

October 2023



## Message from Administration

Blueberry School  
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Parkland County  
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Principal:  
Mrs. Michelle Visscher  
[michelle.visscher@psd.ca](mailto:michelle.visscher@psd.ca)

Assistant Principal:  
Mrs. Twyla Badry

September brought us some incredible opportunities to reconnect with the community and learn in authentic and intentional ways.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who have been in the building supporting learning and enhancing our welcome back activities. Please see our photo section at the end of the newsletter for some of these events.

As we begin the 2023-24 school year, we'd like to draw your attention to our [Development Plan](#). This plan outlines our focus and goals for the year. Many of the baseline assessments in reading, writing and math set the stage for our school goals and allow us to program effectively for all students while ensuring academic growth and success for all.

During the week of September 25 - 29th, Blueberry students participated in learning activities centered on Truth and Reconciliation. Our older students acted as leaders in many of these activities, partnering with younger grades to build community and share insights. This is one example of our

[twyla.badry@psd.ca](mailto:twyla.badry@psd.ca)

**Head Secretary:**  
Mercy Rosborough

**Secretary:**  
Tracy Davis

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

**Facebook:**  
[facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/](https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/)

Development Plan in action in relation to *Outcome 5: PSD Staff Expand Develop and Apply Indigenous Foundational Knowledge*. For more information on the Day for Truth and Reconciliation, please use [this link](#).

Student Leadership has been evident at Blueberry School throughout these past weeks. We want to celebrate some incredible examples of student commitment to community including:

- Grade 4-6 students leading the Terry Fox assembly
- Grade 7-9 Leadership Option students volunteering as office assistants, classroom helpers, recycle leads and organizing school wide events
- Jr High students volunteering to assist with reffing and scorekeeping volleyball games
- Jr High student group monitoring and stocking our Nutrition Nook fridge
- Grade 6 students acting as helpers in Grade 1 & 2 classrooms during lunch eating time

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

Oct. 2	Picture Day Kinder M/W - Gr.4
Oct. 3	Picture Day Kinder T/TH, Gr5-Gr9
Oct. 4	Cross Country Run @ Woodhaven
Oct. 6	PD Day/ No School
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 10	School Council Meeting @ 6:30 in the library
Oct. 12	Cross Country Race @ Meridian Heights
Oct. 13	Basile's Pizza Fundraising Lunch

Oct. 19	Cross Country Race @ High Park
Oct. 20	Grade 6 Bunch Meadows Field Trip
Oct. 24 - 25	Parent Teacher Interviews
Oct. 26	Monster Mash K-6 Event
Oct. 27	McDonald's Fundraising Hot Lunch
Oct 31	Halloween Parade after lunch
Oct. 31	Jr High Halloween Dance
Nov. 2	Grade 6 Round One Immunization

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will be holding our first parent-teacher interviews of the year, beginning the week of October 23rd. Starting the morning of Wednesday October 11th, you will be able to book an appointment using the [instructions here](#). More details will be shared closer to October 11th via School Messenger. As in years past we will offer a hybrid of online and in person interviews.

If you have questions about your child's progress at any time, please reach out to their homeroom teacher.

### PD Day - October 6th, 2023

Friday, October 6th is a Professional Development Day for staff. There will be no school for students. This will make for an extra long Thanksgiving weekend, as there is also no school on October 9th. Happy Thanksgiving!

### Monster Mash & Jr High Halloween Dance

We are looking forward to offering our Monster Mash evening for students Grades K-6 on October 26th from 5pm-7pm. This evening charges a minimal entry fee and acts as a fundraiser for our school. ***Please note that children must have a parent/adult supervisor with them to attend.*** There will also be food available for pre-purchase from our fundraising committee (more details will be shared closer to the date). If you would like to help volunteer for this event, please contact Mercy Rosborough [mercy.rosborough@psd.ca](mailto:mercy.rosborough@psd.ca) or call the office 780-963-3625.

The Jr High Halloween dance for Grade 7-9 students will be held on Oct 31st during options classes and will end in time for regular dismissal. A concession will be available and run by our Leadership Option students.

### 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](mailto:blueberry.absence@psd.ca)

If your child is in grade 1-9, you can access activities for them to do while they are home via 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.

