



We are a NUT FREE School
Please refrain from sending nut products



Toujours amis...where friendships begin!

Newsletter

September

This Month at OP

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

Monday, September 5

- Labour Day Holiday - No School for Students

Thursday, September 15

- Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch Day (details included)

Friday, September 16

- Staff Learning Day - No School for Students

Thursday, September 29

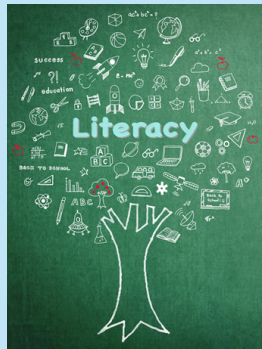
- Orange Shirt Day

Friday, September 30

- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School for Students

"Literacy is one of the greatest gifts a person can receive"

Jen Selinsky



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back!

What an AWESOME summer for weather this year and the staff at OP is THRILLED to be back with the students. We are so looking forward to another year of learning, friends, fun, and memories!

We have many new staff this year and certainly some fresh new student faces! Sending a warm welcome and welcome back to each and every member of the OP Family. Please read through the full newsletter so you can learn about all the things that are happening at Oriole Park in our transition back and some of the things happening throughout the year!

With huge thanks to Red Deer Public School District and our Board of Trustees, they have approved funding to continue with Literacy and Numeracy interventions for students who need extra supports in those areas. We have set up our classes and our program at OP to accommodate the specific needs of the students in order for them to access those supports in the most effective and efficient way possible.

As we transition back, please note it may take some time for the kids to remember what it is like to be around large groups again. Some students have not been in a school setting since March of 2020, when COVID shut down schools, so those students will need some support in their transition back. We continually teach about respect and being kind to others. Sometimes, young children need a little time to remember how to manage and deal with small conflicts. Making the right choice is something that children occasionally need the adults help with if they react in a manner that is not appropriate. Conflict resolution skills and resiliency is something we work on with the students each and every day. It is all about teaching and learning and being respectful with each other as we navigate life's situations.

Please note our school is always open and welcome to have a respectful conversation with our families. We look forward to another great year at OP!

Staff Updates

Please join me in welcoming our new or returning from leave members to the OP Staff - we look forward to these amazing professionals working hard with students to help them succeed to their very best. Welcome to École Oriole Park School!



- Mme Giselle Ruest - Vice Principal (and French Immersion Liaison)
- Michele Konan - Grade 1/2 FRIM Teacher - returning
- Amy Kuziak - Kindergarten FRIM Teacher/Grade 3 Teacher
- Janalyn Tuazon-King - Grade 4/5 Teacher
- Kyle Hart - Grade 4 Teacher (replacing Mrs. Stemmler on leave)
- Lisa Quirk - Grade 2 Teacher (part time)
- Anna Beurerlein - Grade 1 Teacher (part time)
- Katrina Steves - Pathways Program EA
- Felicite Niyigaba - French Immersion EA
- Yasmina Lessard - French Immersion & English Program EA

Working together in the best interest of our students and families!

Swim Lessons

We are in the process of finalizing the details with the City of Red Deer and Swim Lessons. Swim lessons were (formally) offered to students in Grades 2 & 3 (pre-Covid) but since many students in Grade 4 & 5 did not receive that opportunity in their Grade 2 & 3 year, we are working with the City to see if we can include them this year. The fee is \$40/student (\$35 to City of Red Deer and \$5 for busing). Swim lessons will be on Tuesdays starting Sept 27 (and go every Tuesday for 5 lessons). More information to follow when we have all the details.



Parent Volunteers at School

In order for parents to volunteer in the classroom or on a field trip, you must have an RCMP Criminal Record Check and provide [2 references to the school](#). There is a \$5 fee required by the City of Red Deer for the Check. You can apply for the Criminal Record Check [online through the City of Red Deer](#). You WILL require a letter from the school on District Letterhead to upload in your application for the Criminal Record Check. Sandy or Jacki will email you a digital copy of this letter for you to upload in your application upon your request. Please return the Criminal Record Check AND your 2 references to the Principal when everything is done. Thank you so much for helping out and volunteering with our students!



Fair Notice

At the beginning of each school year, Red Deer Public School Division makes parents and students aware of the threat assessment protocol through the distribution of the Fair Notice brochure. This brochure will outline the process and procedures used to assess threats at all levels.

This notice goes out to all families in our school division. This is not directed at any one family but provides information to all families about the process put in place to deal with threats to the people in our school or the school building. Please know that Administration (Principal &/or Vice Principal) are always available to sit down and discuss your concerns should you have any questions on these matters.

