

September 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:

Welcome to a new school year!

We are so thrilled to welcome back our K-9 students with approximately 580 students attending Blueberry this year. The first few weeks of school have been filled with amazing learning opportunities which truly meet Blueberry's tagline: Supporting all learners to meet their future.

A few new initiatives are in place at Blueberry this year to deepen our community connection within our school building. On the first day of school, students were introduced to our school-wide focus on kindness and understanding that Kindness is Key! Each week we will draw names of students who have been "caught being kind" and provide a class prize to the chosen winner. We are looking forward to recognizing acts of kindness throughout the year. Check out [this video](#) about the science of kindness.

This year we are also introducing partner classes in Grades 1-6. Once a week, classes will come together for a buddy activity that is focused on connection and academic learning. Ask your child who their buddy class is!

Mrs. Twyla Badry
twyla.badry@psd.ca

Head Secretary:
Mercy Rosborough

Secretary:
Tracy Davis

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

Facebook:
facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/

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!

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

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 8	Pancake Breakfast
Sept. 14th	Cross Country Race #1 @ Blueberry
Sept. 15th	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 18th -23rd	Book Fair
Sept. 18th	School Council Meeting @ 6:30pm-7:30pm
Sept. 20th	Meet the Teacher
Sept. 21st	Cross Country Race #2 @JUBILEE PARK
Sept. 28th	Cross Country Race #3 @ ENTWISTLE
Sept. 29th	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 30th	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
Oct. 2nd	Picture Day Kinder M/W - Gr1 - Gr4
Oct. 3rd	Picture Day Kinder T/Th - Gr5 - Gr9
Oct. 4th	Cross Country Race #4 Woodhaven
Oct. 6th	PD Day/ No School

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](#) 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](#) 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

Please note supervision begins at 7:45am. There is no supervision prior to this time.

Blueberry Staff

Principal: Mrs. Visscher
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Badry

Office Staff:

Mrs. Rosborough (Head Secretary)
Mrs. Davis (Secretary)

Kindergarten:

Mrs. Campbell (MWa/TTH)
Mrs. Weidman MWb

Grade 1:

Mrs. Karamujic (1A)
Ms. Morrison (1B)
Ms. Paton (1C)

Grade 2:

Mrs. Dilling (2A)
Mrs. Engel-Wood/Mrs. English (2B)
Mrs. Knopper-Singleton (2C)

Grade 3:

Mrs. Charleson (3A)
Ms. Ducholke (3B)
Mrs. Knopper-Singleton (3C)

Grade 4:

Ms. Proctor (4A)
Mr. Roth (4B)

Grade 5:

Mrs. Heemeryck/Miss Hemeyer (5A)
Mrs. Kleparchuk (5B)
Mrs. Krasnikoff/Mrs. Robinson (5C)

Grade 6:

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

Grade 7:

Mrs. Sawchuk (7A)
Mrs. Tofsrud (7B)
Mrs. Sharratt (7C)

Grade 8:

Ms. Abbas-Nejad (8A)
Mr. Weinhandl (8B)
Mr. Mireault (8C)

Grade 9:

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

Music:

Mrs. King

School Counsellor

Ms. Merchant

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Ropert
Mrs. Procter
Mrs. Braucht
Mrs. Antal
Mrs. Podhaniuk
Mrs. McIntosh
Mrs. Sykes
Mrs. Lancaster
Mrs. Pederson
Mrs. Brown

Custodial Staff:

Mrs. Schwab
Mrs. Rieland
Ms. Lynch

Meet the Staff Night

We hope that you'll join us for our Meet the Staff night on Wednesday, September 20th from 4:30-6:30pm. Teachers will be explaining how to access Google Classroom, as well as some of the routines in the classrooms. Families with last names beginning A-M will visit classrooms from 5pm-5:30pm and families with last names N-Z will visit classrooms 5:30pm-6pm. Hot dogs will be available to families (one per person please) from 4:30pm-6pm. Powerschool presentations will take place in the large gym at 4:30pm and 6pm. Be sure to visit our Book Fair during the evening!

