

December
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

December is always a busy month of celebrating and learning. We are looking forward to enjoying the talents of our students during this holiday season!

As the weather becomes more unpredictable, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately. We encourage all students to dress for temperatures that can fluctuate drastically from the morning to the afternoon. We value outdoor play time for all of our K-9 students and follow [Parkland School Division's Severe Weather Protocol](#) in providing these opportunities unless the temperature is below -23 degrees celsius.

We would like to thank our hard working custodians for always striving to keep walkways clear during winter weather. In the event that paths to the East side of the building become tricky to navigate due to snow and/or ice, students and families will be redirected to use the main entrance, or in extreme cases the Jr High entrance on the West side of the school.

Powerschool and Report Cards:

We would like to remind families to check their student's Powerschool account often for ongoing academic reporting. Students Grades 1-9 have assessment results entered into Powerschool regularly. You can access Powerschool either through the Powerschool App or by clicking [here](#). Additional information regarding Powerschool may be found [here](#).

Head Secretary:
Mercy Rosborough

Secretary:
Tracy Davis

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

Facebook:
facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/

Our first formalized report cards are scheduled to go live on January 30th, 2024 at 3:30pm. Please use Powerschool to view your child's report card (please note that report cards are not visible in the Powerschool App, but only when using a browser version of Powerschool).

Winter break runs from December 22nd- January 7th. There is no school for students December 22nd as this is a Professional Development day for staff. Students will be welcomed back to school on January 8th. We hope you have a rejuvenating and fun-filled holiday season.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

