

Ecole Springfield Elementary News

December 2023

Important Dates to **Remember:**

Dec 20th-No Hot Lunch this week. Dress Formal Day & **Christmas Concert Day** 9:30am & 1:00pm

> Dec 21st-PJ Day & Last Day of School!

Dec 22nd- Jan 7, 2024-**Christmas Break** School starts again on Monday, Jan 8. 2024

there is No Kindergarten on Monday, Jan 8th for their planning day

Celebrated **Rock your Mocs Day-**Nov 15th



Why is School Attendance Important?

The more regularly a student attends school, the better able they are to create friendships and positive relationships with their peers and the adults in the building. Consistently attending school allows children to navigate a variety of social situations, building their interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Thank you to the Peace River Social Society and the Dufault Family for the generous donation of toys for our Salvation Army Toy Drive.







Thank you to the Anglican Church Women (ACW) of Peace River for their donation of winter wear to help our students stay warm!

> STUDENT SUPPORTS: School supports will be initiated to assist students in understanding and processing what has occurred during the incident.

DID YOU KNOW?

December 2023







Principal's Message

As 2023 is winding down, Peace River School Division is thinking ahead to the 2024-2025 school calendar. A committee met last week to give input into the calendar and to work collaboratively with the different school divisions and communities that use this calendar. Watch online for an invitation to give feedback on the proposed calendar and let the division know what you like about the draft calendar and if there is anything you would like to see changed.

At Springfield, we are in the swing of the holiday season. I would like to say a huge thank you to all families and students who were able to donate to our toy drive. The generosity of our families is amazing!! The collection made its way to the Salvation Army, December 12 and will be much appreciated by those who are on the receiving end.

Classes have been gathering in the gym to learn Christmas Carols and songs and students are busy preparing for the Christmas Concert, which will be held December 20th at 9:30 and again at 1:00. Our concert is always a popular affair and attended by parents, grandparents and other family members. We hope to see as many of you as possible that day!

It is my hope that this newsletter finds you, healthy, happy and ready for a break as we head into the holiday season. However you celebrate, may you find time to spend with those closest to you, rest, relax and rejuvenate as we move into 2024.

Gail McNabb Principal, École Springfield Elementary School



December 2023



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2024–2025 DIVISIONAL CALENDAR

Peace River

chool Division

Here at the Peace River School Division, we are excited to present the **first draft of the 2024-2025 School Calendar**. Together with representatives from three other school divisions, as well as teacher and administrator representatives from both the elementary and high school level, the Calendar Committee met on December 6.

From that meeting, we have prepared a draft version of the calendar and are looking forward to hearing your thoughts. It is both important and helpful for us to have the feedback of our students, parents, staff, and communities. Each email and comment on social media is recorded and taken into consideration prior to a final draft of the calendar being presented to our Board of Trustees in March.

Some of the key dates in the new calendar include a Back to School date of September 3, after Labour Day. This decision was influenced by your feedback. Last year, over 90% of the feedback we received told us that you were in favour of a start date after Labour Day.

September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, falls on a Monday in 2024. The Peace River School Division Board of Trustees has made a motion to follow the lead of the Federal Government and honour this day by declaring a holiday for staff and students. The Board has also made a motion declaring the entire week including September 30 as Truth and Reconciliation Week in PRSD schools. This year, that week will be from September 30 to October 4. Once again, we have been able to schedule a very natural break at Christmas, inclusive of two full weeks and three full weekends. The Division considers staff and student wellness to be a priority, and being able to schedule this 18-day break is one of the ways we encourage health and wellness in our school communities.

One thing that is different in the 2024-2025 Calendar is a five-day break at the start of March, from Wednesday, March 5 to Sunday, March 9. The Calendar Committee made this decision to support staff who will travel to attend Teachers/EA Convention on March 6 and 7. Spring Break is also earlier in the new draft calendar, on March 24 to 28. While this means students will have two larger breaks in the month of March, it has been my experience that when Spring Break does not fall in March there can be more behavioural challenges for students. March can be a difficult month for students as they are all adjusting to seasonal changes, and longer daylight hours. For these reasons, the Calendar Committee felt having Spring Break separate from the Easter holiday in April would be a good step towards protecting and promoting student wellness.

