



Toujours amis...where friendships begin!

# Newsletter January

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, 2022 to all our OP families! Although our Christmas break was rather chilly, I hope you and your family still found time to enjoy our beautiful city and all the wonderful light displays, hills, trails, and activities it has to offer. There is nothing like spending time together outside making memories and teaching our children to enjoy the simplicity and beauty nature has to offer.

I'd like to take a moment for a HUGE shout-out and sincere thanks to our staff who went above and beyond putting on the Winter Walk - setting up, hosting our families and cleaning up at the end. Special thanks goes to the organizing committee of Madame Koelmans-Cameron, Madame Terrenzio, and Mrs. Coates. They spearheaded the event with all the planning and organizing and it turned out FANTASTIC!!! Despite the fact we had to cancel the 2nd night due to frigid temperatures, the first night was really fun and amazing in the contrast of the dark night sky. We have linked the video of the window displays, the carolers, and the walking tour later in our newsletter. Make sure you check it out!

***With the December 30th Government of Alberta announcement to delay the return to school for one additional week, staff will be working hard to ensure a safe and healthy return for our students and will be re-visiting curricular concepts to ensure we have time to cover all that is needed for students at every grade level. We will re-visit our COVID protocols and enhance safety and sanitization practices to ensure the safest learning environment for all.***

Assuming we can all return to in-person learning on January 10, this will see the start of our Reading Challenge. As we generally spend a bit more time indoors, it is a great time to encourage reading as a family and enjoy sharing great stories. Students can read anything they like as long as they read! Recall that the [City of Red Deer has free memberships](#) for Red Deer residents and you can order up your good reads online for curbside pick-up OR they have a HUGE selection of online books! Students can choose books from our school library or their teacher's have a classroom library to choose from as well.

Weather permitting, we will start skating the 2nd week of January. Many of you ALREADY [filled out this google form](#), but if you haven't and IF you are able to help tie skates over January or February, we would sure appreciate your help! The Google Form gives us an idea of what parents meet the Harm Reduction Policy ([RDPSD Policy 20](#)) and will be able to assist our little ones in tying skates and putting on those tricky helmets!

We look forward to continuing our work in literacy and numeracy as we implement additional interventions for students who are struggling with various degrees of learning loss due to the impact of COVID-19. Know that we are honored to be a part of your child's educational journey and we look forward to a wonderful 2022!!

### This Month at OP

(Please check our [school website](#) for updated [Calendar events](#))

#### Monday, January 3

- Gov't of Alberta delays return to school due to Omicron variant spread

#### Monday, January 10

- Anticipated return to in-person classes
- Skating Unit begins - in cohorts

#### Thursday, January 13

- Ryan Straschnitzki Presentation - Positive Mindset & Perseverance

#### Friday, January 14

- Staff Learning Day
- No School for Students

#### Thursday, January 20

- Wok Box Hot Lunch (order through Healthy Hunger)

#### Friday, January 21

- Jersey Day - wear your favorite jersey!



# COVID Information

[Updated guidance - AHS](#) - as of Sept 24, 2021

[RDPSD COVID-19 Dashboard](#) - tracking active cases & percentage of absenteeism (NOTE: this is based on data collected from AHS and shared with RDPSD)

[COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#) - Children under 18 - please review daily before sending children to school

[RDPSD COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols](#) - RDPSD Guidance Document

[COVID-19 Board Policy](#) - As of Nov 29, 2021 Board Meeting - New guidelines for staff, visitors, contractors in RDPSD

As of October 18, 2021, schools will now be informed through AHS of any cases of COVID-19. Classrooms with 3+ cases over a 5-day period will be placed on an 'exclusion' list (meaning that class is excluded from in-person/in-school learning and moves to temporary online learning). AHS will direct which classes move to temporary online learning. Please ensure you know how to log onto your child's Google Classroom - we have information on the [Parent Corner](#) of our [OP Website](#) or [directly here](#).

