



April
2024

Message from Administration

Blueberry School
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Assistant Principal:
Mrs. Twyla Badry
twyla.badry@psd.ca

Head Secretary:
Mercy Rosborough

Secretary:
Tracy Davis

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

Facebook:
facebook.com/BlueberrySchool/

It was wonderful to have so many families attend 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 the homeroom teacher.

Thank you to the large number of families who have completed the [registration process for the 2024-25 school year](#) prior to the March 22nd, 2024 deadline. If you have yet to register, or your registration is incomplete, the office will be calling to remind you of this important step. Registering your child(ren) ensures students are added to a bus route and allows us to plan accordingly for enrollment.

Important Registration Dates

- May-June 2024 - Confirmation of busing requests. (Fees will be applied to accounts once the student has been assigned to a bus).
- Thursday, June 20, 2024 - Deadline to make payment arrangements for bus passes
- Beginning of July - Bus passes and route numbers will start to be mailed to parents/guardians.

During the months of May and June, students in grades 6 and 9 will be writing Provincial Achievement exams in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social. The schedule for these exams is listed further in this newsletter. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are two ways you can support your child to do their best.

Twyla Badry
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher
Principal

General Information

Upcoming Dates

April 4	Gr 3 Play Parkland
April 5	Gr 9 Hot Lunch Fundraising - McDonalds
April 9	Gr 1 In-School Field Trip
April 10	Gr 1 In-School Field Trip
April 11	Gr 4 Play Parkland
April 18	Gr 3 Play Parkland
April 19	Gr 9 Hot Lunch Fundraising - Basile's Pizza
April 22	School Council meeting @6:30pm
April 23-24	Visual Arts Celebration at Memorial Comp High School

Online Safety - Community Opportunity

The Prescott Learning Centre School Council would like to extend an invitation to any interested community members to attend a presentation and discussion on the topic of Online Safety. Parkland RCMP Cst. and former School Resource Office Gord Marshall will share his experiences and provide useful strategies for parents and guardians for protecting children and young adults while online.

Where: Prescott Learning Centre, 340 Pioneer Road, Spruce Grove

When: Wednesday, April 3rd @ 7:00 pm

Who (can attend): The parents and guardians of children and young adults and any interested community members

No RSVP required, we hope to see you on April 3rd.

