

# Poplar Ridge Elementary School



## September 16, 2020 Newsletter

### Adjustments to our School Timetable and Routines

We are very thankful for our Divisions Re-Entry Plan. The slow staggered start in the first six days of school allowed us to fine tune many parts of our school re-entry plan and current timetable. Last Friday our staff spent the day examining our scheduling, processes and procedures to look for and address areas that needed adjustments. Our goal was to ensure our plans, moving forward, continue to meet AHS guidelines in the most efficient and effective ways. We also needed to ensure that our timetable met Alberta Education's guidelines for hours of instruction for students.

Because our enrollment has dropped below 160 students and because we have such a large playground, we are able to have all of our students to go out for morning recess together. We will continue to stagger students in and out of the school and provide extra supervision on the playground to ensure social distancing guidelines are met. We will continue with a staggered lunch until such time that we are confident students are able to meet expectations.

As a result of our work on Friday, and in consultation with our Liaison Associate Superintendent and our Parent Council, we have adjusted our timetable to meet all guidelines and tightened up our procedures for arrival and dismissal.

**Therefore, effective Friday, September 18th, our school day will continue to start at 8:45am and will now end at 3:05 pm.** Below, we have highlighted the adjustments to our timetable and procedures for arrival and dismissal.

### Morning Routine Updates

#### What's the same?

- Classes start at 8:45am (no change)
- Buses will be picking up students at their regularly scheduled time
- Upon arriving at school (by bus or car) ALL students will go directly to their classrooms
- Staff are outside to meet students and ensure driven students unload in an orderly, safe and efficient manner

#### What's different?

- **New drop off time for ALL students who are driven will be between 8:35am to 8:45am.**

### Afternoon Routine Updates

#### What's the same?

- We will continue with staggered dismissal: Bus students first, driven students second
- Staff are outside to guide students to busses and ensure students who are picked up load in an orderly, safe and efficient manner

#### What's different?

- **New dismissal bell now at 3:05pm (instead of 3:15pm)**
- We had to shorten our day by 10 minutes to accommodate the removal of afternoon recess
- **All bus students** are dismissed at 2:45 pm to load busses. Busses should be out of the parking lot by 2:55 pm
- Bus drivers have communicated their arrival times to you. Keep in mind times could vary by 5-10 minutes depending on road conditions, number of riders each day, etc. If you have any questions, please contact your driver.
- Having buses out of the loading zone earlier will allow for a more efficient pick up for driven students, creating more loading spots and less car congestion parking lot
- **New pick up time for all driven students: 2:55 - 3:10pm**  
(we know that pick up may continue after this time)
- Students being picked up **will not be dismissed until 2:55 pm. Plan to arrive for this time**
- **If your child is not at the loading zone when you arrive, please park in the lot and wait until they are present to go into the cue. Waiting at the front of the line backs up the cue and causes congestion. You will be asked to move out of the loading zone.**
- If you need to pick up your child earlier than 2:55pm, please call the school office and arrange an earlier pick up time.

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### Pick Up Etiquette Reminders

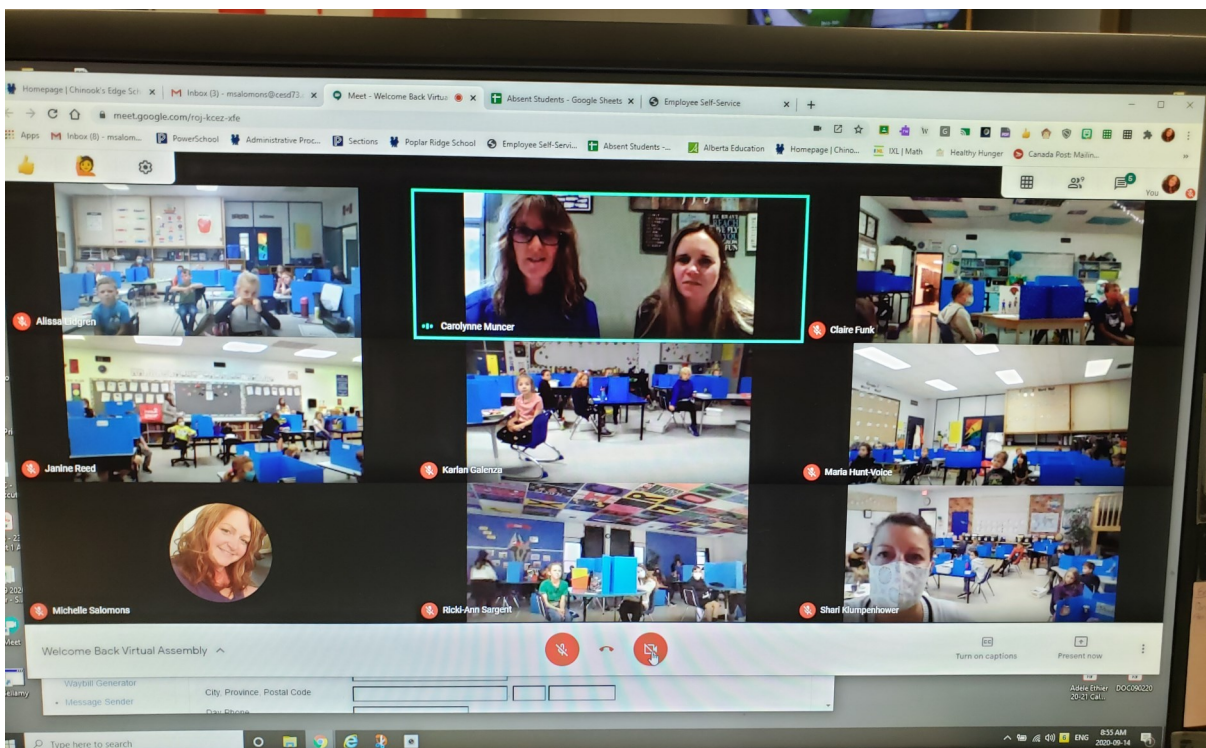
We thank you for your patience while we have worked to refine our dismissal plan. We know that there will still be some kinks to iron out moving forward, especially when winter conditions are upon us, but we feel good about our adjusted plan. Your understanding and support is much appreciated.