## WINTER WALK CELEBRATION

As COVID restrictions still did not allow in-person events for Christmas, 2021, the staff at OP looked for alternative ways to bring our students and parent community together. Three dedicated teachers spear-headed the organization of the [Winter Walk Celebration](#) and along with School Council, we welcomed our OP students and parents for an evening of entertainment, treats, and wonderful student art work.

See other pages of this newsletter for pictures of the event and certainly, take a moment to [watch the video](#) if you were not able to attend.

Our students worked hard on their window displays that centered around a poem, song, or story. As the daylight filtered into nightfall, the window displays and outside decorations lit up and became a focal point, with many stops along the way for hot chocolate, popcorn (supplied by School Council), candy canes & oranges, and certainly, a stop by the gym to listen to our student carollers - over 30 of our amazing OP students came out to sing!!

Thank you for supporting our Winter Walk!

## OP Skating Unit

As we look ahead into January - our skating unit begins in Phys Ed classes. We will cohort the classes and provide skates and helmets to those that require skates &/or a helmet. Remember - helmets MUST be CSA approved for ice skating/hockey - we cannot allow bike helmets to be used. Students will keep the borrowed skates &/or helmet for the duration of their class time in the skating unit; the items will be sanitized and quarantined before being used by another student in a different class.

**We are looking for parent volunteers to help tie skates and put on helmets!**

If you are able to come and help tie skates throughout the day, please let us know. [Here is a quick google form to let us know your possible availability in January or February.](#)



You will need to be double vaccinated, wear a mask, sign in, sanitize before and between tying skates, and do the [AHS Screening questionnaire](#) before you come.

**THANK YOU!**



## Your Guiding Adventure Starts Here!

At Girl Guides, we aim to empower every girl to be everything she wants to be by providing them a safe space to shine, take the lead and explore new challenges and interests. Registration for the 2021-2022 Guiding year is now open! Register at [www.girlguides.ca/joinnow](http://www.girlguides.ca/joinnow)

### HANDS DOWN WINNER!

Did you ever watch "Friends"? Do you remember how competitive Monica was on that sitcom? Well, that was NOTHING compared to the diabolic nature of our innocent and friendly Kindergarten teachers. I put out a Christmas Door Decorating contest to the staff and students in the last couple weeks of December - and well -- they were RUTHLESS! They organized their little troupes in AM & PM Kinder Classes and they went ALL OUT! All OP students toured the doors the last couple days of December and the hands-down winner was our AMAZING Kindergarten classes!!! We ran out of time before the break, so their prize will follow!!



### WINTER GEAR

When it comes to the decision on whether we go outside for recesses, noon &/or Phys Ed, it comes down to a team decision based on the weather station at our school and what is best for the students. It goes without saying that children need to get outside and play in the fresh air - it helps them get the kick-start they need to settle in for more in-class learning. Despite our amazing teachers and all they do to vary learning in the classroom - being outside and active is critical for well-rounded development and student learning. Therefore, it is vital that students come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing for the conditions.



Weather permitting, we go outside at least three times a day for recesses; more when we include Phys Ed class.

If you need assistance this year obtaining winter clothing, please contact the school and we can help. Together we can ensure all children are dressed for the weather.



## RED DEER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Reading PALS

The Reading PALS program provides free help to elementary children who are experiencing difficulties with reading and/or writing through fun activities and tutoring sessions. Contact the City of Red Deer Library or [follow this link](#) for more information.

## MUSIC LESSONS

If you are looking to expand your child's musical talents - consider a local business for Music Lessons. Unicorn Music Studios is located on the 2nd floor of the Vat Building (#205 - 5301 - 43 Street) Give them a call at: 403-347-9868 for information and rates on guitar, piano, drums, and/or singing/voice lessons. It is great to support local business while your child learns a skill that helps develop learning & brain development, among other many benefits.