Sincerely,
PLC School Council

**VISUAL
ARTS** CELEBRATION

*Memorial
Composite
High School*

**April
23
and
24**

ALL WELCOME: 4PM-7:30 PM

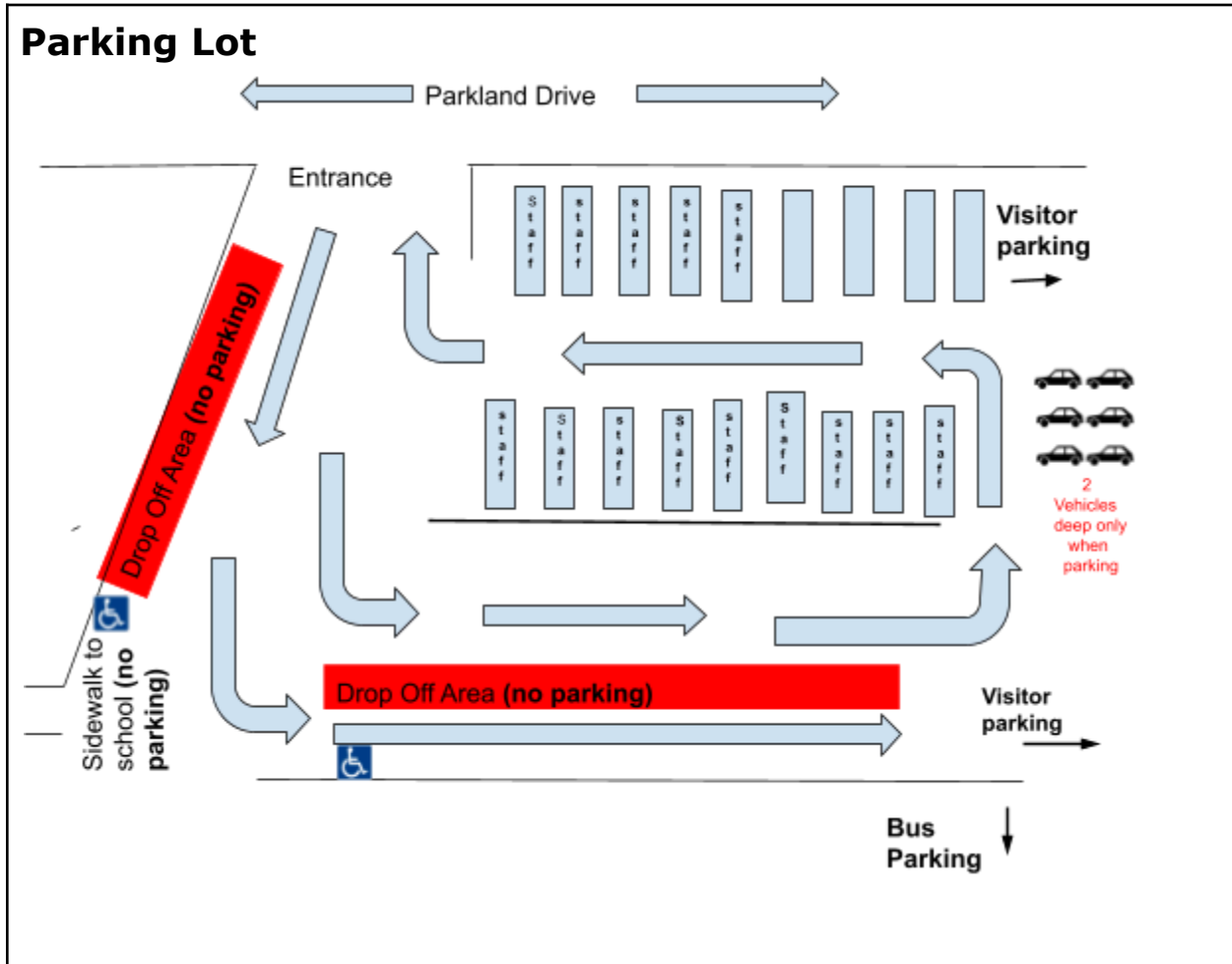


Summer School at Connections for Learning

Parkland School Division is pleased to offer summer school for both high school students (including Grade 9 students entering into Grade 10 the following year) and students entering into Grades 2-6. Learn more by visiting the [Connections For Learning website](#). Registration opens on April 2, 2024.



PARKING LOT



Please note the “no parking” areas on the map above. Vehicles parked in these areas cause traffic congestion. **Designated parking stalls are marked close to the school gate area.** Our parking lot is single lane traffic and one way only.

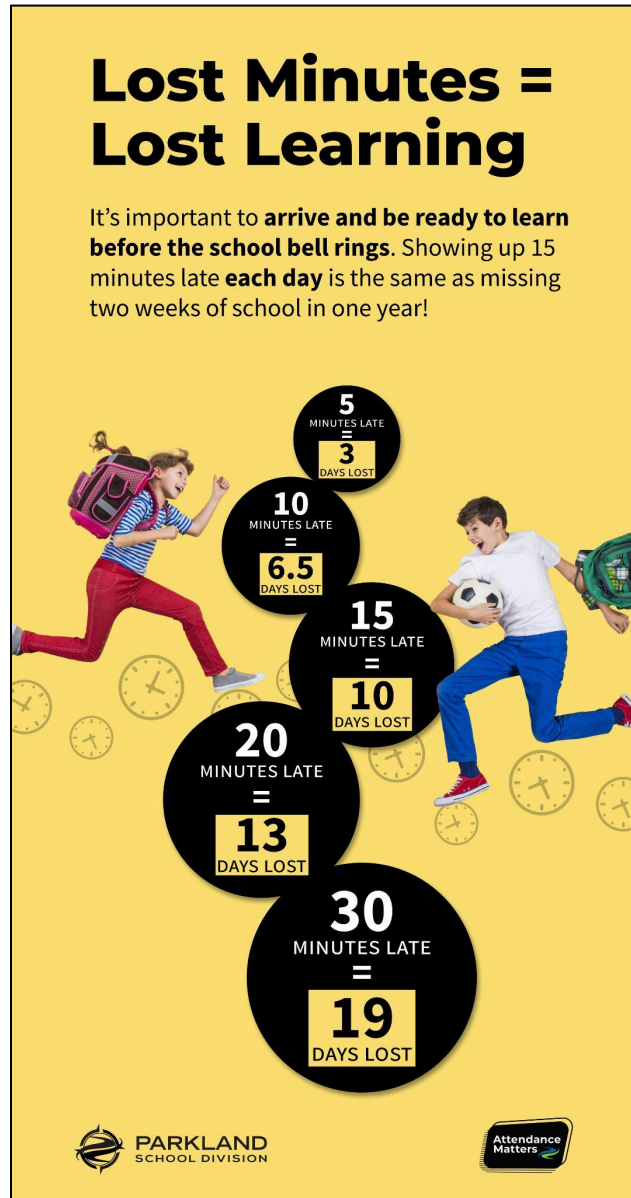
We recognize that everyone’s time is valuable and by following these guidelines we can ensure smooth drop off/pick up, while we prioritize student safety.

