

NO SCHOOL - Friday, November 24th is a PD Day for the staff.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER . . .

. . . That research proves engaging in your child's learning journey provides excellent dividends to your child's academic success. At TA Norris we provide several ways for you to connect to your child's learning. The use of PowerSchool to stay atop what your child is doing in school is one way to connect with your child's learning. Next week we have another opportunity to plug in with parent-teacher interviews; please book an appointment with your child's educator. Last, but not least, please consider getting involved in the school council; this is where you can have a very positive impact on the place where your child learns daily. We look forward to seeing many of you on November 21 and 23 for our fall PTI also known as Student Parent Teacher Conferences (SPTC).



**REPORT CARDS &
STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Report Cards went home today, November 17th.

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 21st and Thursday, November 23rd between the hours of 5:00-8:00 pm.

Booking for SPT is on our website as of November 9th - Bookings will be accepted until noon on the day of the SPT. The link to the Bookings page of the website is <https://www.tanorrismiddleschool.ca/bookings>. Some teachers have paired up, others are

going alone. Parents/guardians choose in-person or Google Phone when they book; they'll get an email confirmation right away and they can go back and change their booking if necessary.



BOOK FAIR NOVEMBER 20-23

Our Scholastic Book Fair starts next week! Students and families will be able to browse the selection of fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels in both French and English between 8:30 and 3:45 Monday to Thursday, and from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Cash, cheque, debit card, Visa and Mastercard accepted. A portion of sales is given back to us in the form of credits to purchase new books for our library. Books make excellent Christmas gifts and help develop imagination, critical thinking, and literacy skills. Come to our Book Fair!



HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Remember to purchase a \$60 Lunch card (\$6 per meal for 10 lunches) through your SchoolCash Account so your child doesn't run out. Lunch card will be recorded /tracked in a google document here at the school which will alleviate any lost cards.

Students will go to the Home Ec. window to pick up their lunch based on which lunch they would like; you do not have to purchase every day. Students will also be told when they have two lunches remaining on their card; they will need to let you know so you can purchase an additional Lunch Card. The following is the menu:

MONDAY – Pizza; **TUESDAY** – Hot dog or Grill Cheese & juice box; **WEDNESDAY** – Spaghetti

THURSDAY – Tacos in a Bag; **FRIDAY** – Burgers & Veggie Sticks (Free Friday)



5A SWIMMING – LAST SESSION

Swimming session last session is Tuesday, 21st

– 5A Remember your Swim gear for Tuesday.



Grade 7 & 8 Basketball Tryouts –

Boys 3:45-5:45

Last try out is Monday, 20th

Girls 3:30-5:00

Last try out is Tuesday, 21st



T.A. Norris Middle School

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Good afternoon Parents,

Head lice has been detected within our student population. Please help us be pro-active and check your child's head for live lice and/or nits.

For more information, please go to the attached link below:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head_lice.html

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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.



LITERACY, NUMERACY & LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

The Peace River School Division's Collaborative Response culture is making a difference for our students. This year, in the areas of literacy and numeracy we have seen overall growth in student achievement as measured by our local assessments, PATs and Diplomas, and most importantly end-of-year report card grades.

Collaborative Response requires the use of formative assessment to gauge where a student has strength and where they have a gap in understanding when assessing learning outcomes from the Alberta Program of Studies. Specifically, teachers use the following assessments:

- **WAT:** Writing Assessment Tool
- **RCAT:** Reading Comprehension Assessment Tool
- **EICS PA:** Elk Island Catholic Schools Phonological Awareness Assessment
- **MIPI:** Math Intervention/Programming Instrument for Grades 8 and 9 students
- **EICS MA:** Elk Island Catholic Schools Math Assessment for Grades 1 to 7
- **NCAT:** Numeracy Common Assessment Tool
- **F & P BAS:** Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System 1 and 2

Teachers use these powerful tools to ensure students are continually growing in these two very important areas: literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to provide targeted lessons and useful accommodations to help the student learn important skills. 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.

Through these assessments, the PRSD has been able to address our student's learning loss due to the Pandemic and we are seeing positive results. Since the Pandemic, the government has funded learning loss initiatives. Currently, the PRSD receives the least amount of this type of funding, compared to other school divisions in our zone, because of how successful our students are. Our achievement results indicate that we are turning the corner and can really start to appreciate the impact that formative assessment and the Collaborative Response culture provides to our students.

