

Good afternoon Parents & Students,

October 29th, 2021

Attached to the Weekly Activity Memo is the November Calendar of events!

DID YOU KNOW?

Principal's Corner

... that TA Norris students are very Active Citizens not only in the school, but for the community?

Our students and families brought in *SO MUCH food* – 1690 kg! A very **BIG Thank you** to the TA Norris families for all their donations and support. This will go a long way to help so many! Thank you to Mighty Peace for initiating this food drive. Please go to the school website to see more info.



Mandatory Masks

Reminder that Masks are required for all students on school buses (including field trips) as well as in the hallways and other common areas within the school such as the library, halls, and foyer.

Please make sure your child has extra masks in their backpacks - with the cooler weather arriving, they do get wet.



Friday Hot Lunch & Cutlery for Lunches

Remember to include utensils for lunch. We have a minimal amount of plastic cutlery in the event they do forget occasionally, but we seem to be having some students come everyday.

If you ordered Friday's Hot Lunch, it is from Kita North on Friday, November 5.



School fees: Contactless Payments

Peace River School Division is eliminating payments by cash or cheque. The letter on page 4 is about Contactless Payments and gives instructions to get set up your SchoolCash Online account. Those of you registered in Hockey & Gymnastics Academy, please check your account for outstanding fees.



Hot Dogs – Wednesday, 3rd

The French Immersion group are doing another Hot Dog fundraiser for their trip. If you would like to order hotdogs for your child's lunch, they cost \$2.50 each ... OR you can purchase a punch card ...

Punch Cards - French Immersion Fund Raiser (Hot Dogs & Grilled Cheese)

You may purchase a punch card for \$20.00 (covers 8 items). Students will notify teachers what they would like and the teacher will punch the card accordingly. Please purchase your punch cards on November 1st or 2nd directly with the teachers. Your child will be responsible for their own card. Additional Punch Cards can be purchased at later dates.

Future dates are Nov3 – Hot Dogs, Nov 17 – Grilled Cheese, Dec 1 – Hot Dogs and Dec 15 – Grilled Cheese.





November Superintendent Message – The Power of Local Assessments

Have you ever heard these terms from your child(ren)’s school - RCAT, WAT, MIPI NCAT, and F & P BAS? These are all acronyms for local assessments that are used in all of Peace River School Division’s (PRSD) schools to support students’ learning needs and achievement. Teachers use these powerful tools to determine how students learn and to develop personalized instructional activities. Strategic use of local assessments also helps to improve student performance on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exams.

Assessment Legend:

RCAT = Reading Comprehension Assessment Tool

WAT = Writing Assessment Tool

MIPI = Math Intervention/Programming Instrument

NCAT = Numeracy Common Assessment Tool

F & P BAS = Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System 1 and 2

To help enhance your understanding about why local assessments are powerful tools in supporting your child(ren)’s learning, I would like to share some details about why we use them and what benefits our students receive from their use.

The local assessments listed above help teachers to determine their students’ level of knowledge and skills in the core areas of Literacy and Numeracy. These assessments will tell a teacher if there are any learning gaps with key concepts in Literacy and Numeracy. This information can be used to provide targeted lessons and useful accommodations to help the student learn important skills in Literacy and Numeracy. The assessments are done at the beginning of the year and then again later in the year to assess progress. The frequency that these assessments are administered allows Teachers and Educational Assistants to give targeted interventions and accommodations immediately after the assessment is completed.

All schools within PRSD have school teams made up of Teachers, Educational Assistants, I-Coaches, and Principals. These teams make up our School Division’s Collaborative Response to meeting your child(ren)’s needs. These school teams receive support from Divisional I-Coaches, Program Coordinators, Assistant Superintendents of Teaching and Learning and Learning Supports, and even me!

Local assessments are powerful tools in contributing to our mission to ensure every child is literate and numerate, not most students, but every student!

