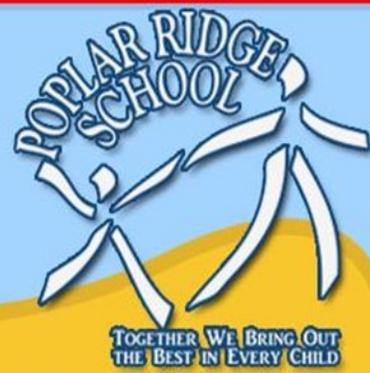


Poplar Ridge Elementary School



September 4, 2020 Newsletter

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that our first week back in the saddle is already over. Thank you for your support and patience with the implementation of our re-entry plan and with adjustments we have been making this week as we navigate our way through this new normal. Together we are making things work and that deserves some kudos!

Kudos to Parents/Families

We know that making the decision to send your children to school during this pandemic may have been a difficult one. Please know that we have put so much thought into every aspect of your child's re-entry to ensure their safe return. As you know, we have already made some adjustments. For example, we are better managing the drop off and pick up of students, getting students out in a timely manner and orchestrating traffic. You, too, have done your part! We appreciate your adherence to being here at your designated time, waiting for your turn at the unloading/loading spot, moving back into the cue if your child is not there yet and being patient with other drivers and our buses. We do know that next Thursday, when all students attend, will be much busier and will require more patience and a team effort on all of our parts to make it work smoothly. Kudos to you, our families, for your support of our efforts and plan and for being flexible as we adapt.

Kudos to Our Students

We couldn't be more proud of our students! They haven't been in school since March; that is six months ago! Yet they have arrived with their masks on, ready to grab our new normal with both hands. They have adapted to the new normal of regular hand washing/sanitizing, social distancing, following new rules and expectations in all areas of the school and playground, learning in new ways and interacting with peers in ways that are very different from when they were last here! They have done this with smiling eyes (we can't see their smile) and a positive attitude! We know that they will continue to rise to the challenge we are in and learn, grow, play, laugh and find the joy in each moment. Kudos to our kiddos!

Kudos to our Staff

Without a doubt, this has been a very challenging start up. Our entire team - our bus drivers, custodians, support staff and teachers- have had to change the way they approach their role. Mrs. Funk and I have watched our team adapt to our new normal with patience, flexibility, persistence, ingenuity and a sense of humour. We have made a conscious decision to focus on what we can do, not on what we used to do or can't do. We are intentionally looking for the silver linings, big and small, in each situation. We are committed to finding solutions rather than focusing on problems. And, we will find the joy in each moment at school and in our lives out of school to help us stay positive and energized. We hope to continue to instill this growth mind set in our students and ask you to join us on this journey. Kudos to our staff!

As you know, next Friday September 11, is a Collaboration Day for staff and there is no school for students. This day will give our school team and division an opportunity to pause, reflect and refine our plans. If our reflections determine that we need to adjust our plan in any way, we will communicate this to you as quickly as possible. To ensure you stay informed in this ever changing landscape, please get into the habit of checking your email when you receive a Messenger notification from our school. If you have not signed up for notifications, please do so.

Again, thank you for support, patience, flexibility and trust. We appreciate everything you do for your children and us. Have a fun, relaxing and safe long weekend!

Carolynne



Believing in every student

A Message from the Board of Trustees

We are so excited to welcome our students and staff back to school! Our Central Office team, school administrators and many other staff have worked hard to take care of many details around safety protocols, so that our students can enter into this school year full of enthusiasm. Our staff are going out of their way to deliver a world of opportunity to our students.