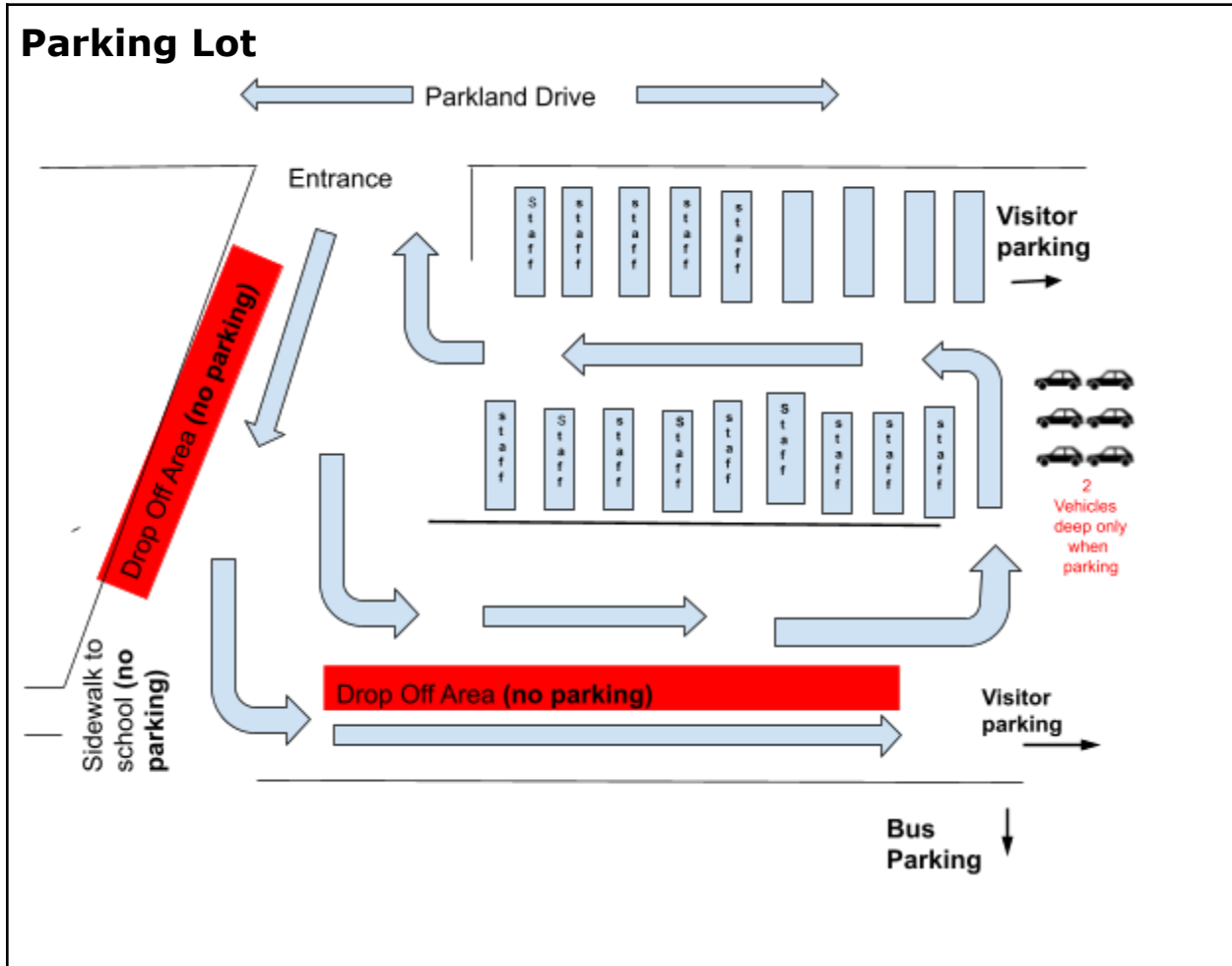
General Information

Upcoming Dates

Dec 1	Grade 6 Field Trip - Telus World of Science
Dec 1	KFC Hot lunch
Dec 1	Grade 1-2 In School Field Trip Crock-A-Doodle
Dec 4-8	Basketball Seeding Games
Dec 8	Last Day for Kinsmen Hamper
Dec 13	Winter Concert 1, 3, and 5 Matinee Performance 12:45pm; Evening Performance 6pm
Dec 14	Winter Concert 2, 4, and 6 Matinee Performance 12:45pm; Evening Performance 6pm
Dec 15	Kinder Christmas concert @1pm (Doors open at 12:45)
Dec 15	Basiles Hot Lunch
Dec 21	Ski Club (afternoon)
Dec 22	PD Day / No School
Dec 23 - Jan 7	Winter Break
Jan 12	Grade 9 Fundraising Hot lunch McDonalds
Jan 15	School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the library
Jan 18	Ski Club
Jan 22	Fundraising Committee Meeting (see link below)
Jan 30	Report Cards Live in Powerschool @ 3:30pm

PARKING LOT SAFETY! - UPDATED December 2023

Please note the “no parking” areas on the map below. Vehicles parked in these areas cause traffic congestion. Our parking lot is single lane traffic and one way only.



We recognize that everyone’s time is valuable and by following these guidelines we can ensure smooth drop off/pick up, while we prioritize student safety.
Thank you for your support in making our parking lot a safe environment!



Holiday Concerts

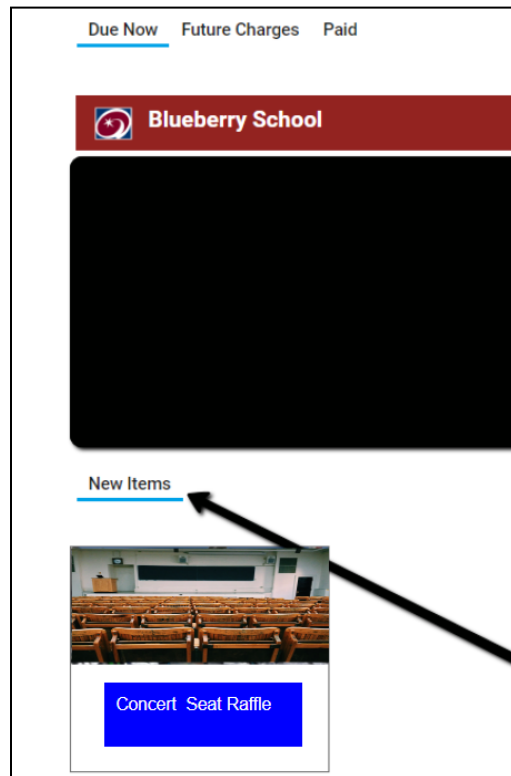
Our Winter Concerts are scheduled as follows with two performances each day - a matinee performance at 12:45pm and evening performance at 6pm.

