

REMINDER – No school for Students on Friday, October 2nd, as it is a PD Day for the Staff.



Principal's Corner

... we host an annual volleyball tournament and it is happening this weekend Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th. On Friday, action will occur at TA Norris, Glenmary High School, and Peace River High School. On Saturday the playoffs will start and action will happen at TA Norris and Glenmary schools. Come on out and watch 36 junior high school volleyballers battle it out to an exciting finish!

"Our tournament is a memorial tournament for former TA Norris student Ty Dennison. The Ty Denison Memorial Volleyball Tournament is named after a former T.A. Norris student who was killed in a dirt biking accident two weeks before he was to begin grade nine. Ty loved fishing, quadding, hunting and dirt biking with his family. He was also passionate about volleyball and enjoyed playing on the school team. At the first tournament of the 2008-09 school year, his grieving teammates all chose to wear Tyler's #22, after which the number was retired and the tournament re-named in his memory. His mother, Debbie Denison, reminds all players this weekend to play well, have fun, and show your team spirit."



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 Gueyl@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 & PICK-UP:

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.



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.

SPECIAL NOTE: We are hoping to have all the fees posted to School Cash early next week (Hockey, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Lunch Cards, etc).



OPEN HOUSE & PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Advisory Council will be hosting a meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00 pm in the library. Please take this opportunity to have your say, bring up any concerns you may have and participate with the Parent Advisory Council.



HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

We are hoping to start our Lunch Program after the Thanksgiving Weekend - Lunch will be available on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. Soon you will be able to purchase a \$60 Lunch card (\$6 per meal) through your School Cash Account (instructions on page 4). The lunch card will be recorded /tracked in a google document here at the school. Students will then come to the Home Ec. window to pick up their lunch based on which lunch they would like; it does not

have to every Mon, Wed & Thursday. Lunch selections will be from a different restaurant each day, which will be announced as soon as possible. More information to follow next week. Students will be told when they have two lunches remaining on their card and they will need to advise you.



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Our school wide photo day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Your child should have brought home a flyer from Lifetouch – all students will be photographed for yearbook purposes.



FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

We are once again collecting non-perishable items for the Peace River Food Bank during the month of October. Points are awarded according to [this schedule](#). The excitement is starting to build as students compete to see which homeroom will win a pizza party courtesy of Mighty Peace GMC. Currently Ms. Milley's 5B class is in the lead



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

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 send our 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.tanorrismiddle school.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.



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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.



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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





Peace River School Division

Learning Together - Success for All



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back & Recognizing the
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Welcome back to another school year!

This year, I am looking forward to seeing our students grow and thrive in their school environments while being challenged in their studies and extracurricular activities. As a team, it is the goal of the PRSD to be role models for your children. Each person on the PRSD team has been challenged to model characteristics and virtues that are inspiring to both the students and the communities we serve.

More than anything though, our goal is to help students understand they can achieve success. It is my personal belief that there is no greater gift a person can give than the gift of education.

Currently, schools are participating in Terry Fox events across the division, raising funds for cancer research. Terry Fox was once quoted saying, "When I started this run, I said that if we all gave one dollar, we'd have \$22 million for cancer research, and I don't care man, there's no reason that isn't possible. No reason."

Since 1980, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised more than \$850 million for cancer research. In 2021-22, the Terry Fox Foundation funded \$14.1 million in cancer research, including \$1.3 million for paediatric and young adult cancer research.

As September nears its end, we are fast approaching the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30. Across the division, all our schools are engaged in learning activities to support healing and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The PRSD is committed to doing their part to provide avenues for Indigenous people and Elders to share their history, their culture, and the truth of Canada's history. We are committed to honouring residential school survivors, the children who never returned home, their families, and their communities.

Earlier this month, Hines Creek Composite and Fairview High School welcomed Qye7e (pronounced Kin-ah-ah and meaning Great-Grandmother in Secwepemc) Cecilia DeRose and Kye7e (pronounced Kee-ya-ah and meaning Grandmother in Secwepemc) Lulu Ostrem from the Secwepemc First Nation in the Williams Lake, BC area. Qye7e is an esteemed Elder who attended the St. Joseph residential school. In 2013, Qye7e was part of the original Orange Shirt Day ceremony held at St. Joseph's. She expressed excitement over the fact that what was once a small ceremony has become an internationally recognized symbol of the legacy of residential schools.

At the September 21 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees a motion was approved to designate the week of September 30 as Truth and Reconciliation Week.

In addition to visits from Elders, PRSD schools have engaged in, or will take part in, a variety of other meaningful opportunities to learn about Indigenous cultures.



Some examples of these events include traditional Métis fiddling lessons, lunch with Bannock, participating in Indigenous games, and the sharing of Indigenous stories.

The PRSD recognizes that learning about Indigenous culture shouldn't be limited to one day, one week or even one month per year, and as such, are committed to engaging in activities that promote learning about Indigenous history and cultures all year round.

If you are looking for ways to support your child's understanding of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at home, there is a resource available online through the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society called, "[Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.](#)" This document contains the 94 calls to action, written in plain language and geared towards youth.

I wish you all a wonderful 2022-2023 school year ahead!



Adam Murray,
Superintendent of Schools

