

Fairview & Area Learning Store



Bridging Gaps

Building Futures

Notes From the Underground

Welcome Back!

The first month of school is coming to an end and the Learning Store is busier than last year. Although Covid routines are still in place and are inconvenient, we all have somewhat learned to live and work with Covid. We are seeing students who are excited to be back at school and working hard to do well in their courses.

As an outreach school, we strive to provide a flexible, encouraging, and supportive learning environment to all students. While there is flexibility in our programming, it is important that you follow your timelines closely so that we can ensure that you are on track towards achieving your goals. We are here to assist you in shaping your learning plan that fits your unique needs and circumstances.

There were a few changes over the summer which led to the Learning Store to be a part of the division's Virtual Education Program (VEP) initiative. While the Learning Store will continue to function as it has in the past, this opens the option of virtual learning to our students for those courses offered through the VEP, if a student chooses to take that path. They can take all or some courses through FALS and others through VEP. Please contact us to find out the details.

We are hoping for another successful year of learning for our students. Make sure to ask a lot of questions and make the most out of your time at FALS. If you are busy and not able to attend regularly, please feel free to email, call or text with your questions or concerns. If you are a parent, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.



Staff Photo: left to right Patricia Woronuk-Office Manager, Saxon Butte-Principal, Anil Vasudevan-Coordinator, Math/Science Teacher, Stephen Drapak-English/Social Teacher, Missing from Photo- Colleen Loxterkamp-Educational Assistant

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ **SEPTEMBER 6: Labour Day Holiday**
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER 20: PD Day (No School)**
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER 30: Truth & Reconciliation Day (No School)**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 5: World Teacher Day**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 8: Non-Operational Day**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 11: Thanksgiving Day Holiday (no school)**
- ◆ **OCTOBER 25: PD Day (No School)**

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www.FairviewLearningStore.ca

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to our students, families, staff, and school communities. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are ready to start an exciting new school year. To our new families and staff, welcome to the Peace River School Division family.

As you may be aware, my name is Adam Murray, and I am the new Superintendent for the Peace River School Division. I very much look forward to working with our students, staff, families, and communities to continue to provide high-quality educational experiences in safe, caring and inclusive schools. I believe that no dream is too big, and I am very passionate about ensuring our students are supported, engaged, and nurtured so that they can reach their goals and their full potential.



As outlined in our [Education Plan](#), numeracy, literacy and student health and wellness are top priorities for PRSD, in addition to providing students with a broad range of academic and engaging extra-curricular programming. Wellness in our schools is also a top priority as we know that students need to feel happy and well for students to reach their full potential. Encouraging our students to be a part of a team, a group at school, or in the community is essential. These opportunities help to grow and develop important life skills and attributes such as teamwork, community-mindedness and shared responsibility.

Of course, our parents and guardians play a crucial role in education, and we welcome, value and appreciate your involvement and input. We understand that parental involvement looks different for many families, and as a division, we will continue to ensure parents are aware of ways they can be involved and feel at home in our schools. This November, we also look forward to celebrating our parents and guardians during PRSD's annual "Parents Matter Appreciation Week."

I would also like to take this time to reassure our families and school communities that we take the safety and well-being of students very seriously. We will continue with enhanced cleaning in our schools and facilities, and encourage thorough and frequent hand washing. We respect and support any student or staff who want to continue wearing a mask in school, we will continue to encourage our students and staff to stay home when they are not feeling well and, we are committed to work with Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Government should the nature of the pandemic change. We understand that for some of our families, in-person learning may not be the preferred choice. For our families that would like to learn more about online learning options, please be aware that we offer virtual learning programming for students from grades 1-12 by skilled and dedicated teachers, support staff and our District Principal. Please visit our website at prsd.ab.ca to learn more.

Schools are the hub of our communities, and our students make up the communities of tomorrow. Together as educators, parents, support staff, community members, organizations and businesses, we are given an incredible opportunity to encourage, empower and enable students to develop their unique talents and gifts. Thank you all in advance for your support and involvement in student learning and well-being.

I wish you all a wonderful 2021-2022 school year.

Adam Murray
Superintendent of Schools

New & Important Information;

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30th

Peace River School Division

September 17, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

The Government of Canada has declared September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day is intended to recognize and honour residential school survivors, their families and their communities. It will also ensure that public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. Please note that as this is a federal holiday, it only applies automatically to the federal government, federal crown boards and agencies and federally regulated companies.

