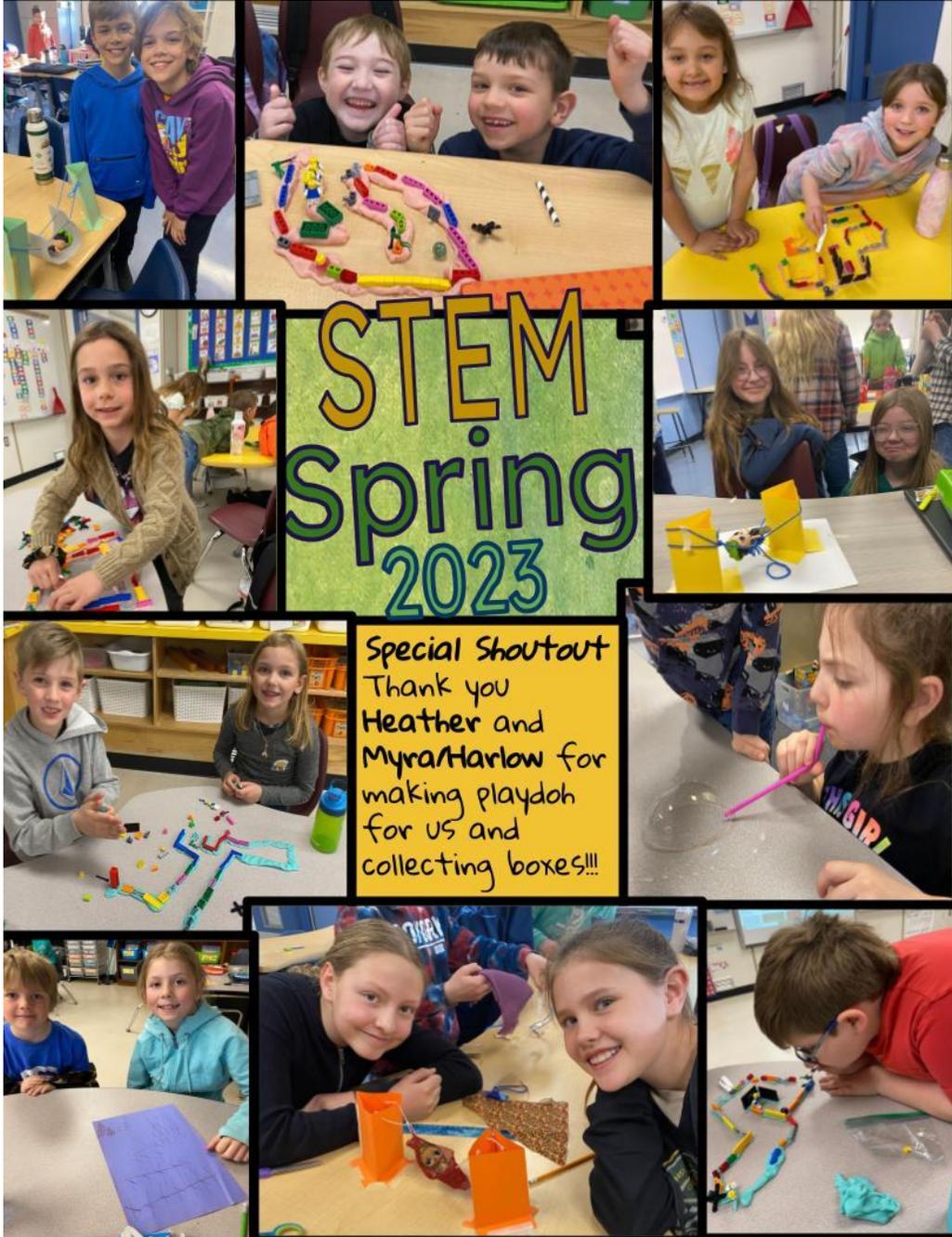
PSD
was
recognized
as the
largest
school
group
outside of
Vancouver at
the race!



"Sun" Run 2023

There are always stories and memories
that come with the rain





STEM Stars of the Month



Jackson C. and Townes M. for going above and beyond with their Hammock by leveling up until it held a water bottle!!



Chase S. and Blake H for creating a complicated maze with special attributes like a tunnel and mini stumbling blocks!

May



A big Thank you to Karo Dental
for the great Presentation





Kindergarten



Puppet Tree House