



## May 2024

### Message from Administration

Blueberry School  
1532 Parkland Drive, Parkland County  
T7Z 1Y6

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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/>

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



May 6-12, 2024 is Mental Health Week supported by the Canadian Mental Health Association.

This year, we are called to be compassionate both to ourselves and those around us. Throughout the month of May, students and teachers will take part in lessons and activities which focus on compassion and kindness.

From the [Canadian Mental Health Association Website](#):

***What is compassion?***

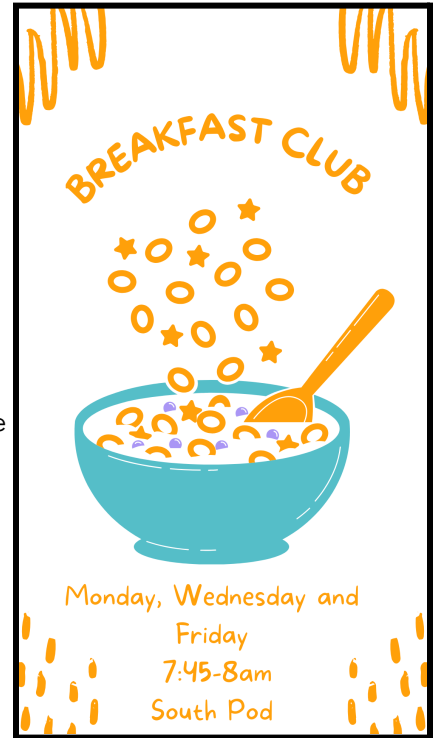
*The word compassion is derived from Latin, meaning "to suffer together." Researchers today define compassion as an emotional response to the struggles of others combined with a real, authentic desire to help lessen their suffering. Compassion is often confused with empathy; but while empathy is the sensing, feeling and understanding of another's suffering, compassion goes beyond empathy, into the realm of taking action. This formula captures what compassion is: empathy + action = compassion.*

### Breakfast Club

Blueberry has been trialing a morning breakfast club for students. Breakfast Club is currently running three days a week. Students can access breakfast from 7:45am-8am in the South Pod. If you would like to volunteer to keep this program active, [please use this form](#) so that we can get in touch with you. You can sign up for one morning or to be a regular volunteer. We would love to have you join us and need your support to keep the program running!

Twyla Badry  
Assistant Principal

Michelle Visscher  
Principal



## General Information

### Upcoming Dates

May 3	Gr 1 Dental Presentation
May 6	Kinder MW, Gr 1-Gr 5 Class Pictures
May 6	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
May 7	Kinder TTh, Gr 6-Gr 9 Class Pictures
May 7	Gr 9 Grad Photos
May 6-10	Mental Health Week
May 8	Hats on for Mental Health
May 8	Gr 6 Round 2 Immunizations
May 10	Gr 9 Hot Lunch Basile's Pizza
May 14	Gr 5 Field Trip to Botanical Garden

May 17	PD Day/No School
May 20	Victoria Day/No School
May 22	Gr 9 Field Trip to Royal Alberta Museum
May 24	Gr 1 Field Trip to Chickakoo
May 28	Gr 5 Play Parkland (rescheduled from Jan. 11)
June 4, 5 & 6	Jr High Drama Production Sound of Music

