

REMINDER – No school for Students on Friday, Sept. 22nd, as it is a PD Day for the Staff.



Principal's Corner

... that TA Norris is in one happening place! It's hard to believe we have completed two weeks of school already! If you came into the building today, you'd be very proud of your little learners; I know we are! We are seeing some excellent early signs of growth and learning; it is a very encouraging experience. If you are looking to experience this for yourself and you have some spare time, we welcome you onto our team! We always look for caring adults who want to impact our youth's lives positively! You can help in several different capacities, reading to our students, helping them with work, hanging out in our hallways to connect with kids who need a moment and perhaps a listening and encouraging ear. Call us at the school to discuss how you can join Team Awesome; I know we have a spot for you! Enjoy the weather, spend time with each other and do things you enjoy, and remember, be kind to yourself and each other!

Please check out our online fundraiser for our upcoming Terry Fox Run. You can find information on our Facebook page or at this link/web address <https://schools.terryfox.ca/TANorrisMiddle>.



2023 2024 Online Registration for Returning Students

We still have a few families that need to complete their online returning student document for 2023-24. Please take the time to check your email for your Snapcode email and update the information/data on the form and submit it to us as soon as possible if you have not already done so.



ATTENDANCE ITEMS:

It is a very busy time of year for everybody - if you know your child is going to be absent from school for the day or longer – whether it be for illness, medical, dental, hockey, dance, other sports, musical festival - please contact the OFFICE and inform us by calling 780-624-3144, my extension is 13303 and leave a voicemail. Sending an email to the teacher is very nice, however, the teacher does not always have the time to view emails prior to attendance time plus notify the office. If you would kindly “CC” Mrs. Guey as well at GueyI@prsd.ab.ca, this will save on the interrupting phone calls, emails and text messages while you are at work. Thank you very much.



NEW SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY

Peace River School Division has changed their policy on school safety for the 2023-24 school year. ALL doors to the school will be locked after the first bell (8:50am) in the safety of everyone within. If you need to pick up your child early or are dropping them off from an appointment or are late for school – please use the doorbell and camera at our Main Entrance (Flagpoles location); also, any visitors and volunteers who need access will also need to use the Main Entrance.



STUDENT DROP-OFF:

Parents dropping off children for school, please instruct your child to use the **Cross Walk** in the *middle of the bus loop* **OR** drop them off at the *north end of the school yard* near the mailboxes and they will not have to cross roads or the bus lane at all. Students will then proceed directly to the grade appropriate entrance. They should not be using the staff or main entrances. This is very important and a safety issue for the students to be using the crosswalks.



Parent Portal Access – Please!

New students to our school & New entry of Grade 5 students to our school, on the first day of school your child will be coming home with a Letter for Parent Portal, Form(s), School Messenger info. If you have not already signed up for your Parent Portal Account, please sign up to use the PowerSchool Parent Portal and have instant access to your child's assignment and test marks, attendance, report card history, and more! Sign up by clicking the waffle button (square button with 9 boxes inside) on the top right-hand side of the Peace River School Division website, or any of our school websites, and choose "PowerSchool Student and Parent Portal" <https://prsd.powerschool.com/public/>



School Cash Accounts

If there are any fees for your child, such as Hockey, Dance & Gymnastics, Yearbook, damaged or lost school textbooks, they will appear on your child's account. Please take the time to set up your SchoolCash account and make any outstanding fee payments. You will find the easy sign-up on the Peace River School Division's website, the waffle buttons on the upper right-hand corner and selecting School Cash Online Payments. This will also be used to order hot lunches once the program has been organized (possibly by early October). Instructions Page 5.



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 SchoolMessenger program – thank you. ***Please take this opportunity to register your phone to receive important messages via text using the attached instructions (page 3).***

Please feel free to visit the school website, <http://www.tanorrisismiddleschool.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.

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.



Register for SchoolCash Online today

It's fast, easy & free

Create an account today so that you can be notified via email and pay for your child(ren)'s school activity fees online.

Why register?

