



Toujours amis...where friendships begin!

Newsletter February

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As February rolls in with its unpredictable weather patterns and the famous freeze-thaw cycle, it has turned our playground treacherous - everywhere. As much as there is so much fun for the kids as they slide down the slippery hills in their snowpants, there is also risk in simply walking across the icy field. Hoping that a fresh falling of snow will help and warmer temperatures will help provide some traction as it melts. Our ice machine in the office is going full tilt to provide some quick relief to the inevitable bumps that result from the current conditions!

Our Reading Challenge is going full force with so many students and families participating! Thank you for encouraging reading every night as part of the evening or bedtime routine! As this newsletter rolls out, we begin week 3 of the challenge and students are reading all sorts of books and increasing their literacy skills with every turn of the page!

A huge shout-out to some of our EA Staff (Ms. Danielle, Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Keful - with backups being Mrs. Stepler & Mrs. Dooley) and our own Ms. Carla (CLW), who come in every morning before 8 AM to prepare healthy breakfast & snack items for our OP students. As part of the District Nutrition Policy as well as our Values for Learning & Life (Healthy), we encourage all our students to eat healthy so their brains and bodies have the right fuel to learn and grow. This crew of hard working staff ensures they follow all health, safety, and COVID protocols so all our students have access to healthy snacks throughout the day.

We are hoping that the Government of Alberta has the next shipment of C-19 rapid tests ready to deliver to schools within the next week to 10 days. As soon as we receive them, we will send home a kit (with 5 rapid tests in each kit) with every student. If your family does not require a kit, please email: op@rdpsd.ab.ca so we can ensure we have enough for those that do need them.

There are lots of links for parents found within this newsletter that have been shared with schools &/or the District over the last few days/weeks. Have a look and see if any of them interest you for any of your family needs. One of the critical pieces of information is that which RDPSD Superintendent, Mr. Chad Erickson, shared with families on behalf of the Government of Alberta regarding public input on the new Draft Curriculum. Here is the [news release link](#) for more information. You can sign up for notifications about upcoming engagement sessions or [register for sessions by following this link](#).

We are honored to be on the journey helping your child/children be successful in school. As always, we consider ourselves partners in your child's social, emotional, and academic success and know that we will work together with you to ensure your children are learning and growing in positive ways each and every day. Stay well, OP Families!

This Month at OP

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

February 14-17

- Random acts of kindness week

Thursday, February 17

- Pita Pit Hot Lunch (order through Healthy Hunger)
- **Pink Shirt Day**

Friday, February 18

- Staff Learning Day
- No School for Students

Monday February 21

- Family Day Holiday
- No School for Students

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 22 & 23

- Winter Break
- No School for students

Thursday & Friday, February 24 & 25

- **Teacher's Convention**
- **No School for Students**



COVID Information

[Updated guidance - AHS for Schools](#) - as of January 5, 2022

[RDPSD COVID-19 Dashboard](#) - tracking absenteeism rates per school in 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

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](#).

Government of Alberta masks for students & staff and rapid test kits arrived at OP School on Monday, January 17 and one rapid test kit was sent home with every child in attendance that same day. Masks are to be kept at the school and used within the classrooms. Students who were absent received their rapid test kit upon their first day back in school. The next shipment should arrive early February.

RDPSD WELLNESS

Red Deer Public Schools are committed to the Health & Wellness of all students and staff. As such, schools deliver lessons that align with the Health curriculum that promote and support Mental Health & Wellness. Our six values for Learning and Life are the foundation of our work with students that correlate to the Division goals of Literacy & Numeracy, Equity, and Student Success & Completion.

More information on RDPSD's Health & Wellness can be found on the District Website, or [via this communication](#) that was shared with parents in mid-January.

