



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

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

Assistant Principal:  
Mrs. Twyla Badry  
[twyla.badry@psd.ca](mailto:twyla.badry@psd.ca)

Head Secretary:  
Mercy Rosborough

Secretary:  
Tracy Davis

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

Thank you to the many families who attended our virtual and in-person parent/teacher interviews. We would love your feedback. Please take [this quick survey](#) to let us know your thoughts on the format of interviews. If you have questions about your student's progress, or weren't able to attend an interview time, please reach out to their homeroom teacher.

We have an amazing community of student and adult volunteers! A huge thanks to our Jr High students in the Leadership Option and other Jr High students who gave of their time to decorate, organize and run games and the haunted house at our Monster Mash. We would also like to thank our many adult volunteers and the Fundraising Committee who organized, ran concession and admission tables, helped with the haunted house and made clean-up a breeze. A huge thank you to key organizers Mrs. deGroot and Mrs. Richens. A big shout out to Mrs. Maycher for organizing our leadership group! If you have suggestions on how we can improve this event, please contact the office. We would also like to acknowledge the families who donated treats for the games which made the evening extra sweet!



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



Thank you to our local sponsors who also generously donated to Monster Mash:

- Freson Bros
- Calahoo Meats Ltd
- Safeway
- Real Canadian Superstore

Our Jr High students celebrated Halloween in style with their Halloween Dance. Thank you to Mrs. Maycher for coordinating this event along with leadership students!

We are always interested in community feedback. If you would like to share your thoughts with us, please call the office to schedule a time to meet in person or send us an email to connect.

Michelle Visscher  
Principal

Twyla Badry  
Assistant Principal

## General Information

### Student Wellness – Attendance



In PSD, we help support families who need help getting their child(ren) to school. We know there are many factors that affect attendance:

- Parents' work schedule
- Transportation
- Family events
- Appointments

Often families don't realize how much school their child is missing and the impact that has on everyone. They are more behind than you think.

**1 DAY MISSED = 2 DAYS BEHIND**

	<p><b>19 or more days</b> Missing just <b>TWO</b> days every month can add up to <b>19</b> days in a school year. This is the equivalent of missing an ENTIRE MONTH of instructional days.</p>
	<p><b>10 to 18 days</b> Students who are absent an average of 15 days per year miss <b>1 YEAR'S WORTH</b> of school by their graduating year.</p>
	<p><b>9 or fewer absences</b> Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.</p>

A key factor for student success at school is consistent attendance. Attendance has a significant impact on both academic success, and the development of strong interpersonal relationships. There are many reasons why student attendance may fluctuate including, but not limited to, illness, vacations, and appointments.

If your child is struggling to come to school for any reason, please reach out to us so that we can provide the necessary support to get them to school regularly. Your child's classroom teacher will also have spoken to you about attendance concerns at parent teacher interviews or via email.

As a community, our focus is student success and well being. At the school we are committed to doing all that we can to support you and your child in their educational journey.

As an additional support to families, we will be hosting an evening regarding positive attendance strategies on November 20th during our School Council Meeting. Associate Superintendent Dr. Meg Miskolzie will join our conversation. All families are invited to attend either in person in the library or virtually from 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

Virtual Link: [meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo](https://meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo)

