

Poplar Ridge Elementary School



June 1, 2021 Newsletter



Principal's Message

As I look back at last June's newsletter, I see I was thanking students, parents and staff for their commitment to and perseverance with online learning. It's de ja vu!! On the heels of another online learning session, I want to thank all students, staff and parents for how incredibly positive, flexible and resilient you have been! My hope is that we are in-person until the end now and can say goodbye to each other on June 29 like we normally would...well as close to normal as we can get! Fingers and toes crossed, everyone!

New Vice Principal

As you all know by now, we have hired a new vice principal to take over for Mrs. Funk who has moved to Student Services. Mr. Darren Pickering will be joining our Poplar Ridge team in August as our new vice principal. Mr. Pickering will bring so much to our team. His excellent teaching and leadership experience, caring and fun focus on relationships with all stakeholders, community mindedness and commitment to excellence in all he does makes him a perfect fit for Poplar Ridge School! Welcome to the Ridge, Mr. Pickering!

Student Dress Code

With the warmer weather upon us, it is important to think about our school dress code. When wearing shorts, they should be an appropriate length—reaching mid thigh. Shirts and tank tops need to cover to the waist line, no see through material or mesh. Straps need to be a reasonable width (four finger rule). Don't forget a hat for those hot sunny days.

Next Year At A Glance

Bell Schedule: We will keep our current bell schedule for the coming year. This includes a start time of 8:45 am and end time of 3:05 pm, a 15 minute recess in the morning, and a 40 minute lunch recess (20 minutes to eat and 20 minutes to play). Teachers take their students outside for an afternoon break where it fits in their teaching schedules. Our timetable meets the prescribed minutes of instruction and all contractual obligations in relation to supervision time limits for teachers.



Drop Off and Pick Up Routine: As we are not sure what will be happening in our world come August, we will continue with the same routine as this year. The only difference is that busses will be picking up students in the new bus zone on the east side of the parking lot (this will be done over the summer) and the parent loading zone will be extended to where the busses used to pick up/drop off students.

Class Configuration and Staff Assignments: We are still in the process of tweaking class configuration and staffing at this point. We will be announcing teaching assignments and grades configuration in our June 21 newsletter.

Virtual Kindergarten Orientation

We are in the process of creating a Virtual Kindergarten Orientation Video which will be shared with our kindergarten parents/families on June 15th via the email you have provided in your child's registration. If you have a kindergarten child and haven't registered them yet (or know of some who may in our catchment area), please let us know! This helps immensely with planning for next year's planning and configuration.



Have a great month everyone!

Carolynne Muncer



Welcome to our Team



Hello my name is Darren Pickering and I am truly excited to begin my new adventure as a part of the Poplar Ridge School and Community. I have been a teacher for 24 years. My first year was in the community of Loon Lake about 170 km north of Slave Lake. The last 23 have been in Sylvan Lake, where I grew up. It was an honour to be able to teach in my hometown and I will continue to live here. I am married to Bonnie and we have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Our youngest son is graduating this year from H.J. Cody. I can't wait to meet all the students and parents and learn more about the great school and community of Poplar Ridge.



To register for 2021/2022 School Year click [here](#)

Dates to Remember – Mark your Calendar



Mental Health Wellness Day—Jun 3
No School—Jun 4
PTA Meeting— 9:00 am VIA zoom Jun 7
Virtual Kindergarten Orientation—Jun 15
Final 2020/2021 newsletter—Jun 21
Last Day of School—Jun 29

Moving???



If you know that your child won't be attending Poplar Ridge for the 2021-2022 school year, please contact the school as it helps us with planning. Thanks

2021/2022 School Supply Lists

More information coming
in Jun 21 newsletter



The PTA needs a volunteer for the Vice Chair position for the 2021/2022 school year. Without this position filled, we are unable to continue operating.

The Poplar Ridge PTA would like to invite you to our next meeting on **Monday, June 7 at 9:00am** via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678025394>

Reflecting with gratitude on an exceptional year

A message from the Superintendent

As the end of this school year draws to a close, the Board of Trustees and Central Office team would like to express their gratitude for the level of success that has been achieved across the division. Everyone in Chinook's Edge has worked to ensure meaningful learning has taken place, knowing it required a significant amount of flexibility and grit throughout the year.

Moving learning forward during the pandemic has required dedication from every corner. We are particularly appreciative of the amazing perseverance shown by our students and their parents. Chinook's Edge has retained positive momentum, with a sharp focus on the social emotional wellbeing of our students. Our staff have worked so hard, often during challenging pauses from in-school learning, to support over 11,000 children and youth.

Thank you to our students and staff for their hard work and dedication, and to our parents and community partners who have engaged in learning alongside us throughout one of the most challenging years in our history. We take tremendous pride in knowing that our extra efforts still made a significant difference in the lives of our students.

Please enjoy a safe and joyful summer.

Kurt Sacher,
Superintendent of Schools

For Trustee updates and to read the latest **Board eNews**, please visit [our website](#).



On June 3, 2021, schools can access free, online sessions on mental wellness. There are individual sessions for kindergarten to Grade 3, Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 12 students – as well as teachers, staff and parents. All share a common theme: ‘Take care of yourself and each other.’

It’s a way of recognizing the resilience of school communities during this difficult year and offering some fun, engaging sessions on supporting mental wellness together.

Students, Parents and staff are invited to join the Minister of Education and special guests, including country singer Brett Kissel, to celebrate and honour the work and resilience of students, staff and parents. Let’s kick off mental wellness day together!

Throughout the day our classes will be participating in different sessions.

Evening Session for Parents:

Dr. Jody Carrington 7 to 8 pm

Our kids are okay only if those of us holding them are okay.” Join Dr. Jody Carrington – speaker, author, game changer – as she delivers her powerful message through humour and realism, understanding the importance of attachment and connection during these challenging times.

For more information on links to sessions
<https://www.alberta.ca/mental-wellness-day-for-schools.aspx>