Parents, we need your help. In the last four years our data has shown us that missing school has a detrimental effect on students' learning. We have tracked the achievement results of students who attend school regularly, and those of students who attend school less regularly. Many days last year we had over 1,000 students away from school due to illness and other explained absences. In 2022-23, we had just 45.2% of students attend 90% of the time. We want to grow this number this year. In order to do that, we need students and families to work with us to improve our student attendance rates.

It really does take a whole community to value the importance of education for our youth. Our ongoing efforts to ensure high-quality education through the implementation of a Collaborative Response culture is yielding positive results.

To further explore the power of local assessments, I encourage you to visit our website, www.prsd.ab.ca, and read the Division's Three-Year Education Plan for 2021-2024. Closer to the end of November we will also publish our Annual Education Results Report. 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



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MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS



A monthly newsletter highlighting Mental Health programs available within the PRSD



Emergency Links & Phone Numbers

Addictions and
Mental Health
Helpline
(24-hour support)
1-877-303-2642

Peace River
Addictions and
Mental Health
780-624-6151

Kids Help Phone
1-800-668-6868

Indigenous
Support Line
(North Zone & Area)
1-844-944-4744

mykickstand.ca

Mental Health in Schools

ALBERTA EDUCATION FUNDED PILOT PROJECT



The Mental Health in Schools project is new to the PRSD in this school year and led by **Loro Koski**. The goal of this project is to provide increased access to universal and targeted support in the schools that are not served by project PEACE with Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB). These are schools that have been identified as rural and have limited access to support.

Loro works alongside a team of ten student support workers.

- **Tanya Parkin**, Dixonville School
- **Mandi Rushton**, E.E. Oliver Elementary School
- **Billi McDonald**, Fairview High School
- **Alyssa Morrison**, Hines Creek Composite School
- **Darcy Patterson**, Lloyd Garrison School
- **Cleo Pawlowski**, Manning Elementary School
- **Andrew Hilton**, Menno Simons Community School
- **Kyla Mackinnon**, Nampa Public School
- **Debra Perrier**, Paul Rowe Jr./Sr. High School
- **Justin Dicks**, Red Earth Creek School

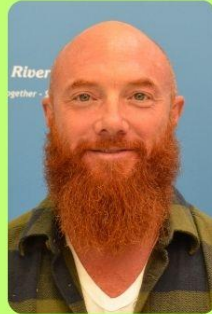
"A child's mental health is just as important as their physical health and deserves the same quality of support."

– Kate Middleton

Meet the PRSD Social Workers



Chris Kaip
Divisional School
Social Worker



Travis Mitten
School Social/Emotional
Behaviour Consultant



Connie Kramer
School Family
Liaison Worker



Margaret Buruma
School Social
Worker



Lorena Combes
School Social
Worker

Social Workers, Family School Liaison Workers, and School Social/Emotional Behavioural Consultants support teachers and other school staff in creating a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment through collaborative response. Social workers provide short term counselling, facilitate small groups, respond to emergency or crisis situations and collaborate with partners such as Parents, Mental Health and other service providers.

Mental Health Capacity Building

GOVERNMENT FUNDED THROUGH PROJECT PEACE



Sandra MacKenzie
Mental Health Capacity Building program coordinator

The Mental Health Capacity Building program is offered in Grimshaw and Peace River schools through success coaches. Our Success Coaches work with children, youth, and staff in schools, and they focus on providing universal and targeted programming in the areas of mental health, addictions and social/emotional learning.

Who are your Success Coaches?

- **Lauren Lauze**, Glenmary School
- **Carolyn Dickson**, Grimshaw Public School
- **Jade Hargrave-McKen**, Grimshaw Public School
- **Mitchell Cook**, Grimshaw Public School & Springfield Elementary School
- **Frances Berger**, Good Shepherd School
- **Mikailyn Wearden**, Holy Family School
- **Tori Svecla**, Peace River High School
- **Shannon Sutherland**, Springfield Elementary School
- **Shannon Chouinard**, TA Norris Middle School