## Upcoming Dates

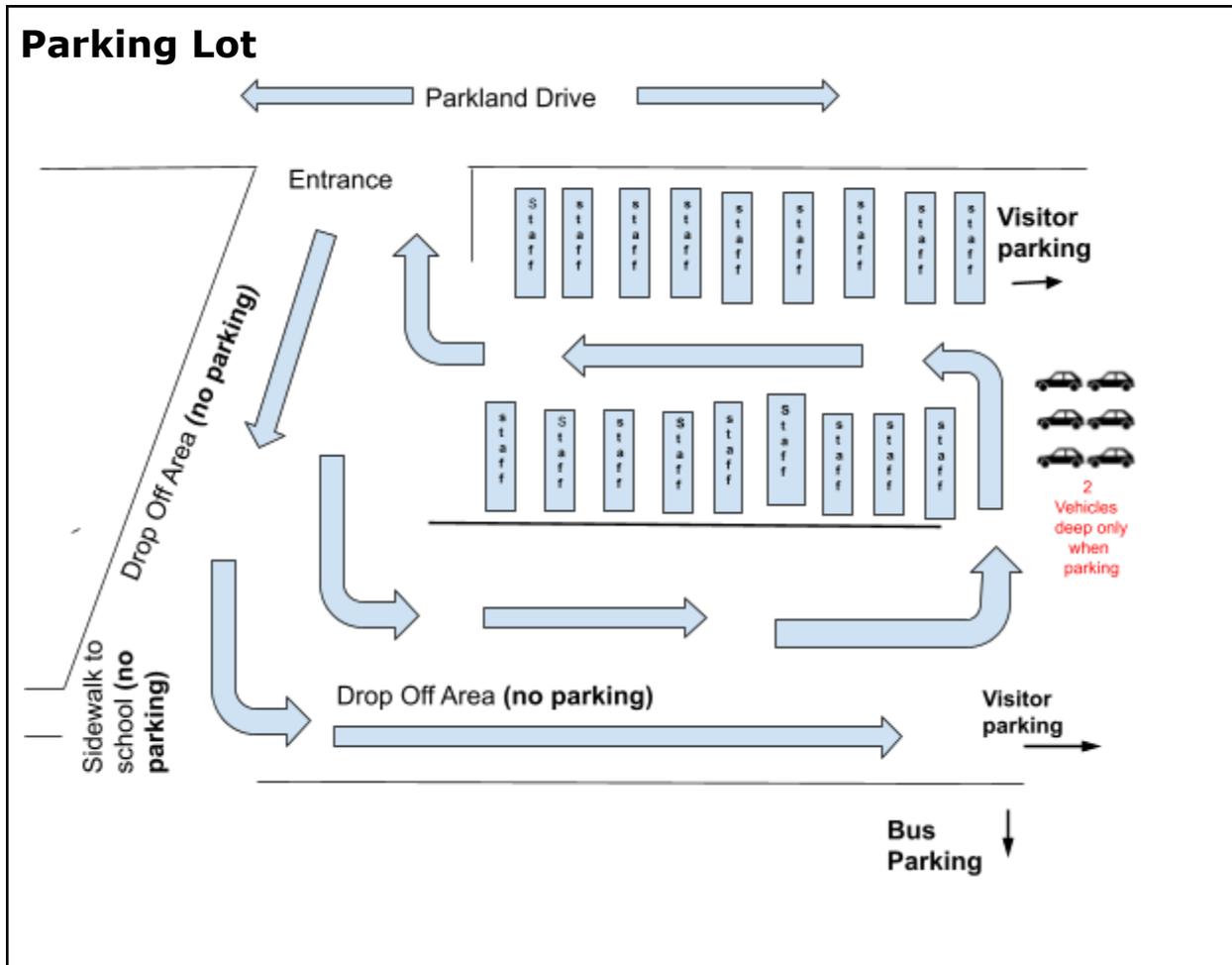
Nov. 2	Gr 6 Round One Immunization
Nov. 3	Grade 2 & 3 Field Trip - Horizon Stage
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 12-Nov 19	Fall Break
Nov 20	School Council Meeting @ 6:30 Library and Virtual
Nov. 24	Basile's Hot Lunch - Grade 9 Fundraising
Dec. 1	KFC Hot Lunch - Grade 9 Fundraising
Dec. 1	Grade 6 Field Trip / Telus World Of Science
Dec. 13	Grade 1, 3, 5 Winter Concert (matinee and evening)*
Dec. 14	Grade 2, 4, 6 Winter Concert (matinee and evening)*
Dec. 15	Kindergarten Winter Concert (matinee only)*

\*specific times and details for concerts will be shared closer to concert dates.



## PARKING LOT SAFETY! - UPDATED NOVEMBER 2023

We have noticed an increase of individuals parking “three-deep” in our far west end area parking. Please be aware that this is unsafe as it blocks vehicles and reduces turning radius for vehicles navigating the parking lot. Please DO NOT park in a row of three during pick up times.



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

## Remembrance Day

We will recognize Remembrance Day with an assembly on Friday, November 10th.

As part of our Remembrance Day Celebration we would like to cordially invite all local cadets, legionnaires, military and RCMP members in attire to serve as a visual presence for our students. Your commitment is greatly respected and we would like to show our appreciation. If you know of any local cadets, legionnaires, military and RCMP members who are able to attend please email [melanie.sharratt@psd.ca](mailto:melanie.sharratt@psd.ca). Please include: Name of person attending in uniform and Type of attire (military or RCMP or Cadet).

Also, all of our Blueberry Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs, etc. are encouraged to wear their uniform to school on Friday, November 10th. *Email is not required for these students in Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs, etc.* All students are encouraged to wear red on this day and to bring in a small donation for a poppy.