Please read the brochure linked here: [Fair Notice Brochure.](#)

GRADE 5 FRENCH IMMERSION - CAPSTONE GARDEN PROJECT

If you recall in the LAST school year (Spring of 2022), our Grade 4 French Immersion class - under the direction of Mme Beebe volunteered with the ReThink Red Deer Garden Project at Capstone (in Cronquist Business Park). As part of their hands-on learning and volunteering with ReThink in Capstone, they were the well-deserving recipients of 2 separate awards (based on applications from across Canada celebrating the Queen's Jubilee Year (Year of the Garden))

1. Tertiary Prize - \$150
2. GRAND Prize - \$1000

Now, these students are in Grade 5 (5BR) and the class is inviting CIBC in to do a Guest Speaker presentation on how to best manage their money and how to decide what to spend it on, responsibly and ethically. What a great circle of learning they are participating in!

Further, On Friday, September 9, organizers invited 5BR to kick off the harvest with lunch at the Capstone Garden. On the menu is pasta with tomato basil sauce, grilled zucchini and veggies & dip that will be prepared at the Capstone Garden outdoor kitchen by Miss Stacey (red seal chef) and Sylvia. Kennedy (former OP Teacher & now ReThink Red Deer Volunteer). A lot of the ingredients on the menu that day are the veggies & herbs the students help plant & grow!

Mark Collings (multi-media storyteller) from Destination History will also be there on Sept 9 to feature students in 5BR for a video documentary regarding Red Deer "Year of the Garden". Mark will be interviewing some of the students about the garden project and grand prize. Great work 5BR !!!! Congratulations to you all for all your hard work & dedication!





OP School Enrolment & Class Configurations

Every year, small schools like École Oriole Park have to make the tough decisions to split classes due to class size(s) and government funding. This year is no different. We are funded based on our enrolment over a 3-year period and have to make teaching, administration and support staff all function within that budget.

In the English Program - we "usually" have enough students at every grade level (except grade 4 & 5) to have TWO classes of each grade. We've historically had a 4/5 split along with one full grade 4 class and one full grade 5 class in the English Program.

In French Immersion (FRIM), it is a challenge, since we so seldom have enough for two classes at every grade level. Split classes are common in FRIM programs at most FRIM schools. As much as we would love to have students in a class with their age-level peers only, that is seldom the case in the FRIM Program. This year, our Learning Support Team (LST) made the decision to start our year with split classes, determine what our ACTUAL enrollment numbers are when all students show up, and then our LST will make the final decision to leave the splits or return to mostly larger classes but not split. These are tough decisions since educational supports for children must also be considered. Please allow us the grace and time to determine what our actual enrollment numbers are in FRIM and then we can make the final decision on whether we remain with split classes or unsplit (if possible). These are not decisions we take lightly and always in the best interest of students and learning.

RSVP IN POWERSCHOOL

Every year, it is vital (and required) that parents update their information in PowerSchool (PS). This means ensuring we have the correct address, contact phone numbers, emails, emergency contacts, custody orders, medical information, etc.



Please log into your PS Parent Portal and update your information for the 2022/2023 School Year. [Instructions are found here](#) if you need assistance. As always, call Jacki or Sandy if you need further help!



STUDENT ROAD SAFETY

Student safety is always our first priority. Please help us keep your children safe by:

1. Using marked crosswalks to cross roads and not "jaywalking"
2. Parking in designated parking areas only and never overcrowding the parking area around the bus zones (on Oleander Drive and on Oldbury Street)
3. NEVER walk your children between the buses to cross the road - if the bus rolls forward or back, someone could be seriously injured.
4. Please abide by the AMA Student Crosswalk leaders when they start up. They are volunteer students who are helping keep our children safe and we need to ensure we are all working together to ensure their safety too.
5. Please do not park near the crosswalks and allow for good sightlines for our AMA Patrollers & supervisors. There is LOTS of parking on Olsen Street at the beginning & end of the day where there is far less congestion!



2022-2023 TRANSPORTATION FEES NOW DUE

Yellow bus applications started on **May 1st for the 2022-2023 school year**. All [eligibility rules](#) still apply. This process will involve using School Engage through your Powerschool parent account to apply for busing. The 2022-2023 online form is **active since May 1st** and will be the only way to apply for yellow busing. Paper forms will no longer be available or accepted once this new process begins so please ensure you have a Powerschool account. Below is a link to the new process to help with the transition. Please note that just like in previous years, applications that are submitted online after June 24th will not be processed until school staff are back in late August. Specialized busing (for the Pathways Program) will still be done with paper forms through the school. Please contact Sandy for further information as fees are now due!



[Yellow Bus Application Process](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

The two GREATEST factors for student success in school are:

- regular & consistent attendance
- reading skills/literacy skills

Students who attend regularly build good school habits, miss less instruction, understand more of the material and build a solid foundation on which to build social relationships and academic knowledge. This translates into good school habits through middle and high school and into any post-secondary studies. Students who are allowed to miss school (notwithstanding illness) are much more likely to not graduate high school and have a harder time in the workforce securing regular employment. Please encourage your child to attend and support the importance of education and literacy as often as you can!