## OP CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAY SEASON





## STUDENT RECOGNITION

The following students were nominated by their teacher in **December** for one of the RDPSD Values for Learning & Life: (Student names & values were celebrated on OPN News weekly, students receive a certificate from the Principal in class, and public recognition in the monthly newsletter.

FIRST Name	Award	Grade	Teacher
Riley	Collaborative	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Alif	Collaborative	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Kyliann	Responsible	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Halen	Curious	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Ayoub	Collaborative	4	Mrs. Coates
Kylie	Curious	5	Mrs. Coates
Greyson	Respectful	5	Mrs. Coates
Ayub	Curious	4	Mrs. Steele/Mrs. Geiger
Brian	Healthy	5	Mrs. Steele/Mrs. Geiger
Kageous	Resilient	3	Mrs. Steele/Mrs. Geiger
Victor	Curious	K	Ms. Baird
Harrison	Curious	K	Ms. Baird
Mustafa	Collaborative	3	Mr. O & Ms. Hanson
Nash	Responsible	3	Mr. O & Ms. Hanson
Lamar	Respectful	3	Mr. O & Ms. Hanson
Kenzie	Curious	3	Mr. O & Ms. Hanson
Kaghy	Collaborative	5	Mme Boissonneault-Empey
Katanna	Responsible	5	Mme Boissonneault-Empey
Simon	Curious	5	Mme Boissonneault-Empey
Rosalie	Collaborative	5	Mme Boissonneault-Empey
Colten	Respectful	4	Mme Rudge & Mme Beebe
Avery	Responsible	K	Mme Cook
Roscoe	Respectful	K	Mme Cook
Darlene	Respectful	K	Mme Cook
Hyun-Soo	Curious	K	Mme Cook



\*\* Student Name cannot be printed due to FOIP



## OP Contact Information:



403-347-3731



op@rdpsd.ab.ca



orioletpark.rdpsd.ab.ca



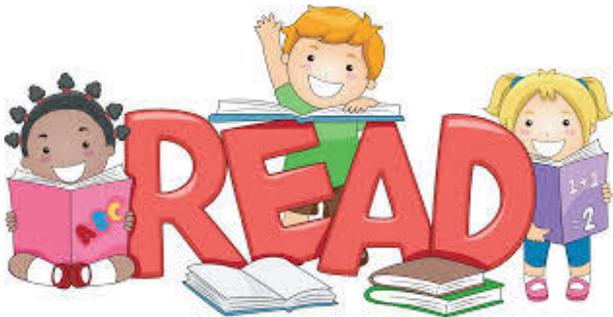
403-347-3735

opin@rdpsd.ab.ca

or use the Parent App



5 Oldbury Street  
RED DEER AB  
T4N 2A8



## School Council Corner

### School Council Meetings

All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend School Council meetings held monthly (typically) on the third Monday of the month.

**Our next virtual meeting will take place on:**

**Monday, January 17, 2022 @ 3:45 PM**

**If you would like to attend via Google Meet, please use this code and sign in by 3:45 PM**

**[meet.google.com/hqk-jxtq-qdt](https://meet.google.com/hqk-jxtq-qdt)**

Please join our Oriole Park School Parents & Council Facebook Group! Link [HERE](#)

If you have any questions, please email:

[op-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:op-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca)

**Please support our School Council Fundraisers!**

[Healthy Hunger](#)

HUGE thanks to School Council who, through their hard work and efforts, organized multiple fundraisers to support our Christmas Hamper & Adopt-A-Family program for families in need! Thank you for all your support of our families during the Christmas season!!!



## IMPORTANT Links for Parents

[Child Under 18 COVID-19 Health Screening Form](#)

[COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols RDPDSD 2021](#)

[OP Parent Corner](#) -

programs/info from Community Sources for your information only



[opin@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:opin@rdpsd.ab.ca) - attendance email to report your child's absence

**Free Urgent Dental Screening For Children**

Call the Johnstone Crossing Community Health Centre at 403-356-6302 to see if your family qualifies.