However, during the regular board meeting held yesterday (September 16, 2021), the PRSD board of trustees voted that for the 2021-22 school year, **Thursday, Sept. 30 will be designated as a non-operational day in Peace River School Division** to demonstrate our commitment to the process of truth and reconciliation. **This means there will be no classes and schools will be closed for the day.**

Initially the board of trustees believed that having students in school on the National Day of Truth of Reconciliation would ensure that the importance of this day would be observed by all our students. However, upon learning that members of our community would value us honoring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by taking it as a day off school, we decided to explore this idea further. After consulting with various local Indigenous organizations, Elders and Knowledge keepers, we learned, and now agree, that our best way forward is that this day be observed in the same way as other national holidays.

The board also voted that **September 27 to October 1, 2021 be declared Truth and Reconciliation Week in PRSD schools**. By dedicating a full week to Truth and Reconciliation, schools will have the flexibility to select a minimum of one school day within the week to recognize Orange Shirt Day while students learn about the history and legacy of residential schools. Other learning activities that support Truth and Reconciliation will also be encouraged.

Please note that our school and divisional websites will be updated in the coming days to reflect this change.

Thank you for supporting this important initiative.



Adam Murray
Superintendent of Schools

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www.prsd.ab.ca

Learning Together - Success for All

Meet the Staff for FALS



Welcome: Mr. Saxon Butte FALS Principal

Mr. Saxon Butte taught in the Peace Region before working as the principal of Grimshaw Public School and is now excited to be the District Principal overseeing PRSD's Virtual Education Program, Peace Home Learning Connection, Peace Regional Outreach Campus, Fairview and Area Learning Store and High School Hutterite Colony Programming for the 2021/2022 school year.

Fairview and Area Learning Store is thrilled to be a part of these broader options available to students and are delighted to be a part of Mr. Butte's team.

Welcome Back: Mr. Anil Vasudevan, FALS Coordinator, Math/Science Teacher

Hello. My name is Anil Vasudevan, the Math and Science teacher here at the Learning Store. I have been teaching secondary level Science and Math courses for a number of years. I graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor in Education. I also hold an MSc in Physics. I believe that every student is capable of achievement. This achievement might take different forms and will happen at different rates and in different styles, but it is vital to foster confidence and effort by celebrating every achievement as worthwhile. I am happy to be a part of the Fairview & Area Learning Store as it provides a caring and nurturing learning atmosphere.



Meet the Staff (cont.)



**Welcome: Mr. Stephen Drapaka,
English/Social Teacher**

My name is Stephen Drapaka and I am teaching English and Social Studies at the Learning Store. I have been a teacher for several years, and have experience teaching in Canada, Qatar and Mexico. I have got a Bachelor of History degree from the University of Alberta as well as a Secondary Education after-degree and an MA in history. I especially like history and languages and look forward to developing modules and materials to meet the needs of our students. A recent project I have started is to develop language modules for German, Spanish and French for the Learning Store. I am very happy to be in Fairview and look forward to getting to know the local community.

**Welcome: Mrs. Colleen Loxterkamp,
Educational Assistant**

Hi everyone, I am genuinely happy to be here as an Educational Assistant. I enjoy meeting the students that come into our Fairview & Area Learning Store. The Fairview & Area Learning Store is a very personable environment to learn, study and get to know each other.

Mr. V. and Mr. Stephen are easy to work with and get to know. And of course, thank you Mrs. Woronuk for your help and patience.

Life truly is about learning, and it doesn't stop. It is lifelong. School on any level is about learning to learn. When you know how to learn well, I believe it is one of the catalysts to a good life. In that, I am grateful for this opportunity to learn and learn about each student and be of assistance to each one.

In the short time I've been here, I see we have an amazing, kind, smart, personable, and fun bunch.

It will be a great year ahead in here at the learning store!



**Welcome: Mrs. Patricia Woronuk,
Office Manager**

Greetings! I am new this year to the Learning Store, and very excited to be in the role of Office Manager. Here is a little bit of my story! I was born and raised here in Fairview. After high school graduation, I took a Bachelor of Management from the University of Lethbridge. I worked for a number of years in Calgary before returning to Fairview in 2002. My husband Ken & I were thrilled to return to our hometown and raise our two boys in this community.