- 24/7 shopping convenience
- Secure, contactless & easy-to-use
- Receive email notifications as new items are available for purchase
- Manage all of your child(ren)'s school activity fees from a single account
- Check your account history at any time
- View & print receipts as needed
- Eliminates the need for your child(ren) to carry cash

How to register

- Go to <https://prsd.schoolcashionline.com> and click **Register**.
 - Enter your first name, last name, email address, and create a password
 - Select a security question
 - Select **Yes** to receive email notifications (note that you will not receive any promotional emails)
- You will receive a confirmation via email. Check your Spam folder if you don't receive it.
- Use your email address and password to log in to your account.

How to add children to your account

- Sign in to **SchoolCash Online**:
<https://prsd.schoolcashionline.com>.
- At the top of the page, navigate to **My Account**.
- From the dropdown menu, select **My Students**.
- Click to add a child:
 - Type your school board name.
 - Choose your school from the list.
 - Enter your child's details. You may add up to 8 students to your account.
 - Click **Confirm**.

How to make a payment

- Select the item which you would like to purchase & click **Add to Cart**.
- Once you have finished adding items to your cart, click **Continue** to make a payment.

My Body My Choice

**Saturday,
October 21st
12:30-2:30pm
@Baytex Energy
Centre**

**Learn how to tackle
those tricky
conversations around
sex education with
your child.**

***Lunch provided
*Registration required
*Parents and teens
welcome!**

**For more information
call 780-624-0770**

Let's talk about...

***Consent
*Safety
*Boundaries
*Age of consent
AND MORE!**



Peace Region

Family Resource Network





ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Parents,

Another school year has started and as Alberta's new Minister of Education, I want to introduce myself and give you a quick update about some of the things your government has been doing to ensure our students are set up for success.

A top priority for my parents was getting me a high-quality education, since I'm a second generation Calgarian. Having immigrated to Calgary in the 1970s their educational opportunities were limited, and they firmly believed that a strong education is the path to greater success and prosperity. I took their advice to heart and went on to earn my PhD in political science and conflict resolution. I'm passionate about education and will work hard to set our students up for success.

As the 2023/24 school year gets underway there are several important highlights I want to share with you.

I firmly believe that the upcoming school year will give students the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Here are some of the things that we are working on:

1) We are injecting new funding to start the school year off on the right foot.

For the current school year, Alberta's government has increased funding to many of our school divisions to make sure they have the financial resources they need to give our kids a world-class education. Funding has increased by seven per cent from last year increasing the total amount of taxpayer dollars going directly to our school divisions to \$7.4 billion. In addition, a new Classroom Complexity Grant will be implemented which provides \$126 million over three years in new funding to help school authorities hire more educational assistants to help our teachers manage classrooms that are increasingly more complex with more students with diverse learning needs. As well, our hardworking teachers will also receive a two per cent salary increase this September as part of a deal reached with teachers last year and finally, we are providing \$414 million in new funding, a 32 per cent increase, to help bus another 80,000 students to school.

2) We are hiring more teachers and staff in our classrooms.

As students head back to class, they may start to see new friendly faces in their school. Budget 2023 provided funding to hire up to 3,000 new educational staff over three years, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers and other school support staff such as speech language pathologists and psychologists. Ensuring students have the supports they need to succeed in and out of the classroom is a top priority of mine.

3) We are focused on improving student mental health.

Alberta's government is supporting almost 80 mental health pilot projects across the province, with an investment of \$50 million. These projects will encourage student well-being through new and innovative approaches to providing supports and services like counselling, social and emotional learning, student assessment and training for school staff. For more information, please click [here](#).

4) We will continue to lead the country in early literacy and numeracy assessments.

As a father of two, I want to know how my girls are progressing in their academic journey and I know many of you want the same. In September of 2022, Alberta's government implemented new mandatory literacy and numeracy screening assessments for all students in Grades 1 – 3. These assessments will help identify students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy skill development and inform teacher intervention lesson plans and techniques to improve student skills. Based on school reporting, these interventions are working. I am very proud of the work that is being done here. Please know Alberta is leading the country with this type of early assessment and screening and will continue to foster new and improved ways to improve the education system. For more information, please click [here](#).

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge all our hardworking teachers, educational assistants, principals, and other school support staff. The work that you do is deeply acknowledged and appreciated by Alberta's government and I want to express my personal appreciation for your work. I look forward to serving as our province's Minister of Education for our great province and am confident we can continue to provide every student with a world-class education.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrios Nicolaides', written in a cursive style.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education