

Poplar Ridge Elementary School



December 2022 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Staffing Update

As you may know, we said goodbye to Mr. Linski, who retired this month. We are so excited to welcome Mrs. Haley Hewlett to our family as the new grade five teacher! Mrs. Hewlett comes to us with years of teaching experience in grades four, five and six. She is super excited to join our team and is looking forward to an amazing year of learning and fun with the grade fives. With Mrs. Hewlett teaching grade five full-time, Mr. Pickering will be teaching grades three to six PE where Mr. Linski did. We know your children are in great hands!



Dates to Remember – Mark your Calendar

Kindergarten Friday—Dec 2
Papa John's Fundraiser—Dec 5
No School—Dec 9
Grade 4 to 6 Skiing—Dec 15
Favorite Christmas Outfit Day—Dec 16
Parent Council Turkey Dinner Day—Dec 16
Christmas Concert—Dec 22 1:00 pm
Christmas Concert—Dec 22 7:00 pm
Skiing Grade 4 to 6 —Dec 23
Christmas Break—Dec 24 to Jan 8
Swimming Gr 1 to 3—Jan 13
Skiing Grade 4 to 6 —Jan 19
Skiing Grade 4 to 6 —Jan 20
Swimming Grade 1 to 3—Jan 20

Mrs. Warder, our grade one and music teacher, will welcome a new addition to her family in the new year, therefore her time here will end at Christmas break. In preparation for her maternity leave starting in January, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Kyla Wilson to our team as the new grade one/music teacher! Mrs. Wilson has years of experience teaching grades one, two and three and has a musical background. We are confident she will do an amazing job picking up the reins from Mrs. Warder in grade one and music. Mrs. Wilson will be working alongside Mrs. Warder over the next few weeks to get to know the students and prepare for this transition.



Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Hewlett and Mrs. Wilson to the Poplar Ridge family!

Our Core Values Recognition Program

As a team, our staff has spent a great deal of time focusing on and intentionally teaching students how to apply our **five core values of relationship, respect, integrity, courage and excellence** in all aspects of school. This work began three years ago when we engaged our students in helping us design our **Core Values Wheel**. Like an Indigenous medicine wheel, it connects animal characteristics and action words to each value. This helps students connect their own behaviors, choices, actions and goals to our values. To acknowledge this important work, we have created a meaningful way to recognize students who set goals towards and demonstrate or "live" our core values consistently in all aspects of their school life. We have shared our thinking and plans with our School Council/PTA to get their feedback. They were very supportive of our attention to focusing on this aspect of student learning, as it supports academic, social and emotional growth for our students now and in the future. **With their support, we are excited to share that we will begin the Poplar Ridge School Core Value Recognition Program for our students in January!**

How will this work you ask? We will launch this with students in January at our first assembly and teachers will teach about it in class. Staff can nominate students who they see consistently demonstrating the characteristics of each core value in multiple settings at school. We have created cool key tags for each of the animals in our Core Value Wheel. The goal is for students to earn all of the key tags over the course of their time at PRS. Hopefully, they earn more than one of each! Each month at our assembly, we will celebrate students who have been nominated and have earned the **animal key tag of the value they are recognized for!** We know not all students are motivated by recognition, prizes or grades, but we feel that it is important to recognize students who demonstrate our values as it will hopefully instill a growth mindset that shows up in all aspects of their lives, in and out of school.

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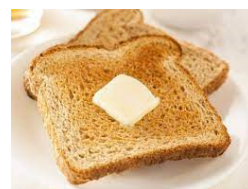
We have included our **Core Value Wheel** to the right so you can see which animal represents each core value, along with three words that we focus on to describe the behavior and attitudes that students should be demonstrating to meet it. We will be sending out info again in January so that you can review it with your child. We hope that by focusing on and recognizing what it looks like to live our core values at school, these will carry into our students lives beyond PRS!

Thank you to those that support our Breakfast Program



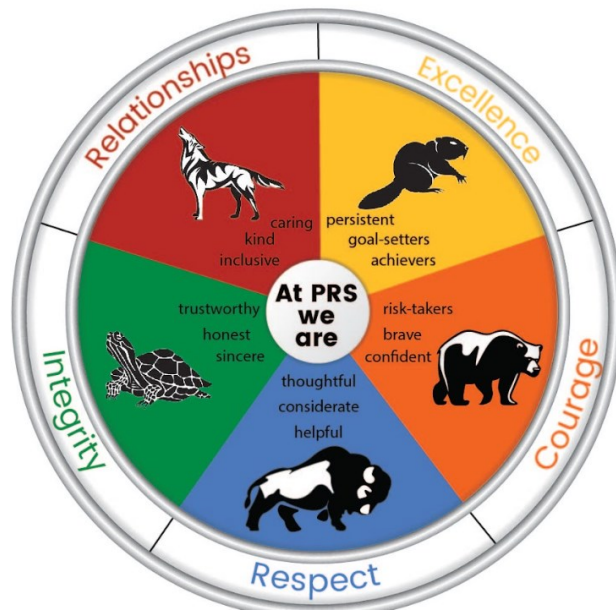
We would like to send out a HUGE THANK YOU to Sobeys in Sylvan Lake for the amazing discount they have provided on bread for our Breakfast Toast Program. Our

students are really enjoying that delicious snack first thing on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We also want to thank Mrs. Grimbeek and Ms. Archuk (and their helpers) for making toast for our students on these days! Our students are so thankful for this program and we grateful for the support of our volunteers and Sylvan Lake Sobeys.



December is a very exciting, fun and busy month for students and staff. While we include all the festive activities that this season brings, we also know how important rest and routine is for children. Staying home when sick will also help keep those nasty bugs out of our school. We sincerely appreciate your support with these reminders.

Carolynne and Darren



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is Coming! The Christmas Concert is Coming!!

Please mark Thursday, December 22 in your calendar folks as it's our **Christmas Carol Palooza Concert!** As we have limited parking and seating, we will offer two concert sittings this year: 1pm and 7pm. It is a great idea to carpool and, if you have a large family, consider having some attend the early concert and some the later. There will be parking on our field and you will enter through the northeast gate. Entrance to the school will be through the north doors. A huge thank you to Andy Belich for plowing the field for us.

If you are attending the 1 pm performance, doors will open at 12:30pm and are locked at 1pm. If you are attending the 7pm concert, the doors will open at 6:30pm and locked at 7pm. We will not have anyone to man the doors, so plan to arrive on time. We will let you know what time your children need to be at the school for the late performance closer to the time.

As the concert is in our gym, you will be required to remove your shoes at the entrance door and no food or drink is permitted in the gym. You will also want to bring your best singing voices as this is an interactive concert! We will send out reminders closer to the date, but if you have any questions feel free to contact us.

Red Deer Christmas Bureau Toy Drive and Food Drive

As always, we are supporting the Red Deer Christmas Bureau's Toy Drive this year. If you would like to donate a toy, you can send it to school with your child or drop it off at the office before December 17. Your support of this very important cause is greatly appreciated.

Our Kindness Club we will be organizing a Food Drive after Christmas. Stay tuned for more info in the new year.