Parents/guardians are also invited to our Remembrance Day Celebration on Friday, November 10th at 10:30 am. If you have any questions please contact Melanie Sharratt at the school. Thank you!

## Fall Break

Nov. 10th is the last day of school before our week-long fall break. School will resume on Nov. 20th.

## Ski Club

Blueberry School will be having a Ski Club for students in **Grades 3 - 9**. Registration must be done online through Powerschool - [powerschool.psd.ca/public](https://powerschool.psd.ca/public). Registration starts on **November 6th** and will remain open until **December 6th**. No late registrations will be accepted. If your child is interested in joining the Ski Club this year, log into your Powerschool account - Fees, and under each student's tab, you will see "New Items". Click on the Ski Club box and this is where you will register your child. You have the option to select on what dates you want your child to participate. All fees vary per trip. This is also where you need to give permission for your child to participate. All information regarding Ski Club is in your Powerschool. You'll need to register each child separately under their tab. Payment can be made in cash, credit card and cheque. If you have any questions regarding Ski Club, please call the school @ 780-963-3625 or email [blueberry@psd.ca](mailto:blueberry@psd.ca).

## Grade 9 Farewell Fundraising

Our Grade 9 students are offering a Basile's pizza lunch to support fundraising efforts for Farewell and year end celebrations. This month lunch is scheduled on Friday, Nov. 24th. The cost of 2 slices of pizza is \$7.00 and can be purchased through your powerschool account. Please look for the "New Items" button at the bottom of your powerschool account. Orders will be accepted until November 20th at 3pm.

## The Kinsmen Hamper

For the 45th year, the Stony Plain Kinsmen and volunteers are working to make holidays brighter for local families struggling with a limited income. Our goal is to support families in need with food and gifts for the holidays.

Schools are accepting non-perishable food items, gifts, and local grocery store gift cards.

Please refer to [stonyplainsmen.ca](http://stonyplainsmen.ca) for additional information and gift ideas. We will be accepting items at the school beginning after fall break **November 20th - December 8th**. Items can be given to homeroom teachers and/or brought to the office. THANK YOU for your incredible support of local families during the holiday season!

## 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 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.

## Athletics

### Cross Country Running

Congratulations to all runners who participated this year and a big congrats to Brooklyn G. for winning the Individual Aggregate Award for her age category!



### Volleyball

All teams are participating in finals the first and second weeks of November. Good luck!



Jr Girls won the Clash Tournament they participated in!

## 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.

### Stronger Together Newsletter

Check out this month's Family Supports Newsletter, "[Stronger Together Newsletter](#)".



## School Council & Fundraising Foundation

### School Council

Our next meeting will be held in person on November 20th at 6:30 in the library. You can also join us virtually using this link: <https://meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo>

We will be hosting an evening regarding positive attendance strategies on November 20th during our School Council Meeting. Associate Superintendent Dr. Meg Miskolzie will join our conversation. All families are invited to attend either in person in the library or virtually from 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

**Please see additional meeting dates and information at the end of our newsletter.**

### Fundraising Committee

Join us virtually for our next meeting on November 27 at 7:00pm. Find the link on our Facebook page! Stay connected with us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>

Questions? Email: [blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com)





BLUEBERRY SCHOOL   
**Fundraising**  
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2023-2024

Funds raised this year will help purchase Raz-kids, Athletics and Criterion subscriptions, outdoor physical education equipment and help us get closer to purchasing the final phase of our new playground!

Thank you to all who participated in our  
**Spirit Wear fundraiser!**  
Pick up date TBA - Orders will arrive before Christmas.

Our next fundraiser will be  
**Little Caesars Pizza Kits!**



**\*ONLINE ORDERS ONLY\***  
Orders must be placed by November 20th.  
Fill out "new customer sign up" section.  
Choose your pizza kits, bread kits and cookie dough!  
Pick up @ the school the week of December 11th .

**ORDER HERE**

**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.

## Album





## A BOO-TIFUL HALLOWEEN!





Grade 4A  
Artwork



Grade 1A  
and Grade 5B  
Buddies  
ArtWork



MWb -  
Kinders  
Artwork

1A - PJ  
Day



## School Council Newsletter

Please see the next three pages for the second edition of the monthly School Council Newsletter! Take a few moments to look through for all of the latest information and upcoming topics for meetings.