AHS has shared some information as well. Links can be found here:

[How to care for C-19 at home Website Link](#)

[C-19 Self Care Guide](#)

[General advice for Household members if your child is sick C-19](#)

COVID Mandates for Schools

It is challenging to keep up with all the changing [rules & restrictions](#) with regard to COVID. Note that in order for us to stay at school with in-person learning/classes, it will take a collective effort on all fronts to ensure the health and safety of all our staff and students.

Although household close contacts to a C-19+ case no longer are required to quarantine, it is still highly recommended that they monitor for symptoms and avoid high risk settings. Students will be sent home from school when they exhibit any C-19 symptoms that are not considered their baseline. It is expected that parents (or emergency contacts) come to the school within a reasonable amount of time (usually 30-45 minutes) to pick up their symptomatic child.

If a child tests negative for C-19 but has symptoms, they MUST stay home until symptoms clear. Any person who tests positive for C-19 and is NOT fully vaccinated (2 doses) must stay home for 10 days or until symptoms clear - whichever is LONGER.

You are always welcome to call the office with any questions or for clarification.



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FICTION FEBRUARY

Lerner is sharing picture book read-aloud videos all month long.

Throughout the month of February we'll be sharing read-aloud videos of fiction picture books—one video for every school day in the month!



Participants will receive an email every Sunday beginning January 30, 2022, with links to videos for the week. We'll also include lists of related books

your readers might enjoy. Fiction February is free to join

[Click here to sign-up & register!](#)

CHALLENGE GROWTH

What does it mean to Challenge Growth? [Here is a website](#) that can help parents challenge their children in positive ways. Check this out if this interests you.

FAMILY COUNSELLING

Catholic Social Services is a community support organization who offers in-person, phone, or video-conference counselling in preventative psycho-educational interventions. These services are for individuals, couples, and/or families in Red Deer. Fees are based on a sliding scale (lower fees for lower income clients). Some services offered at no cost for family or group sessions.

Call: 403-347-8844

or visit them online at: cssalberta.ca

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Farm Credit Canada - supporting the OP Breakfast Program with a \$1000 donation through their [Drive Away Hunger program](#)! Thank you so much to [FCC!](#)
- [TD Bank Group](#) and [Canadian Children's Book Centre](#) for supporting Literacy in OP School with a donation of "Malaika's Costume (Nadia L. Hohn author & Irene Luxbacher illustrator) for every Grade 1 student (books received in both English & French)



MATH MATTERS

Math Matters - Tips for Parents

RDPSSD Math Coordinator - Ms. Shari Jensen has offered some tips for parents to help encourage & reinforce Math in your home.

[Click on this link to find out more!](#) Support Numeracy as a key goal for learning!

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.

Parent Links & Resources

Many of our families are looking for guidance when it comes to technology. One resource you may find useful is: [Google Families](#), a website aimed at helping parents navigate the online world with their children.

This Google site showcases and provides resources for popular Google Search questions such as;

- ▶ How much screen time is too much for my kid? (Search interest increased 217% in 2021)
- ▶ When should I get my kid a phone? (+152%)
- ▶ What are some fun learning activities for kids? (+793%)

[Google Families](#) also provides links for everything from parental controls, to learning to code.

SPARC Red Deer - Move your Mood - February Winter Challenge - [Information & Register Here](#)

[AHS Sessions for Parents & Educators](#) - for your information and interest only - AHS Sessions in a variety of topic areas for any parents, caregivers or educators - register as per the links provided.

Draft Curriculum Public Input: From January 31 to February 28, 2022, Albertans can participate in virtual engagement sessions to have their say through focused conversations a on the draft K-6 curriculum. We are providing up to 44 engagement sessions across five regions: north, Edmonton and surrounding area, central, Calgary and surrounding area, and south. This regional approach will enable communities to share local insights and unique perspectives. While Albertans are encouraged to participate in their region, they have the flexibility to attend any session that works best for them. Albertans can sign up for notifications about upcoming engagements and register for sessions at alberta.ca/curriculum-have-your-say.

MOVE YOUR MOOD FEBRUARY 2022 FAMILY CHALLENGE



FREE Family Challenge open to all families and all ages.

