

## Parental Involvement

We know that children experience higher levels of success when their parents are involved in their school and education. Now, more than ever with the Covid-19 pandemic, parental involvement looks different for every family and is based on many factors.

Although the types of opportunities for involvement may look different - one thing that stays the same is the importance of communication. Staying connected with your child's school experience is important and equally important is that your child see, feel, and know through both action and conversation that you are keeping connected. Whether that means attending parent-teacher conferences, helping with homework, emails with staff, reviewing school correspondence or following the school website and social media - being involved demonstrates to your child that you care.

I would like to take a moment to thank and commend our parents for their extraordinary efforts as in-person classes were cancelled in March. The way our families have rallied together to support learning at home, to provide child-care, and to support one another is absolutely incredible. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us what we can accomplish when we work together and our families deserve to be commended for their tireless efforts to support students learning at home. The pandemic has certainly caused a variety of stressors to our lives and for our parents who are already juggling many roles and responsibilities - thank you. I recognize and appreciate the time, sacrifice, coordination and effort you have and are all making.

In the next few weeks, schools will be hosting their first School Council meetings of the year. The meetings run once per month and it is a great way to stay connected and have a voice in education. Please check with your local school to learn more about School Council and how School Council will operate this school year.

Your involvement makes a difference and we truly appreciate the important work you do. We believe that PARENTS MATTER and that is why Peace River School Division declared a week to celebrate the important contributions of our parents. Please mark your calendars for November 16-20, 2020 and join in the celebration of parental involvement at your child's school during PRSD's "PARENTS MATTER Appreciation Week."

Wishing you a wonderful school year and thanking you in advance for your involvement and support.

Paul Bennett,  
PRSD Superintendent of Schools