## Grade 9 Farewell Hot lunches Fundraising

Our Grade 9 students are offering hot lunches to support fundraising efforts for Farewell and year end celebration. Please order through your powerschool account under new items. No cash will be accepted. Make sure to check out and pay for your order as it does not stay in your cart.

## School Messenger

Often if we have a message that needs to be sent to the whole school or an entire homeroom, we use an email messaging system. We have heard, however, that some email accounts are filtering these messages to spam. If you know of a family who is not receiving messages from the school (such as this newsletter), please ask them to check their spam or to let the office know.





## Athletics



### Cross Country Running

Thurs, Oct. 4 @ Woodhaven/Brookwood  
Thurs, Oct. 12 @ Meridian Heights  
Thurs, Oct. 19 @ High Park School

#### School Coaches

Mrs. Charleson [cindy.charleson@psd.ca](mailto:cindy.charleson@psd.ca)  
Miss Ducholke [olivia.ducholke@psd.ca](mailto:olivia.ducholke@psd.ca)

### Volleyball

Our volleyball season is in full swing with games and practices underway. If you have any questions please connect with the designated coaches.

Sr Boys Coach - Mr. Mireault [jesse.mireault@psd.ca](mailto:jesse.mireault@psd.ca)

Jr Boys Coach - Mrs. Robinson [trisha.wolfater@psd.ca](mailto:trisha.wolfater@psd.ca)

Sr Girls Coach - Coach Krystal\*

Jr Girls Coach - Coach Nicole\*

\*Please contact [michelle.visscher@psd.ca](mailto:michelle.visscher@psd.ca) if you need coach contact information regarding Sr and Jr Girls 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 Foundation

### School Council

Here is our first edition of the monthly [School Council Newsletter](#)! Please take a few moments to look through for all of the latest information and upcoming topics for meetings.

Blueberry School Council:

- Chair - Erin Craig
- Vice Chair - Jen Richens
- Secretary - *Open Position*
- Members at Large - Sarah Corker and Heather Bader-Kopp

Our next meeting will be held in person on October 10th at 6:30pm in the library. We are still looking to fill some vacancies - please consider joining us either in person or by clicking [this link](#) at the time of the meeting.

### 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](mailto:blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com).

The Blueberry Fundraising Committee is comprised of:

- Chair - Jill Degroot
- Vice Chair - Melinda Widrick
- Secretary - Shawna Kuhl
- Treasurer - Pamela Sheriff
- Playground Lead - Malinda Ferris
- Members at Large: Amanda Adams, Candis Bohn, Tatrina Mohr

Join us in person or virtually for our next meeting on October 23rd at 7pm. Join with [this link](#).

Did you know that we have a Blueberry School Fundraising Facebook Page? Stay connected with us on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>

## BLUEBERRY SCHOOL Fundraising HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2023-2024



Blueberry School Fundraising Committee is excited to start a new year of fundraising!

Our goal is to raise funds to keep our students *healthy and connected*. Money raised goes back to our school to purchase items that help our students flourish in all aspects. We will kick off our



fundraiser shortly! Ordering info will be sent out via email and posted on our Facebook page! We will also be helping out with **Monster Mash** once again! See you there!

**Have ideas? Want to join us? Please reach out!**

Connect with us on Facebook

or send us an e-mail:

[blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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](http://munchalunch.com/schools/blueberry).
2. Click the "Register Here" or "LogIn" 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](mailto:jenniferdavina@hotmail.com) or 780-886-7344 if you require assistance or have any questions about the hot lunch program.

## Comprehensive School Health Focus – Healthy Eating

As part of Blueberry's commitment to Comprehensive School Health, this year we are focusing on the domains of: Active Living, Healthy Eating, and Mental Well-being.

### Power Full Kids Program

We would like to acknowledge the President's Choice Children's Charity *Power Full Kids* program in providing support for food security at Blueberry School for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

These funds allow us to maintain access to food throughout the day via our "Nutrition Nook" fridge and other initiatives.



## Photo Album



Thank you for  
coming!!  
Meet the  
Teachers



**Terry Fox Assembly**

**Orange Shirt  
Day - Mrs.  
Weidman's  
Kindergarten  
Class**