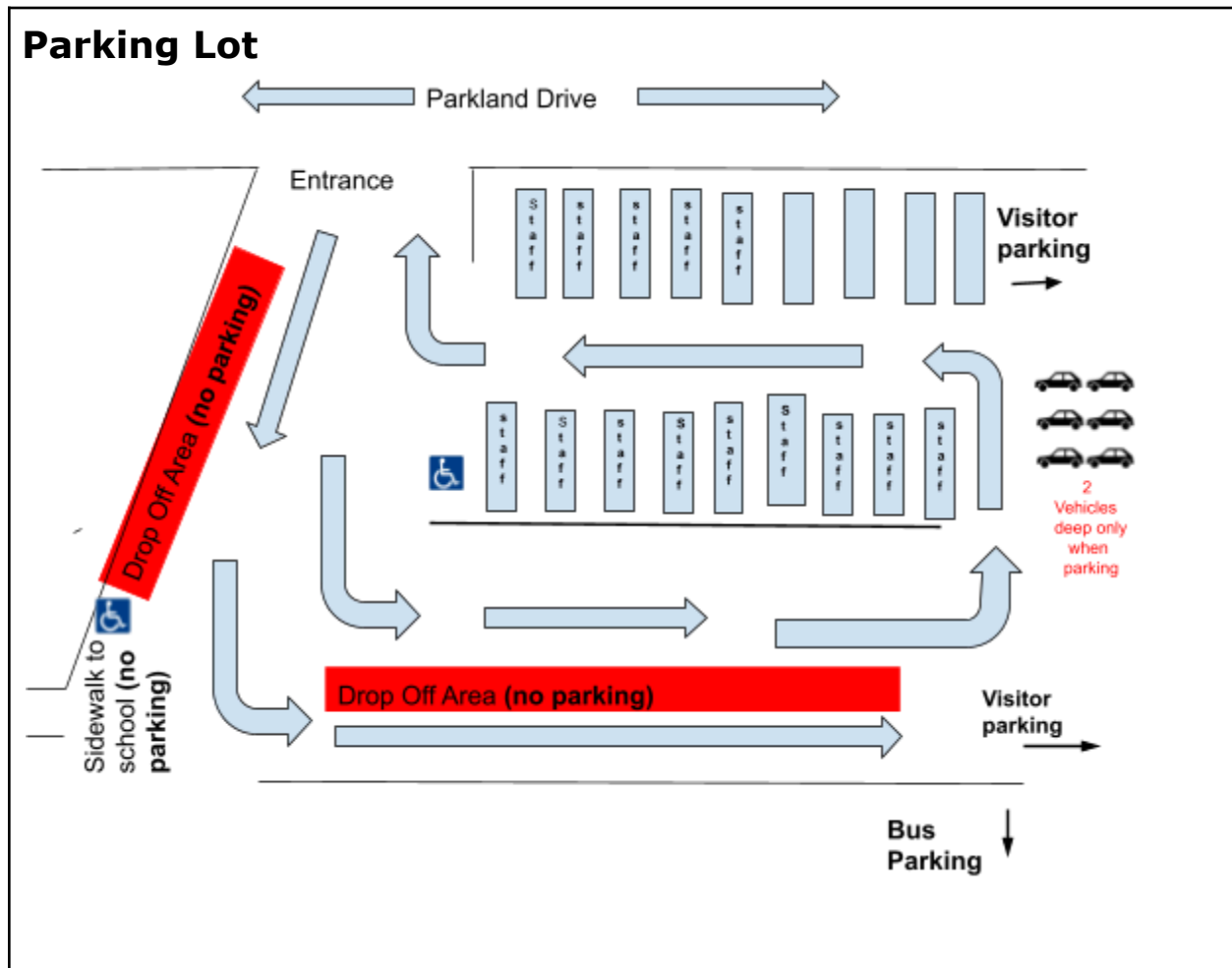


### Summer School at Connections for Learning

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 is now open.



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

## 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

*Please Sign In!*



Students, parents and visitors  
please remember to sign in at the  
office upon arrival for attendance  
purposes. Thank you!

## 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 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 next meeting will be held in person in the library on **May 13 , 2024 at 6:30pm**. You can also join us online using this link: [meet.google.com/dge-vkoi-dmo](https://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 for our next virtual meeting on **May 7, 2024 at 7:00pm**. Google meet link: [meet.google.com/hnm-yemf-vyw](https://meet.google.com/hnm-yemf-vyw). See our information below to get connected!

BLUEBERRY SCHOOL   
Fundraising  
HEALTHY AND CONNECTED 2023-2024

## WHAT A MATH-A-THON!

Our K-6 Math-a-thon is complete! What an amazing event! Students practiced basic facts, had fun and won amazing prizes!

Our goal was to raise \$5000.

**We soared past our goal and raised just over \$37,000!**

Thank you so much to all of our amazing students and their families, teachers, and parent volunteers for making this possible!



A huge thank you to all of the parents and local businesses that provided Math-a-thon prizes! Your generosity means the world to us!





Thank you to those that participated in our  
**Kiwi Nurseries Fundraiser!**

Kiwi will email you when your order is ready for pick up.  
Orders will be available for pick up May Long Weekend!

## Staff Appreciation Gift Donation

We are partnering with School Council to celebrate our dedicated staff and show our gratitude for all they do! Council is seeking gifts of a \$50 value. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the office! If you would like to make a monetary contribution, you can send your donation to [blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com).



### **DON'T FORGET...**

Make labeling easy with Oliver's labels and help support our school too!  
[www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool](http://www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool)



### **Want to join us? Please reach out!**

Connect with us on Facebook  
or via e-mail: [blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

## Photo Album



### GRADE 6 ANCIENT GREECE PRESENTATION



Kookum  
Violet  
visiting  
Blueberry



## Blueberry School Council Notes

Blueberry School / April Edition

### Blueberry School Council Notes

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

**As a new month BEGINS, believe that something**

wonderful is about to happen.

#### 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. OR you may donate monies to the office to support the event in any amount.

#### Gift Donation Details:

- ~ \$50 Gift Value.
- (We would like to keep each gift equal.)
- Monies can also be donated in any amount to the office
- ~ 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 15<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 2023 ~ 2024 School Council Meeting Dates

May 13<sup>th</sup>



#### UPCOMING MEETING

**LAST School Council Meeting:**  
Monday, May 13th, 6:30 pm  
Join In Person or Virtually

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

**“Great teamwork is the only way we create breakthroughs that allow for new paths forward.”**

-Pat Riley



## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Here are a few important updates for families.

### A. Cell Phone Survey

The Government of Alberta has created a Cell Phone Survey that is accessible to teachers, parents, guardians and school staff in an effort to gather details for the potential next steps in managing cell phones in the educational setting. The survey can be completed in 10-15 minutes.

If you have thoughts about cell phones in school now is your chance!! The survey is open until May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Here's the link:

[Cell Phones in School](#)

### B. Learn Alberta has re-vamped their Parent Portal. Here are some important areas for families to check out:

"What Your Child is Learning in Each Grade" allows you to click on the grade of your child(ren) in order to access an overview of the required subjects, optional subjects, how your child is assessed and resources to help your child.

"Related Information" will allow you to select Grade at a Glance. This provides an overview of the curriculum covered in each grade.

### C. Learn Alberta also has a New Curriculum "Kindergarten to Grade 6 Curriculum Renewal" page that offers details on the development process of new curriculum. September 2024 will begin the province wide implementation of new the following for Grade 4-6:

- French first language and literature
- French immersion language arts and literature
- Science

Here is the New Learn Alberta Parents link:

[New Learn Alberta Parents](#)

## 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>

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## WAYS TO HELP

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

## THANK YOU

To everyone that has donated a gift for Blueberry Staff Appreciation.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Math-a-Thon!

## OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

### May Topics

Blueberry Dress Code  
Family Movie or Dance Night  
One Small Thing Presentation