Blueberry School / October Edition

## Blueberry School Council Notes

[blueberry.sschair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:blueberry.sschair@partner.psd.ca) | <http://blueberry.psd.ca/parents/get-involved/school-council>

**FALL IS  
PROOF  
THAT  
CHANGE IS  
BEAUTIFUL**

### School Council DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) You can attend a School Council Meeting any time you want? You are not stuck forever.
- 2) There is no 'membership' or individual invitation required.
- 3) You can join in person or virtually.
- 4) You can bring your child.
- 5) You are not required to commit to anything.
- 6) You are welcome to ask questions, share ideas or raise concerns.
- 7) You have more input into the education and well being of your children at school than you might think you do.

### 2023 ~ 2024 School Council Meeting Dates

- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- January 15<sup>th</sup>
- February 12<sup>th</sup>
- March 18<sup>th</sup>
- April 15<sup>th</sup>
- May 13<sup>th</sup>



#### UPCOMING MEETING

November School Council Meeting:  
Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm  
[Join In Person or Virtually](#)

Virtual Link Here:  
[School Council Virtual Link](#)

**“Connecting  
home and  
school  
makes us a  
great  
community  
of learners.”**

-unknown



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## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Blueberry School Council met this month to discuss parking lot congestion, parking arrangement and safety concerns. Thank you to those who brought forth concerns and suggestions. We appreciated the open conversation. These concerns were well received by Administration and meetings have been scheduled to address concerns.

Blueberry School is working on a method through which Daily Announcements can be shared with you at home. Information will be shared when a system is set up.

Be sure you are accessing PowerSchool for you children on a regular basis. You are able to see attendance, class marks, assignment marks and comments from teachers. Note: PowerSchool reporting differs by grades.

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## NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL

2023~2024 Council Members:

Chair ~ Erin Craig  
Vice Chair ~ Jen Richens  
Secretary ~ Vacant Postion  
Members at Large ~ Sarah Corker & Heather Bader-Kopp

School Council Chair Email Address:  
[blueberry.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:blueberry.scchair@partner.psd.ca)

Link to the School Council Minutes:  
<https://blueberry.psd.ca/about/documents#category/18139>

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## THANK YOU

To all of the Volunteers and Candy Donors that made Monster Mash 2023 a SPOOKTACULAR event!

To the student of community for their meaningful participation in Orange Shirt Day.



## WAYS TO HELP

We would love to welcome Guest Speakers to School Council Meetings. If you have a topic or guest idea, please email the council chair to share!

We are looking for a School Council Secretary. The role requires typing the minutes during each council meeting into a template! Please join the October meeting if this is something you may be interested in.

Rotary Club Members support bag lunches for students in need at PSD schools every week. In the winter driving is a concern for the elderly members. If anyone can help with picking up lunches from the Rotary and dropping them off at schools during the week the help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Diane at 780-963-4605

## OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, School Council will be discussing:

### Attendance

with

Associate  
Superintendent  
Dr. Meg Miskolzie

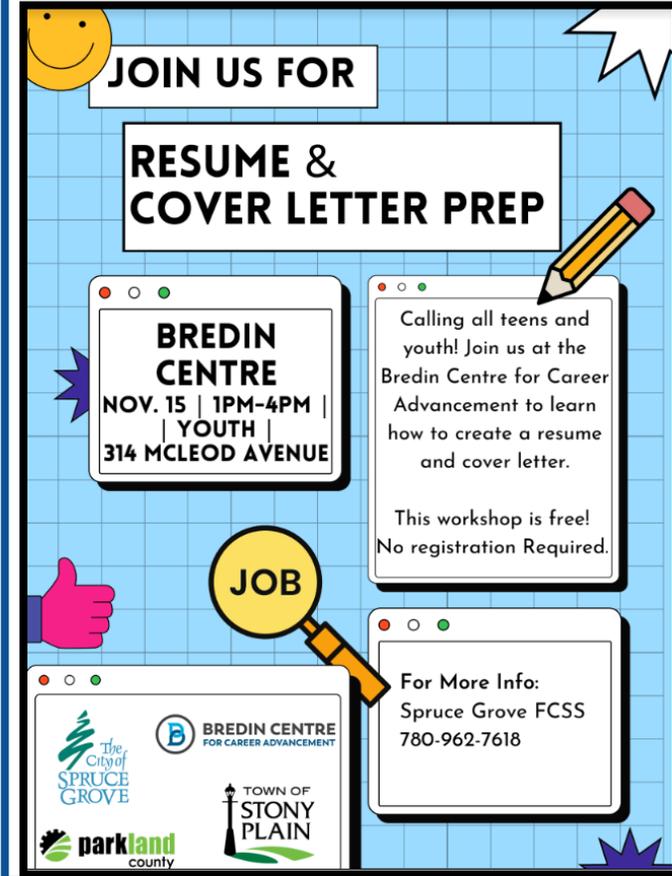
We are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Miskolzie.

