

Good afternoon Parents & Students,

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**REMINDER that there is no school on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> for Remembrance Day & Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> no school as well.**



### **Principal's Corner**

... that report cards that are coming out on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 are going to be paperless? We have fully transitioned our report cards in PowerSchool for online viewing and are rolling out our first paperless report card!

We want families to know that if you are not set up with PowerSchool at home, please contact the school and we will help you get set up. If families would prefer a paper copy, we can accommodate that request as well. \*\*Please contact the office prior to November 19<sup>th</sup> if you would like a paper copy sent home that day. Thank you for your patience as we work through this next step in our reporting process.



### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

#### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Booking a parent teacher conference time just got easier. In order to choose the time and method which works best for your family, follow these steps:

1. Go to our school website, [www.tanorrismiddle school.ca](http://www.tanorrismiddle school.ca)
  2. Click Bookings from the menu bar
  3. Choose Tuesday, Nov 23 or Thursday, Nov 25
  4. Enter your information as prompted. You don't have to create a special account to use the booking system. If you wish to do the interview by phone, make sure the number you enter is the one you can be reached at during the 15-minute slot you choose. If you prefer Google Meet, your teacher will email you the link that afternoon.
  5. You will receive an email confirming your reserved time. If you need to change it, you can delete or reschedule depending on availability. The website will not allow double bookings.
- If you have any questions, let us know. Bookings open on Monday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.



#### **Parents Matter Week – November 15-19**

Next week students in Peace River School Division (PRSD) will be celebrating their parents, guardians, and caregivers during PRSD's Parents Matter Appreciation Week (November 15 – 19, 2021). This special week gives students and staff the opportunity to thank parents, guardians, and caregivers for their important role in student learning, success, and well-being. Please refer to the school website for activities.



#### **Friday Hot Lunch & Cutlery for Lunches**

Remember to include utensils for lunch. If you ordered Friday's Hot Lunch for Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, it will be from Matt's Pizza.

#### **Holiday Sale**



#### **Tru Earth Fundraiser**

The holiday shopping season is upon us soon and that means some great deals all this month from our fundraising partner, *Tru Earth*. Shop using the link <https://fundraising.tru.earth/tanorris> and introduce your friends and families to eco-friendly products they'll use all year long. A portion of all sales goes to help purchase a solar-powered light for our outdoor basketball court. It's a win for the community AND the environment.



### **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 the Gymnastics Academy, please check your account for outstanding fees.



### **Hot Dog and Grilled Cheese Wednesday**

The French Immersion Group fundraiser – you can still purchase punch cards for \$20 – good till the end of the school year. If you want to buy the odd lunch, you must purchase on the Tuesday prior to the date of the lunch Wednesday.



Upcoming dates: Nov 17 – Grilled Cheese, Dec 1 – Hot Dogs and Dec 15 – Grilled Cheese.



### **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.

A promotional graphic for the PowerSchool app. It features a dark blue header with the text 'Access your child's marks and attendance online'. Below this, it says 'Through the PowerSchool app' with the app's logo. At the bottom, it says 'Learn more at prsd.ab.ca' and shows a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's interface. The Peace River School Division logo is in the bottom right corner.



### **Please register your phone for SMS . . .**

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](http://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.



The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

## 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](http://schoolmessenger.com/tm) for more info.