During the challenge you will learn ways to connect as a family by; practicing mindfulness, moving your bodies, fueling your bodies, expanding your mind and building healthy relationships.

Register at sparcreddeer.ca by January 28, 2022.

Complete family challenges and enter for a chance to win prizes!

Questions? email move.yourmood@ahs.ca





STUDENT RECOGNITION

The following students were nominated by their teacher in **January** 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
Jacob	Collaborative	3	Mrs. Steele & Mrs Geiger
Christian	Resilient	4	Mrs. Steele & Mrs Geiger
Eaton	Respectful	1	Mrs. Salomons
Bishop	Respectful	1	Mrs. Salomons
Sadie	Resilient	2	Mrs. Fowler
Si	Respectful	2	Mrs. Fowler
Ji-Hae	Healthy	2	Mme Cameron
Kai	Responsible	4	Mrs. Coates
Bayan	Resilient	4	Mrs. Coates
Joseph	Collaborative	5	Mrs. Coates
Kheanne	Responsible	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Daniel	Curious	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Mila	Responsible	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Lujein	Curious	2	Mrs. Beairsto
Michaiah	Responsible	5	Mme Boissonneault
Isaac	Responsible	1	Mrs. Salomons
Yanna	Responsible	1	Mrs. Salomons
Zuher	Collaborative	5	Ms. Lacourse
Owen	Responsible	5	Ms. Lacourse
Duvonti	Responsible	5	Ms. Lacourse
Weiand	Curious	5	Ms. Lacourse
Atticus	Responsible	K	Mme Cook
Nadia	Responsible	K	Mme Cook
Judy	Responsible	3	Mrs. Weststrate
Matthew	Responsible	3	Mme Kayla



** Student Name cannot be printed due to FOIP

TAMING WORRY DRAGONS

This program is designed to support children ages 5 - 8 years old as they explore and understand their feelings of anxiety, fear, and worry.

Parents are required to attend the concurrent parenting group focused on helping parents understand and support their children.

This program is not designed for children with a diagnosis.

IN
PERSON

~~WORRY~~ ~~ANXIETY~~ ~~FEAR~~

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 - 7:30 PM

MARCH 2 - APRIL 13

5409 - 50TH AVE.

\$85/CHILD

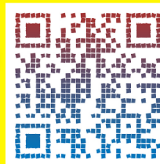
(no siblings)

Register online at

www.fsca.ca

For more information please call

403 - 343 - 6400



OP Contact Information:



403-347-3731



op@rdpsd.ab.ca



oriolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca



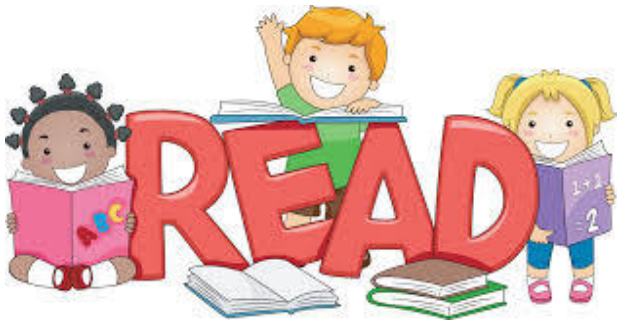
403-347-3735

opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca

or use the Parent App



5 Oldbury Street
RED DEER AB
T4N 2A8



Video Links

[OP Winter Walk - December, 2021](#)

[OP Remembrance Day Piper](#)



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, February 28, 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

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

If you have any questions, please email:

op-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca

Please support our School Council Fundraisers!

[Healthy Hunger](#)

The Red Deer Christmas Bureau sent a letter thanking Ecole Oriole Park and our parent community for so generously supporting the Christmas Bureau Toy Box



IMPORTANT Links for Parents

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

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

[OP Parent Corner](#) -

programs/info from Community Sources for your information only



opinfo@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.