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

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



Lost Minutes = Lost Learning

It's important to **arrive and be ready to learn before the school bell rings**. Showing up 15 minutes late **each day** is the same as missing two weeks of school in one year!

Minutes Late	Days Lost
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
30	19

PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION Attendance Matters

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	N/A	Grade 9 Written Response May 13, 2024
	Grade 6 Multiple Choice	Grade 9 Multiple Choice*
ELA, Part B	N/A	Weds, June 12, 2024
Mathematics, Part A	N/A	Thurs June 13, 2024
Mathematics, Part B	N/A	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

*Grade 6 students will not write PATs for Language Arts or Mathematics as directed by the Alberta Government ([website](#)).

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

Athletics

Badminton teams have now been selected. Thank you to all students who came to try out. We had over 70 students in grades 7-9 at our try-outs. Thank you to Mr. Weinhandl and Mrs. Lasuik for coaching our teams. Students should watch [Daily Announcements](#) for game updates and stay in contact with their designated coach.

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

School Council

Our first meeting of the new year will be held in person in the library on **April 22, 2024 at 6:30pm**. You can also join us online using this link: meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo Everyone is welcome, please come and have your voice heard and learn more about our school. Please see our monthly update later in this newsletter.

Blueberry Fundraising

Join us at our virtual meeting. Our next meeting is TBA. Google meet link: meet.google.com/hnm-yemf-vyw. See our information below to get connected!

BLUEBERRY SCHOOL
Fundraising
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2023-2024



MATH-A-THON

Our K-6 Math-a-thon is underway! A math-a-thon makes practicing math facts fun and rewarding! Let's practice math, win prizes and raise money for our school!

Our goal is \$5000!

KEY DATES:

- *TODAY —> APRIL 15th: **ASK** for pledges
- *APRIL 15th: **SEND** pledge forms to school
- *APRIL 16: **WRITE** Math-a-thon test
- *APRIL 17: Pledge forms and tests go **HOME**
- *APRIL 17-26th: **ASK** for more pledges/**COLLECT** pledge money
- *APRIL 26th: **LAST** day to return pledge forms and money to qualify for prizes
- *APRIL 29/30: **PRIZE DRAW!!**

This is a large fundraising event and we need lots of volunteers. Prizes are also needed! Can you help?

[CLICK HERE](#)

We are partnering with Kiwi Nurseries again!

*PLEASE NOTE: Funds raised from this fundraiser will go towards our May Staff Appreciation Lunch!

Shop our online store from APRIL 7th-MAY 1st!

<https://fundraising.kiwinurseries.com/>

Select Blueberry School Fundraising Committee



oliver's
labels

DON'T FORGET...

Make labeling easy with Oliver's labels and help support our school too!

www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool



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

Connect with us on Facebook

or via e-mail: blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!
-We couldn't do this without you-

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

Grade 3 Soil Presentation

Thank you to Annelida Soil Solutions and BMR Greenhouses for sharing their knowledge and donating plants to students!













Show Choir: Celebrating a “Do Re Mi” Performance at Choral Celebration 🎵

Dear Show Choir Families,

What an incredible journey it has been this term! Our talented Show Choir students truly shone at our division-wide choir festival, Choral Celebration, on Monday, March 18th, 2024. |

A Harmonious Triumph

Confidence radiated from every note they sang, and their energy filled the auditorium. The way they harmonized and moved together was a testament to their dedication and passion. The audience couldn't help but tap their feet and smile throughout the performance. Bravo, Show Choir!



Gratitude to Our Parent Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to all the parent volunteers who supported us on our field trip to the festival. Your assistance made the logistics seamless, allowing our students to focus on their music. We appreciate your time and commitment!

Sweet Celebration

To celebrate the end of this term, we hosted a wrap-up party for our Show Choir stars. Picture this: trays of delectable treats, laughter, and camaraderie. The students relished every moment, reminiscing about their performance at the festival. And the highlight? Watching a video of their own magical rendition on the big screen! (A video of our performance has been made available on the Show Choir Google Classroom for families to watch at home!)