We understand that you are all busy and want to get on your way as quickly as possible at the end of the day. However, you now know about how much time pick up takes, so please plan accordingly and we ask that you continue to adhere to the following **pick up etiquette**:

- Move out of the loading zone if your child isn't there yet by doing a loop/parking until they appear
- For those in the line up, please allow those who are rejoining to merge back into the cue. Be kind and take turns
- When you move to the east side of the parking lot, signal appropriately so that other drivers/staff know if you are trying to get back into the cue (left) or are exiting to the highway (right.)
- Wait for a staff member to load your child. There will be more spots once buses leave. We will let you know when to move forward and when to leave the loading zone. Always shoulder check!
- Be patient, pay attention to traffic around you and be respectful to each other and our staff. Everyone is trying to do their best to ensure all our students are safely and efficiently on their way home. We are in this together!
- Remember to yield to buses

We have put a great deal of time, trial and error and thought into all of these adjustments. We feel they will allow for less lag time at arrival and dismissal, as well as maximize instructional time for learning. Thank you for your continued support in making our 'new normal' normal!

Carolynne and Claire



Our welcome back assembly was held on Monday Sept 14 via Google Meet



### Chilly Days Ahead

Great News! Our boiler is being replaced! This means it may be cooler inside the school than normal. With cooler temperatures forecasted, please send a sweater with your child that can kept in their locker if needed.

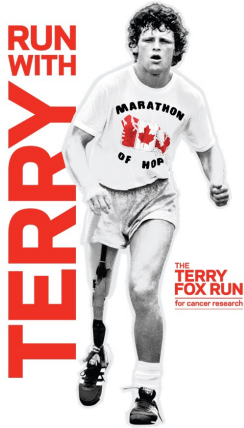
## Dates to Remember – Mark your Calendar



School Pictures—Tuesday, Sept 22  
Terry Fox Run— Sept 25  
PTA Meeting—Sept 28 via Zoom  
Orange Shirt Day—Wednesday, Sept 30  
No School—Friday, Oct 9  
Thanksgiving No School—Monday Oct 12  
No School—Oct 23



**Tuesday,  
Sept 22**



### **Terry Fox Run - Friday September 25/20**

This year we will organize our Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 25th in accordance with AHS guidelines. Students will be running in their cohorts (classes) throughout the day with their teacher. Teachers will be teaching about Terry's legacy and how we support the Terry Fox Foundation by running in his memory and donating money to support cancer research. We will be having a Virtual School Assembly to kick off our day. Unfortunately, parents and family cannot join us this year, but we appreciate your support of a loonie or toonie donation toward this worthy cause. We also hope you and your children can get out and run or walk together as a family at a local event.

### **Orange Shirt Day - Wednesday September 30/20**

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013. It grew out of residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of losing the shiny new orange shirt her granny gave her on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to teach about the legacy of residential schools and anti-racism education in all Canadian schools. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come because 'every child matters'. To recognize this important day, we invite all students to join our staff in wearing an orange shirt and/or mask.



**EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY**  
**Wednesday, Sept 30th**