To further explore the power of local assessments, I encourage you to go to our website (www.prsd.ab.ca) and read PRSD’s Three-Year Education Plan for 2021-2024. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with all parents in achieving our collective goal of success for all students.



Adam Murray
Superintendent of Schools



Tru-Earth Fundraiser

Not just mummies come in great wraps! Purchase beeswax wraps for storing your fruits, vegetables, cheese, bread, and other tasty treats and support our school at the same time. Any orders of wraps, laundry strips or other eco-friendly products placed before midnight on Sunday using the code HALLOWEEN10 will save you 10%. That's not scary at all :)



Parent Portal Access

Peace River School Division is changing to a paperless system. You should have received a letter containing access codes specifically for you and your child. It is important that you please take the time to create and access your Parent Portal as this will be how all future

report cards will be viewed.

Also, for the grade 7 & 8 parents, it will give you access to view up to date attendance, assignments, and test results. For those of you who already have your account set up from last year, you may need to log out and back into your account to update your child's data for this year.

Access your child's marks and attendance online

Through the PowerSchool app

Learn more at prsd.ab.ca

Peace River School Division
Learning Together. Growing for All.

SCHOOLMESSENGER® **Please register your phone for SMS . . .**

If you know of somebody who has a student at TA Norris Middle School and that they are not receiving our *Weekly Activity Memos* by email or text messages, please refer them to page 3 of this newsletter. It is important as this is our way of communicating with families.

We continue to use School Messenger, <http://www.schoolmessenger.com/> which allows us to send information in three ways:

By SMS – texts will go out to the cell phone numbers we have on file here at the school. If your phone number has changed recently, please let us know! You need to opt into this service as indicated on the attached information sheet.

By Email – we will continue to our send weekly email list of activities, however School Messenger will be used for special bulletins.

By Phone – this allows us to send a pre-recorded message to your primary phone number. If there is no answer, the message will be delivered to the other phone numbers we have on file until a connection is made. Please wait for the school-initiated portion of the call to begin as School Messenger will consider the call to be incomplete if you hang up during the introductory portion. Please opt into the School Messenger program – thank you.

Please register your mobile device to receive text messages - see Page 4 for further details – thank you.

Please feel free to visit the school website, <http://www.tanorrismiddleschool.ca>, to check for messages from Teachers, Superintendent Messages and other information that may be of interest to you. Also if you **Like** us on Facebook, you can be notified of special items that may be of immediate interest. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to answer them or find the answers.



Dear families

We are so excited to start the new school year! We have missed being able to engage in person with our students and watch them as learning takes place.

As you know we have made several modifications to how we operate to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. I want to assure you that the health and safety of your family and our staff is our highest priority.

School Fees to be Paid Online

As part of those modifications, we are asking you to use our online payment system to purchase school items and pay any fees. It will be mandatory to make all purchases online. School staff will no longer be accepting cash or cheques from parents/students. Cash can play a significant role in virus transmission, and we are working toward following the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations to use contactless payments to mitigate virus spread.

Paying Online

Paying school fees online is fast and easy and can be done from any computer or smartphone. Getting setup is three simple steps:

1. **Create Your Profile:** Go to www.prsd.schoolcashonline.com and click on "Get Started Today".
2. **Confirm Your Email:** Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.
3. **Add a Student:** Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

I have included an online payment instructions flyer on how to sign up and use School Cash Online which contains more details.

Helping to Keep Everyone Safe

On behalf of our school, I want to thank you in advance for helping us implement processes, like paying online, that help keep everyone safe.

Together we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

Peace River School Division

OTHER BENEFITS OF ONLINE PAYMENT

Convenient: You can pay when you want and how you want.

Secure: Our online payment provide School Cash Online is designed with financial security at its core. Your payments are securely processed.

Less Loss: Children no longer carry cash that they can misplace or forget.

Safety: Children are no longer targets of theft.

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **724665**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 724665

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/tm for more info.

