

MARCH 2021



Blueberry School 1532 Parkland Drive, Parkland County T7Z 1Y6

> PH: 780-963-3625 Fax: 780-963-4491

Email: blueberry@psd70.ab.ca blueberry.absence@psd70.ab.ca

Website: <u>blueberry@psd70.ab.ca</u>

Principal: Mrs. Sheryl Bridgeman

Vice Principal: Mrs. Michelle Visscher

> Secretary Tracy Davis

Head Secretary Cynthia Wozny

Please see the <u>website</u> for Upcoming Events and Important Information!

> Facebook: Blueberry School

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Welcome to March and relief from the polar vortex!

Staff and students are excited to enjoy some warmer weather, more daylight and outdoor recesses.

Although February kept us indoors more than we would have liked, we still had many celebrations and exciting activities. Students celebrated 100 days of school (50 days in Kindergarten) and the Festival Du Voyageur will be hosted by our Grade 5 classes on Thursday, March 4th.

Families may have noticed an email requesting their participation in this year's **Thought Exchange**. Thought Exchange is an online platform for families to share perspectives about our school and the Division as a whole. By telling us what we are doing well and where we can improve, you will be contributing to the future success and well-being of our students as we work to develop a strong education system.

<u>Virtual Learning for 2020/21</u>: We are excited to share that Parkland School Division will continue to offer Virtual Learning for the 2020/21 school year. This educational choice will be offered through Connections for Learning school. The program will offer both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities for students. For more information please visit the Connections for Learning website through this link.

Thank you to families who joined us for virtual parent/teacher/student conferences the week of February 8th, 2021. We have heard from families this was a positive experience to learn about student progress and be able to meet with teachers despite COVID restrictions. If you have feedback on virtual interviews, please contact Mrs. Bridgeman or Mrs. Visscher.

Our next Grade 1-9 report card will be live on March 25th at 3:00 pm. Please note that gradebook will be temporarily disabled beginning March 15th to allow for teachers to input comments into the report card. For assistance in accessing the report card in Powerschool, please or contact Mrs. Davis in the office.

Mrs. S. Bridgeman, Principal

Michelle Visscher, Vice Principal



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BLUEBERRY PLAYSCHOOL REGISTRATION NIGHT BLUEBERRY COMMUNITY HALL MARCH 15, 2021 6 - 8 PM BLUEBERRYPLAYSCHOOLASSOCIATION.COM



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GRADE 9 PARENTS TO MCHS

MCHS Academic Counsellor will be connecting with Blueberry Gr 9 students before Mar 4th.

Watch the MCHS webpage for a pre-recorded video for "First Time Parents" to MCHS by the end of February!

MCHS <u>Virtual</u> Open House -March 4th from 6 pm - 8 pm

Gr 10 Registration - it is <u>imperative</u> that the <u>online 21/22 Registration</u> is completed on or about Feb 8th and prior to Mar 25th in order for the student to make their course selections. An email was sent on Feb 8th with a link.

Please also read the email about the Grade 10 School Options offered by PSD.



Morning outdoor supervision starts at 7:45 am - Please do not drop off your child(ren) prior to this time unsupervised.

Picking up your child(ren)?

Please call the school before arrival to allow us 5 minutes to bring your child to meet you at the door!

Dress for the weather!

With the weather turning warmer, students are still required to dress for the current weather!
Students will need to be dressed appropriately in order to safely enjoy outdoor activities such as recess and physical education classes, as some of them take place outdoors.
Students will be outdoors when the temperatures are -22 Celcius or above.
A warm coat, mitts and a hat are musts to keep in the backpack at this time of year. And soon enough, rubber boots and splash pants!.

Please label your boots and any other articles.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL -IS YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

It is important that we have the most current information on file and TWO Emergency Contacts. Please take a few minutes to log into your

PowerSchool–Parent Portal

account and make any necessary changes under the Family Information tab. If there are changes to Guardianship/Custody, please contact the school office.

School fees can also be paid through Powerschool.

If you have any questions about Powerschool or need help creating an account, please contact Tracy Davis in the school office at 780-963-3625.

AHS - IMMUNIZATION

All Immunization dates have been postponed until further notice. We will advise when we have dates. Helpful tips for Pain Management click <u>here</u>.

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See the <u>link</u> for the 2020-21 School Fee listing. <u>Please note that fees will be</u> <u>applied as the activities occur.</u> If there are credits on the account, they will be applied to new charges.



Student Absences

Thank you to all the parents who are either phoning in or e-mailing us with student absences.

As we continue to work 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 email their child's absence to **Blueberry.Absence@psd70.ab.ca**

Please include your child's full name, homeroom and reason for the absence.

If you do not have access to email please phone the school (780-963-3625) and leave a message on the Attendance voicemail.

PD Day - Friday, March 5th Spring Break ~ NO School: March 26th - April 6th Students return Wed, April 7th

Yearbook

REMINDER: STUDENTS SHOULD LEAVE AT HOME ITEMS SUCH AS:

POKEMON CARDS, TOYS, BLANKETS, ETC. TO MAINTAIN SCHOOL CLEANLINESS.

IF THEY ARE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL THEY WILL BE STORED FOR PARENT PICKUP.

Online Registration & Verification for 2021-2022!

Current PSD families, check your email for the link with instructions to verify your upcoming registration on February 8th & the deadline for submission is <u>March 25</u>! This is required for Transportation planning. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Zen Den is back!