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

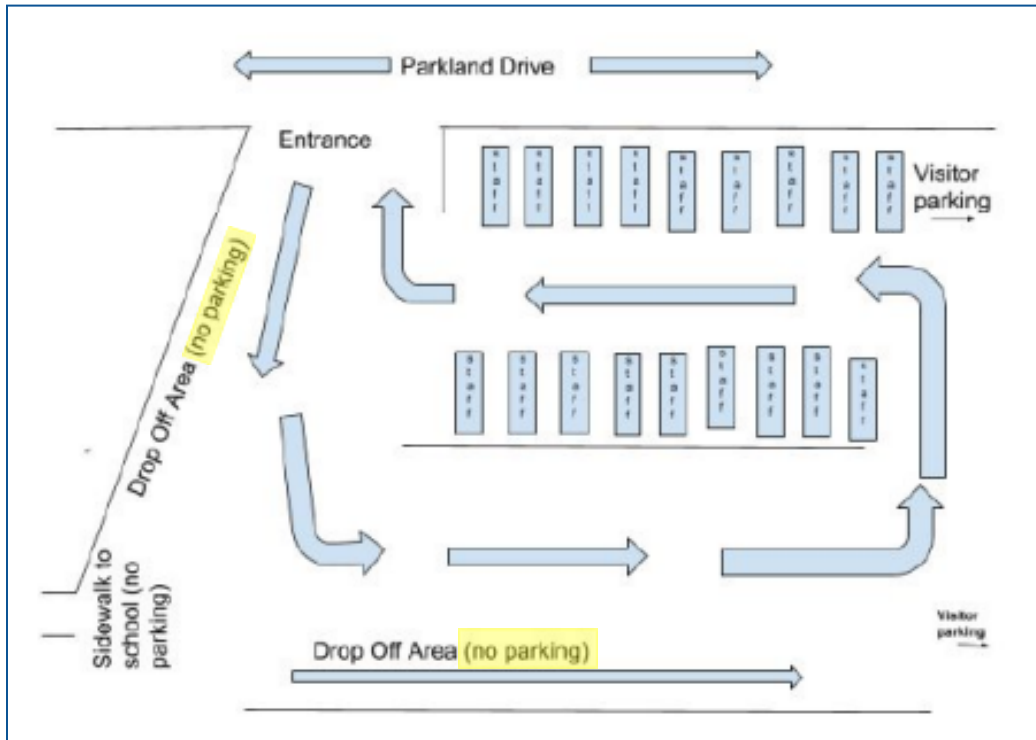
Students enter and exit the school through their designated doors. Exterior doors are locked during instructional hours. Students who arrive after 8:01 are asked to enter through the main entrance.

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.

7. There is **no parking permitted in the North parking lot** during bus pick up times (7:45am-8am and 2:45pm-4:30pm). Please do not park in the North parking lot to pick up students at the end of the school day as you will have to wait for buses to depart.



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 School provides access to counselling 3 days a week with our school counsellor Ms. Farah Merchant. If you would like your child to access these services, please speak to their homeroom teacher. These supports are in high demand, and we do our best to prioritize needs within the school.

Code of Conduct

Please take a moment to review [Blueberry's Student Code of Conduct](#) with your child. Classroom teachers have also highlighted this document with students during the first week of school.

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, to 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 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. Please join us in wearing an orange shirt on Friday, September 29th as schools and communities come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

School Busses

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

Cross Country Run Coach: Mrs. Charleson

Upcoming Cross Country run dates

Race #1: - September 14 - Blueberry

Race #2: - September 21 - Living Waters (at Jubilee Park)

Race #3: - September 28 - Entwistle

Race #4: - October 5 - Woodhaven

Race #5: - October 12 - Meridian Heights

Race #6 - October 19 - High Park

Our Sr and Jr Volleyball teams have now been announced and seeding games begin the week of September 18th. Good luck to all our players.

Sr Boys Coach - Mr. Mireault

Jr Boys Coach - Mrs. Robinson

Sr Girls Coach - Coach Krystal

Jr Girls Coach - Coach Nicole

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 18th 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 Committee

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.

For more information, email: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

-All are welcome-

SEPTEMBER

25
7pm

GOOGLE MEET CODE: hnm-yemf-vyw

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.

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.

You can create an account or log in to the website platform Munch a Lunch to order and pay for school lunches. All previous Munch a Lunch accounts are carried forward each year with the same login information.

Ordering will be open to parents starting the first week of September. Please follow the instructions below to register and log in.

Ordering Lunch Online

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



Pancake Breakfast
September 8, 2023



Thank you Volunteers for your help with our start-up activities!!

Cross Country Run
September 14, 2023