- December 13 - Grades 1, 3 and 5
- December 14 - Grades 2, 4 and 6
- December 15 - Kindergarten 1:00pm (doors open at 12:45pm)

Doors to the gym will open for seating at 12:15pm and 5:30pm on Dec. 13 and 14. For specific concert details, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Concert Seat Raffle

As a fundraiser for our music program, we will be raffling off two pairs of seats for each of our concerts. One pair located on the stage seating area, and one pair located front row floor seating. You may participate in the raffle by going to Powerschool and selecting the number of entries you would like along with the concert date and seat location. Each entry costs \$5 and winners are announced on December 11th. The raffle option will open in Powerschool **December 1st** accessible under "New Items" There is no limit to the amount of entries you can purchase and the raffle will remain open until **December 11th**. Each purchase is one entry into the draw. Good Luck!



School Council and Fundraising Committee members will have reserved seats as a thank you for their contributions to our school.

Winter Break

Our last day of school before Winter break is Thursday, December 21st, as Friday is a PD Day. Students will return to school on Monday, January 8th.

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.

Provincial Achievement Test Schedule

	All tests begin at 9am	
ELA, Part A	Grade 6 Written Response May 15, 2024	Grade 9 Written Response May 13, 2024
	Grade 6 Multiple Choice	Grade 9 Multiple Choice*
ELA, Part B	Weds, June 12, 2024	Weds, June 12, 2024
Mathematics, Part A	Thurs June 13, 2024	Thurs June 13, 2024
Mathematics, Part B	Friday June 14, 2024*	Tues, June 18, 2024
Social Studies	Weds, June 19, 2024	Weds, June 19, 2024
Science	Thurs, June 20, 2024	Thurs, June 20, 2024

Please note that finals for Grade 7 and 8 students will be written on the same days as PATs.

Save the Dates

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

- June 24th Fun in the Sun Activity Day Grades K-6
- June 25th Jr High Waterfight
- June 26th Jr High Awards (am) and Grade 9 Farewell (pm)
Grade 9 Farewell concludes at regular dismissal time
- June 27th Final Report Cards live in Powerschool at 3:30pm

The Kinsmen Christmas 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 stonyplainkinsmen.ca for additional information and gift ideas.

We will be accepting items until **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!

Athletics

Intramurals

Our grade 7-9 students will begin Basketball intramurals once the weather turns colder.

Grade 5 and 6 students continue with intramurals weekly.

Basketball

Basketball tryouts are underway. Students are encouraged to watch daily announcements to stay informed.

If you are interested in helping coach this season, please contact Mrs. Visscher. We'd love to have the support of community coaches.

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. There are a number of great upcoming sessions to take a look at. "[Stronger Together Newsletter](#)".



School Council & Fundraising Foundation

School Council

Our next meeting will be held in person in the library on January 15, 2024. Please note there is no meeting in December. You can also join us online using this link: <https://meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo> Everyone is welcome, please come and have your voice heard and learn more about our amazing school.

Please see detailed updates at the end of our newsletter.

Blueberry Fundraising Committee

Join us online for our next meeting on January 22nd, 2024 at 7:00pm. Please note there is no meeting in December.

Let's welcome our new Members at Large: Cayla Nelson and Karlyn Prince

Stay connected with us: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueberrySchoolFundraisingCommittee>

Questions? Email: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com





BLUEBERRY SCHOOL 
Fundraising
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2023-2024

Thank you to all who participated in our **Little Caesars** fundraiser!
Pick up date/time: TBA (week of December 11th)
Location: South parking lot of the school

Our next fundraiser will be a...**RAFFLEBOX 50/50 DRAW!**
Let's countdown to Christmas and win some Christmas cash!
Draw date: December 20th
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/bsfc>

Funds raised this year will purchase Raz-kids,
Mathletics and Criterion subscriptions, outdoor physical education
equipment and help us get closer to purchasing the standalone
structures for our new playground!