Blueberry School is offering a program to support children experiencing difficulties with anxiety. Activities focus on anxiety reduction (e.g., relaxation exercises) and social skills development (e.g., role-

playing positive communication skills). The activities and skills are taught in an engaging and developmentally appropriate manner. If you believe your child would benefit from this program please contact your homeroom teacher, Pre-order Sheryl Bridgeman or Michelle Visscher 2020/21 for more information.



Have you completed the THOUGHT EXCHANGE form? Check your email!

At Parkland School Division, we are committed to engaging with our community on behalf of the students we serve.

Meaningful Engagement is one of our Enduring Priorities you'll find in many parts of our Division's Education Plan.

You are invited to share your perspectives about our schools and the Division as a whole. Thank you in advance for your help and input. Shauna Boyce Superintendent Article link <u>here</u>.

REACHING YOUR CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Cell phones can be a distraction and disruption to classroom learning. Our teachers and your kids have worked hard together to come up with routines so that cellphones are not disrupting class. Here are some things for parents to know about communicating with their kids while they are at school: * During class time, your child has most likely turned off the phone. * Your child may not be able to respond immediately. If you call the main office, secretaries can assist in

getting messages to the students due to Covid protocols being in place.

We appreciate your support in minimizing disruption to classroom instruction.

If you have any questions about Blueberry's cellphone guidelines, please contact Mrs. Bridgeman or Mrs. Visscher.





HELP US AS WE WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A NEW PLAYGROUND TO REPLACE THE OLD WOODEN STRUCTURE



SHOP ONLINE earn while you shop

buy e-gift cards, shop from your favorite stores just click the link below before you start your shopping

www.flipgive.com/f/429820



FlipCive

LABELS because kids loose everything

label your kids school supplies, clothes, lunch containers and so much more... click the link below to start your order

www.oliverslabels.com/blueberryschool

If you have questions email blueberryfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com



Alberta Health Services

Information for Families with Children in Isolation: Information for families with children in isolation is now available on this webpage: <u>ahs.ca/isolation</u>

Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School – Translated versions. The AHS Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare found at <u>ahs.ca/parentcovidguide</u>

Click the underlined text

to loke to the info!

Check out information regarding <u>free on-line programming</u> for parents/caregivers of children and youth each month!

Lunch & Learn Webinars are available! 60 Minute informational webinars for parents/caregivers looking to strengthen their child's/adolescent's ability to thrive through life's challenges and discover strategies to help build resiliency.

Monthly Newsletters for Families: The <u>AHS.ca/COVIDSchool</u> webpage has been updated with the newsletters for families with Children & families with Teens.



STRONG FAMILIES

Take a few minutes to download the link in the email or on our <u>website</u> and read the Strong Families Series and check out the great upcoming free sessions and other free community activities for kids!

Strong Families Series: Self-Regulation Through an Occupational Therapy Lens



Parkland School Division is proud to partner with Alberta Parenting For The Future to present another FREE information session for local families. In our upcoming Strong Families session, registered psychologist **Joel Pukalo** will join occupational therapist **Nicole Kluthe** to offer families valuable information about self-regulation, as well as practical tips for supporting their children in understanding their emotions, so they can stay calm, focus, and limit their stress levels.

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021Time: 6pmLocation:Online Zoom Webinar / DiscussionGroupPresenters:Joel Pukalo, Registered Psychologist (Family Life Psychology) & Nicole Kluthe,Occupational Therapist (Woven Blessings)

To self-regulate means to monitor and manage your emotions, thoughts, behaviours and energy states in such a way that you are able to remain calm, focused, empathetic and motivated, even when faced with a stressful situation. Self-regulation is a skill that develops over time as a child's brain matures, but as with any skill, it comes more naturally to some than others. This workshop will help participants better understand what self-regulation is and why it is important. We will dive into the eight sensory systems, and explore how these systems work together to enable a child to be calm in their school and home environments. Participants will learn to recognize the early signs of dysregulation and will be provided with tools and strategies they can use to aid both individual children, as well as whole groups.

Please register early to reserve your spot by visiting <u>https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/regulation-through-an-ot-</u> lens-registration-131627660877.

For more information, please contact: Vicky MamczaszFamily Supports Facilitator Email: vmamczasz@psd70.ab.ca



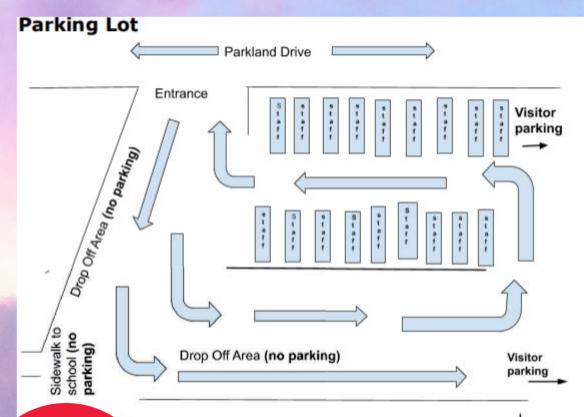
STRONG FAMILIES





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PARKING S DROP OFF ZONE



Bus Parking Off Area (see above), and then continue around to the Drop Off Area (see above), and then continue around to the parking lot exit. Please **do not** make U-turns at the entrance after you drop your children off. Our front parking lot goes in a **one-way** direction.

If you are parking to come to the school with your children, please use the far west side of the front (south) parking lot to park after the designated staff parking spots. There is no parking in the drop-off area.

The back parking lot, where busses come in, is closed to vehicles while the busses are there (arrival/dismissal times).

Thank you for making our parking lot a safe environment!