Let's discuss:

- what are the different types of absences
- when is attendance a concern
- what does 1 day off of school as week actually look like
- how does attendance impact a child's wellbeing and academics
- challenges faced by families when encouraging children to attend
- barriers to attending, what does the school need to know or understand
- how can the school help meet families where they are at

Please join in person or virtually!

## Parkland County Information



**JOIN US FOR**

**RESUME & COVER LETTER PREP**

**BREDIN CENTRE**  
 NOV. 15 | 1PM-4PM |  
 | YOUTH |  
 314 MCLEOD AVENUE

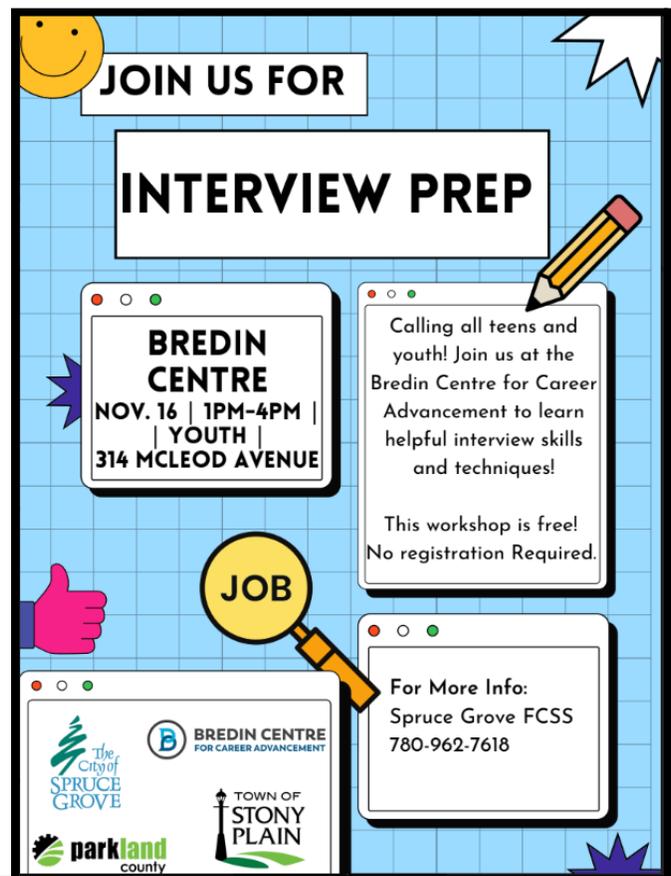
Calling all teens and youth! Join us at the Bredin Centre for Career Advancement to learn how to create a resume and cover letter.

This workshop is free!  
 No registration Required.

**JOB**

For More Info:  
 Spruce Grove FCSS  
 780-962-7618





**JOIN US FOR**

**INTERVIEW PREP**

**BREDIN CENTRE**  
 NOV. 16 | 1PM-4PM |  
 | YOUTH |  
 314 MCLEOD AVENUE

Calling all teens and youth! Join us at the Bredin Centre for Career Advancement to learn helpful interview skills and techniques!

This workshop is free!  
 No registration Required.

**JOB**

For More Info:  
 Spruce Grove FCSS  
 780-962-7618



## Blueberry Playschool News



BLUEBERRY PLAYSCHOOL PRESENTS  
**BREAKFAST  
WITH SANTA**

COME AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL PLAYSCHOOL!  
ENJOY A PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND TAKE A FREE PICTURE WITH OUR  
SPECIAL GUESTS SANTA AND MRS CLAUSE!  
NEED SOME CHRISTMAS BAKING? CHECK OUT OUR BAKE SALE!  
ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY THE PLAYSCHOOL STUDENTS AT 10AM  
ALSO TRY YOUR CHANCE AT OUR 50/50 RAFFLE!

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**DECEMBER 2 • 9-11 AM**

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AT BLUEBERRY COMMUNITY HALL  
53109 RANGE ROAD 15 PARKLAND COUNTY

TICKET PRICES AT THE DOOR	TICKET PRICES ONLINE THROUGH EVENTBRITE
AGES 11+ - \$13	AGES 11+ - \$10
AGES 2-10 - \$7	AGES 2-10 - \$5
UNDER 2 - FREE	UNDER 2 - FREE
	FAMILY(4) - \$30
	CHARGES WILL APPLY ON SINGLE TICKET PURCHASE