My eldest son had a great experience at the Learning Store during his school years, for which I am very grateful. In turn, I now look forward to giving back and contributing to the success of our students now.

Here's to an incredible school year ahead!

If you require assistance or have any questions, please reach out to me at FALS at 780-835-3800.



PRSD School Re-entry Plan Summary

**Peace River School Division
2021-2022 School Year Plan Summary
"EXCERPTS"**

(Updated September 16, 2021)

**For the Full Summary please see the website:
prsd.ab.ca*

**PRSD School Plan
Summary**

**IMPORTANT
REQUIREMENT UPDATES**

September 16, 2021 Update



Peace River School Division
Learning Together - Success for All

As per the Alberta Government's announcement on September 15, 2021 regarding newly mandated restrictions, **this document has been updated with new information outlined in bold.**

The Peace River School Division (PRSD) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, and we thank our students, parents, staff and school communities for their patience and support as we start the new school year. Continuing learning will require everyone in the PRSD to continue to be nimble in contributing to the safety and success of our school communities.

All parents are required to screen their child for symptoms each day prior to their child attending school by using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). Staff, parents and visitors are also required to screen for symptoms before attending any PRSD school or facility by using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. If you or your child(ren) are not feeling well, please do not attend the school or PRSD facility.

Please be aware that the Peace River School Division will follow the guidance of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Alberta Education School Re-entry Plan. [View the 2021-2022 Alberta Education School Year Plan here](#). The plan, along with other helpful COVID-19 Response information is posted on our website at prsd.ab.ca under "COVID-19 Response."

Should the nature of the pandemic change, PRSD will follow guidance from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. Alberta Education has developed contingency plans for schools to follow should things change and these plans are outlined in the [Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan](#). Please note that any changes will be communicated to parents in a timely manner. Thank you again for your support, patience and understanding.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures

- PRSD schools will continue to maintain enhanced cleaning measures.
- **Additional disinfecting and cleaning measures will be implemented if there are elevated student and staff absences.**
- PRSD will continue to work with students and staff to promote ongoing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

PRSD School Re-entry Plan Summary

**Peace River School Division
2021-2022 School Year Plan Summary “EXCERPTS”**

Masks

- **Masks are mandatory for all students in grades 4-12.**
- **Masks are mandatory for all staff in the school.**
- **Masks are mandatory for all visitors to the school.**

Physical Distancing

- **Physical distancing measures will be followed in all common areas.**

Parent and visitor access to schools

- **Masks are mandatory for all visitors to the school.**
- **Parents and visitors must make prior arrangements before attending the school.**
- All parents and visitors to the school must screen for symptoms as per the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) prior to attending the school, and must follow the school's sign-in procedures.

Diploma Exams

- The administration of Diploma Exams will resume and be mandatory as per normal practice.

Isolation and quarantine

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required by AHS to isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started, or until their symptoms have improved, whichever is longer.
- AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts, and quarantine for close contacts is no longer required.
- All Albertans, including those who may be told that they are close contact, are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they are feeling unwell.
- AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

Virtual Education and Home Education options

- PRSD offers virtual education programming for students in grades 1-12 led by dedicated and skilled virtual education teachers, support staff and PRSD's District Principal. [Learn more here](#)
- PRSD offers both teacher and parent-directed home education programming that is supported by PRSD's Home Education Coordinator and support staff. [Learn more here](#).

FIVE TIPS FOR SURVIVING MODULAR-BASED COURSES

"Live, learn and prosper!" This is not the Vulcan greeting but it could well be the instruction that leads to success for any enterprising individual.

1 **Be organized**

Because your learning is not structured like in a classroom, it is easy to procrastinate. Learning on your own requires discipline. Look through your materials and find ways to break the learning into small, defined pieces. Then set deadlines for yourself and schedule in the learning as a regular commitment. Use a calendar or organizer to plan specific learning times and activities.