Elementary students seldom have "homework". However, all students should read at home every night. As part of the regular bed time routine, encourage your child to read to you at least 15 - 30 minutes nightly. This will increase their literacy skills & lead to success in school!

Thank you for ensuring your child/children attend regularly and read lots!

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

In order to ensure that students start the day with a nutritious meal, OP is pleased to continue our Breakfast Program, which is open to ALL students. There are many reasons why a student may come to school without breakfast on any given day so if that happens, please know that we will ensure your child has something to eat.



We have a wonderful volunteer who prepares nutritious breakfast items and morning snacks. The food is individually packaged and students have time to eat in the first period in the morning.

Further, the Mustard Seed supports our students in need with lunches daily. If you feel your child would

benefit from accessing the supports of the Mustard Seed, please contact the Main Office (Jacki or Sandy) or our CLW (Carla Feldberg). We will ensure they deliver a lunch for every child who needs one.



STAY INFORMED - COMMUNICATION

School Website ~ Class Webpages ~ Newsletters ~ Social Media

Our [OP School Website](#) is our primary source of communication between the school and home. Please ensure you check out the [OP Website](#) regularly. You can also follow us on Facebook (@OrioleParkElementaryRDP) &/or Instagram (Ecole_Oriole_Park_School)

Each homeroom teacher hosts a [class website](#) and most also have a Google Classroom. Please connect with your child's homeroom teacher for their G Classroom Link. If your child is going to be absent for any extended period of time, please connect with their homeroom teacher to stay updated on the material they will miss and the format for completing vital work.

Each month, the office emails out (no paper copies for an environmentally-friendly footprint) our monthly newsletter. If your email address changes, please update it in PS as that is the only way we can communicate with families is through the information supplied in PS.

Sandy, Jacki and Admin are always available to answer any questions or field any concerns. Please note that teachers are typically not available during the school day as they teach or supervise. We have an RDPSD policy of 6am - 6pm weekdays - whereby staff are encouraged not to respond to communication before 6 am or after 6 pm so they can focus on their own family(s) and their own well-being. Please do not expect communication from staff outside of those hours or on weekends.



Parent Links - Resources - Information

Links to camps & information of interest to parents:

- [Nexus Camps - Volleysmalls](#) - Boys & Girls Grades 3 - 6 starting Sept 11
- [Little Rockets - Basketball](#) - Boys & Girls Grades 1 - 6 starting Oct 16

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STUDENT RECOGNITION

This will be the page where we celebrate & recognize our students for one of the RDPSD Values for Learning & Life: (Student names & values are celebrated on OPN News weekly, students receive a certificate from the Principal in class, and public recognition in the monthly newsletter (assuming no FOIP restrictions). In the September newsletter, being as it goes out on Sept 1, we have not yet started our student recognition program. You'll see September Award Recipients in the October newsletter.

FIRST	Award	Grade	Teacher
	Responsible		
	Resilient		
	Curious		
	Healthy		
	Respectful		
	Collaborative		



Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch

Dates & Menu

- Sept 15: Pita Pit
- October 20: Quesada
- November 17: Opa
- December 15: Pizza Boxx
- January 19: Boston Pizza
- February 16: Edo
- March 23: State & Main
- April 20: Chopped Leaf
- May 18: Subway



Make family reading time together a regular part of your evening!

Order and pay ONLINE at:

healthyhunger.ca

Log in or create a new account and order for your child for the entire year!

Lunches are delivered and ready on the scheduled date!

Thank you School Council for organizing the Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch program for the year!!!

OP Contact Information:



403-347-3731



op@rdpsd.ab.ca



oriolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca



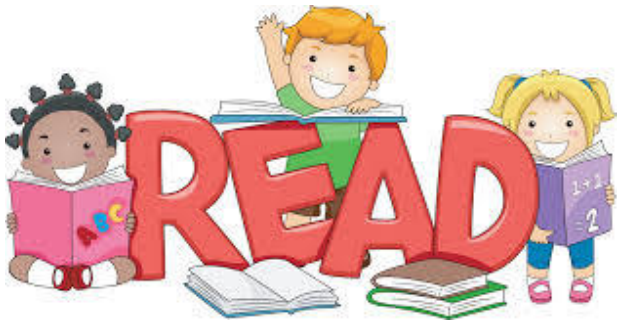
403-347-3735

opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca

or use the Parent App



5 Oldbury Street
RED DEER AB
T4N 2A8



School Council Corner

School Council Meetings

*Our next meeting will take place
IN PERSON (OP Library)*

On Monday, September 19

3:45 pm

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

OP School Council

welcomes all parents to our meetings so you have a voice and can stay informed on what is happening at your child's school. We look forward to a wonderful working relationship with our families and OP Staff.

IMPORTANT Links for Parents

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

[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.