Thank You, Parents!

We extend our gratitude to the parents who generously sent treats for the party. Your thoughtful contributions made the celebration even sweeter.



Looking Ahead

As we bid farewell to this term, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every student. Your hard work, dedication, and love for music have made this journey unforgettable. Mrs. King has thoroughly enjoyed singing alongside you, and we eagerly await next year's choir adventures.

Thank you, Show Choir, for making music come alive! 🎵

Warm regards,

Mrs. King



Parents for Blueberry Arts Group



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Are you passionate about nurturing creativity and supporting the arts in our school? We invite you to become an integral part of our Parents for Blueberry Arts!

Why Join?

- **Empower the Arts:** By joining, you'll directly contribute to enhancing our school's musical arts programs.
- **Community Connection:** Connect with other parents who share your enthusiasm for the arts.
- **Inspire Young Artists:** Your commitment will inspire our young musicians, actors, singers, and performers. Let's foster their creativity and passion!

What We Do:

- **Fundraising Events:** Help with events such as raffle baskets and flower sales at concerts, and theater T-shirts sales. The proceeds directly benefit our arts programs.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Whether you have a few hours or more to spare, there's a role for everyone. Help with event planning, ticket sales, or backstage support during school concerts.

How to Get Involved:

- Reach out to Mrs. King simone.king@psd.ca to express your interest or ask any questions.

Blueberry School Council Notes

Blueberry School / March Edition

Blueberry School Council Notes

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

April is a lovely, SOUL INSPIRING, life invigorating month.

~Joseph Grimaldi

Blueberry Community Let's Thank Our School Staff!

Blueberry has the greatest staff! They work tirelessly to create a supportive environment that teaches our children academics, fosters growth in their relationships, inspires a sense of self and builds strong communication skills,

May 17th is Staff Appreciation Day. Each staff member will receive lunch and a gift. School Council is asking families to kindly consider donating one gift for the event.

Gift Donation Details:

- ~ \$50 Gift Value.
- (We would like to keep each gift equal.)
- ~ A count down of the number of gifts needed will be posted to Social Media (Facebook & Instagram.)
- ~ Gifts can be given to the office.
- ~ Please do not wrap the gift.
- ~ Gifts will be collected from April 15th to May 3rd.

2023 ~ 2024 School Council Meeting Dates

April 22nd
May 13th



UPCOMING MEETING

February School Council Meeting:
Monday, April 22nd, 6:30 pm
Join In Person or Virtually

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

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide, what kind of difference you will make.”

-Jane Goodall



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Blueberry School Council welcomed Parkland School Division Associate Superintendent Mr. Johnston to our council meeting this month. Mr. Johnson began by explaining that in order to understand the roots of childhood behavior we first have to contextualize childhood development. He spent time describing development through early childhood, middle childhood, early adolescence and late adolescence. Using the analogy of an elephant and its rider, he shared how the role of the amygdala and the prefrontal cortex work together to regulate emotion and understand social behavior. Emotional dysregulation occurs when a rider (prefrontal cortex) has fallen off of its elephant (amygdala). This understanding was then used to explain social behavior and peer relationships. The discussion then led to a conversation pertaining to conflict, mean behavior and targeted and repeated mean behavior.

Tips for Parenting Included:

- 1) Understanding that children are not mini adults. As adults we cannot go back and remember thinking like a child and a child has not developed the ability to think like an adult.
- 2) Adults are called to interact with children in a way that keeps their rider on their own elephant. Exposing a child to a rogue adult elephant (rider has fallen off) does not allow for communication, understanding and growth on the part of the child.
- 3) Elephants do not communicate. Riders do. Regulate a child (and the adult) before attempting to communicate.
- 4) Support by saying "Do This" as opposed to "Don't Do This."
- 5) Consequences need to teach - not punish. Do not teach with an elephant. Teach with a rider.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

2023~2024 Council Members:

Chair ~ Erin Craig
Vice Chair ~ Jen Richens
Secretary ~ Vacant Position
Members at Large ~ Sarah Corker

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 Associate Superintendent Mr. Johnston for joining our Council Meeting this month. Your analogy was very impactful and your advice was easy to understand. We were able to walk away with clear understanding of the information you shared.

OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

Resolutions

During the April 22nd School Council Meeting we will be discussing our position on the final 2024 School Council Resolution Package. Resolutions are a manner through which School Councils are able to participate in educational policy setting.



WAYS TO HELP

Please consider donating a gift to our Staff Appreciation event. See above for more details.