2 **Find a learning space**

You might be able to learn at work or home if you can manage your interruptions and distractions. Let everyone know when you are learning. You may have to close a door, turn off the stereo and television or not answer the phone. You may find that going to a library is necessary. Once you have a good learning space, have all your learning materials together and organized. If your learning needs to be portable, put all your materials and supplies into a case or bag. It is easy to waste lots of time looking for things. (This is especially true if you have kids. In our house things like erasers, pencils, paper and pens are constantly disappearing. We have had to declare our office supplies as off limits.)

3 **Read to learn**

To make the best use of your materials, look them over before you start reading. Find ways to help you organize and summarize the information. Keep yourself focused when reading by looking for main ideas and taking notes. Stop reading often and ask yourself, "What did I just read? What was the main idea?" This self-testing will help you avoid the daydreaming and lack of focus that can come with reading.

4 **Find support for learning**

If someone is aware of your learning goals and commitments, they can help you succeed. If you are taking a formal course, you may have tutoring support available through the phone or the Internet. Some learners find it helpful to link up with another person who is taking the same course. They can then study together or support each other.

Support can take many forms including explaining subject material, encouraging, gently reminding you to get at it or helping with other roles such as covering workload, watching kids, making dinner or other acts that provide you with time and space for learning.

5 **Follow through**

If you find that your learning time is getting bumped from your schedule, consider other ways to manage your time and roles. You may have to negotiate with your employer, family or friend to help you make time for learning. Keep in mind your initial motivation, remind yourself why you are taking the course and how it will help you to succeed.

Keep these tips in mind to ace your next correspondence course.

Career Digest series of resources for professional career practitioners. Copies can be ordered through the e-CareerShop at www.alis.gov.ab.ca/careershop

**TIM
HORTONS
SMILE
COOKIES!**



Thank you to Casey Szmata who delivered our Tim Horton Smile Cookies for students and staff this week in support of Always Find a Reason to Smile Suicide Awareness and Prevention Foundation. 100% of the sales of the Smile Cookies went to this non-profit organization.



Every couple of weeks, we do a draw at the Fairview Learning Store for a \$10 gift card to Dairy Queen or Subway. Students automatically receive an entry for every assignment module or quiz that is handled in.



Left: Walker Duggan
Winner of a Subway gift card
September 13th



Right: Emma Rushton
Winner of a Dairy Queen gift card
September 27th



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FINAL 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

AUGUST 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OD 5 ID 2

NOVEMBER 2021

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OD 20 ID 19

FEBRUARY 2022

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OD 19 ID 18

MAY 2022

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OD 21 ID 20

SEPTEMBER 2021

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OD 21 ID 20

DECEMBER 2021

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OD 13 ID 13

MARCH 2022

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OD 18 ID 15

JUNE 2022

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OD 20 K-9 ID 17

OD 20 10-12 ID 19

OCTOBER 2021

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OD 19 ID 18

JANUARY 2022

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OD 20 ID 19

APRIL 2022

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OD 19 ID 19

JULY 2022

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Month	Operational Days	Instructional Days
August	5	2
September	21	20
October	19	18
November	20	19
December	13	13
January	20	19
SEM 1	98	91
February	19	18
March	18	15
April	19	19
May	21	20
K-9 JUNE	20	17
10-12 JUNE	20	19
K-9 SEM 2	97	89
10-12 SEM 2	97	91
K-9 TOTAL	195	180
10-12 TOTAL	195	182

August 25 Staff Meeting/Professional Development (PD) (No Students)

August 26 PD Day Kick-Off

August 27 Operational Day

August 30 First Day of Classes

Jan 4 Students Back

Feb 1 2nd Semester Begins

June 24 Last Day of Classes - K-9

June 28 Last Day of Classes - 10-12

June 28 Last Operational Day K-12

APPROVED HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	September 6
Thanksgiving	October 11
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Break	December 20 - December 31, 2021
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26
New Years Day	January 1, 2022
Family Day	February 21
Teachers' Convention	March 10-11
Spring Break	March 21-25
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Monday	April 18
Victoria Day	May 23

LEGEND

 	STATUTORY HOLIDAYS
 	PD DAY (NO STUDENTS)
 	FIRST/LAST DAY OF CLASSES
 	OPERATIONAL DAY (NO STUDENTS)
 	TEACHERS' CONVENTION
 	NON-OPERATIONAL DAY (NO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS)
 	CHRISTMAS / SPRING BREAK
 	DIPLOMA EXAMS