Have ideas? Want to join us? Please reach out!
Connect with us on Facebook 
or send us an e-mail:
blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com



DON'T FORGET...
Make labeling easy with Oliver's labels and
help support our school too!
www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool



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 "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 or 780-886-7344 if you require assistance or have any questions about the hot lunch program.



Photo Album

LEST WE FORGET





Volleyball Team

Blueberry Sr. Girls Volleyball Team

2023 Volleyball Season brought bumps, bruises, screams and tears of joy.

The Sr. Girls worked through some difficult injuries. Our team demonstrated growth and sportsmanship. The team became a very close-knit group of young ladies that quickly started to give each other positive reinforcement.

On Monday, November 6 in four sets, they won the PCAA Division 3 Sr. Girls Volleyball Banner.

Congratulations goes out to: Cameron, Danika, Jaxsyn, Sydney, Nadia, Nyla, Cadence, Emma, Marina, Sydnee, Makayla and Mila.

Special thanks goes to all the refs, scorekeepers and families for their support.



Blueberry School / December Edition

Blueberry School Council Notes

blueberry.sochair@partner.psd.ca | <http://blueberry.psd.ca/parents/get-involved/school-council>

Wisdom comes with winters.

-Oscar Wilde

Share A Thought DID YOU KNOW?

This year PSD has created the Share A Thought Survey. It is a method through which the School Community can share ideas, questions, comments or concerns with the school and school board directly. This can be completely anonymous or you can leave your contact information for follow up and support. Depending on the length of time it takes you to type your thought (complete sentences with lots of detail is best) sending in a thought takes approximately 5 minutes.

Share A Thought is fantastic because your input goes 'right to the top'.

You can find the Share A Thought Survey links on the both the PSD and Blueberry School websites.

Links to
Share A Thought:

[PSD Share A Thought](#)

[Blueberry Share A Thought](#)

2023 ~ 2024 School Council Meeting Dates

- January 15th
- February 12th
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 13th



UPCOMING MEETING

January School Council Meeting:
Monday, January 15th, 6:30 pm
[Join In Person or Virtually](#)

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

"COMING TOGETHER is the beginning.

KEEPING TOGETHER is progress.

WORKING TOGETHER is success."

-Henry Ford



Blueberry School Council welcomed Associate Superintendent Dr. Meg Miskolzie to our council meeting this month. Meg was sincere in her desire to hear about the situations within homes – what are the barriers faced by families and how can PSD build a relationship that will allow for the school to support families exactly where they are at. The parents that attended appreciated discussing the following details:

On “Snow Days” when buses are not running, school lessons continue. If alternate ways of getting your child(ren) to school such as car pooling or waiting for daylight and snow plowing is not a possibility – use the Google Classroom to keep caught up at home. We were challenged to change how we view Snow Days.

Classes are ~40 minutes. On days that students have appointments having them in class before and after the appointment is beneficial. It is not disruptive to take your child(ren) out and send them back in. It means they have access to more 40 minute lessons!

You know your child(ren) best. Have we considered “Mental Health” days *may* not always be helpful. For some, missing lessons and time with peers can send them back to school with increased worry about what they’ve missed and concerned feelings around their friends asking where they’ve been.

Blueberry School is working with PSD Strategic Planning and Communications to determine the smoothest way to share the Daily Announcements with you at home. The logistics are complicated because the announcements are ‘live’.

Generally, students need 90% attendance to be successful with growth and learning schools provide.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL

2023~2024 Council Members:

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

School Council Chair Email Address:
blueberry.scchair@partner.psd.ca

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

THANK YOU

To the members of our Blueberry Community that both participated in, and joined our Remembrance Day Celebration.

To Associate Superintendent Dr. Meg Miskolzie for sharing her time and valuable insight during our open discussion regarding attendance.



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 have no snow yet – but it will come! Please consider helping our Edlerly Rotary Club Members in delivering support bag lunches for students in need at PSD schools. In the winter driving is a concern. Please contact Diane at 780-963-4605 for specific details.

OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

Test Anxiety

For the January 15th, meeting, School Council is working towards welcoming a Guest Speaker to share with us on the topic of Test Anxiety.