Schools in Chinook's Edge have been required to modify some routines, and safety is on our minds more than ever. Be assured your child will be well looked after. Our schools are prepared, our teachers and staff are keen, and our students can now embark on an exciting year with confidence. We are looking forward to engaging every student in meaningful learning so they can achieve higher levels of success throughout their lifetime. On behalf of the entire Board and Central Office team, we wish everyone a fantastic year in Chinook's Edge, *where students come first!*

Allan Tarnoczi, Chair Board of Trustees

Chinook's Edge Trustees:

Joe-Anne Knispel-Matejka (Ward 1 – Sylvan Lake)

Sherry Cooper (Ward 2 – Penhold / Poplar Ridge)

Colleen Butler (Ward 3 – Delburne / Elnora)

Holly Bilton (Ward 4 – Innisfail)

Connie Huelsman (Ward 5 – Bowden / Spruce View)

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Gordon Kerr (Ward 8 – Didsbury)

Melissa Copley (Ward 9 – Carstairs / Cremona)

Please [click here](#) to read the latest updates from the Board of Trustees.

Welcome to new staff

Please join us in welcoming a few new members to our school team. First we are excited to have Cass Edgar as our new daytime custodian. She and Carolyn Andrews, our evening custodian, are responsible for ensuring that our school is spic and span and meet all AHS guidelines. We are so grateful to have both of them on our team.

We are also welcoming Karen Unterschultz, who joins our amazing team of Educational Assistants as they support our students. She has years of experience and will be an asset to our school team.

School Fees 2020/2021

Kanga Pouch - \$10.50 (Optional)

Kanga Pouches are made out of a heavy duty material and are able to hold and protect library books, home reading books, agendas, and other important communication from the classroom teacher.



Agenda - \$6.00

Agendas are used to communicate home and school happenings. They are a great communication tool for students to organize their daily, weekly, and monthly activities at school. We will be following AHS guidelines with their use.

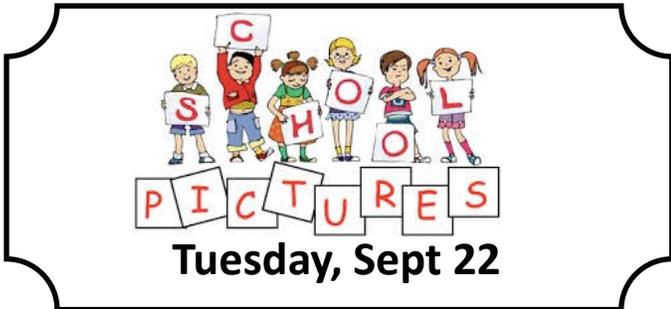


These items are payable online. [Click here to pay.](#) If you had purchased milk for the Spring 2020 term, you will have a credit on your account and payment will already be complete. If you are new to our school, you will need to set up your child's account. You can find their Alberta Student Number (ASN) in your [parent portal account](#) or you can contact the office and Miss Salomons will give it to you.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar



A to K students—Sept 3
L to Z students—Sept 4
No School—Sept 7
A to K students—Sept 8
L to Z students—Sept 9
All students attend school—Sept 10
No School—Sept 11
School Pictures—Tuesday, Sept 22
Terry Fox Run— TBD
Orange Shirt Day—Wednesday, Sept 30
No School—Friday, Oct 9
Thanksgiving No School—Monday Oct 12
No School—Oct 23



Call Safe:

If your child is going to be away or is sick, please call the school at 403-343-8821 to let us know. In addition, if your child will be late, please call the school office. If we do not hear from you, you will receive a call from the school to ensure your child is safe.

Annual School Enrollment Updates

We still have a few parents with outstanding Demographic forms. Emails were sent out Aug 24 and Aug 31. These forms are very important to make sure all emergency contacts are correct, any pre-existing health concerns are documented and that we have your correct contact information. Please have them filled out prior to Sept 8 as Miss Salomons will start making phone calls for any outstanding forms after that.

Contact Hours

Chinook's Edge School Division has a policy called **Weekdays 'til 6**. This approach involves non-emergency emails and texts be sent after 6:00 am and prior to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, to honor the personal time of families and staff. This approach to wellness is making a difference and we thank



Poplar Ridge School is nut aware!

We have students in our school with severe allergies to **ALL NUTS** and **NUT PRODUCTS**. Please avoid sending all products for snacks and lunches. Thanks!