Wherever possible, the Calendar Committee also tried to maintain four-day weekends around the holidays to allow families to travel to visit with loved ones who live in different areas of the province and country.

Most importantly, the calendar provides optimal learning time for students while providing ample days for teachers to assess student learning through Collaborative Response strategies during our Professional Development (PD) days.

> Thank you in advance for your input on the 2024-2025 School Calendar.

Adam Murray Superintendent of Schools

CRISIS RESPONSE INFORMATION



PARENTAL & PUBLIC PROCEDURES

public need to stay away from the

building until the situation is cleared.

location, and parents will be notified

when it's safe to pick up their children.

For your safety, all parents, as well as the

Students may be moved to a new pick up

Scan to access the Emergency Procedure Guide for Parents & Guardians



LOCKDOWN

Used when there is an internal threat of violence

- All internal and external doors and windows are locked and secured
- Staff & students are requested to keep quiet and take cover away from windows, doors and out of sight lines
- No one is allowed in or out of classrooms or the building

HOLD & SECURE

When security threat or criminal activity is outside and/or unrelated to the school

- Exterior doors & windows are locked
- Class continues to be in session
- No one is allowed in or out of the building

SHELTER IN PLACE

Used to direct and control movement inside the school building when it is safer to remain inside and/or there is no threat of violence

- No one is allowed to leave designated area until ALL CLEAR or without permission
- Ex: severe weather or air quality incidents
- Individuals at risk will be allowed re-entry

EVACUATION

Used when it is safer to be outside the building than inside. Follows prearranged routes and exits but exit with caution

- All students are instructed to proceed to Muster Points
- Cannot return to building until ALL CLEAR is provided by first responders

For your safety, all parents, as well as the public need to stay away from the building until the situation is cleared. This situation could potentially evolve into a lockdown or evacuation. Parents will be notified of the evolving situation & how the release of students will occur.

Parents will be notified via email, calls, and texts. The Grimshaw Municipal Library & Mile Zero Regional Multiplex will notify the public via their Facebook pages. For your safety, all parents, as well as the public need to stay away from the building until the situation is cleared. Parents will be notified of student release procedures using the most up-todate contact information in PowerSchool.

For your safety, all parents, as well as the public need to stay away from the building until the situation is cleared. Students may be moved to a new pick up location, and parents will be notified when it's safe to pick up their children.

Springfield's Project PEACE Success Coach



Open Parachute SEL programming is continuing in the classrooms this month. This program was created to help students to understand and learn to resolve, with confidence, the many challenges that students are going to face throughout their life, like disagreements with friends, struggles at school, or situations at home that aren't so great.

Stay connected with me each month for information on how to help your child improve social skills and emotional regulation at home. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's social emotional development or well being please feel free to contact me. Follow Project Peace on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100030003983644

If you are looking for outside resources the FRN HUB - Information & child development centre, contact information is below.

frn@peaceriver.ca 780-624-0770

Wishing you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season. Shannon Sutherland 780-624-2143 ext. 14151







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Grade 3/4 Luce-Students Against Drinking & Driving Bags



Events at Springfield School ...









Events at Springfield School ...





TiBert et Douzie Presentation

Author Amy May visit



187 Student Christmas Cards for Secret Santa Senior Program



A monthly newsletter highlighting Mental Health programs available within the PRSD



Emergency Links & Phone Numbers

Addictions and Mental Health Helpline (24-hour support) 1-877-303-2642

Peace River Addictions and Mental Health 780-624-6151

> Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868

Indigenous Support Line (North Zone & Area) 1-844-944-4744

mykickstand.ca

Protecting your Mental Health during the holidays

With the holiday season approaching, it is important to have someone to reach out to if needed.

The Town of Peace River FCSS has compiled a list of local resources called "Everyone Needs Help Sometimes" for support for you and your family. To view the list - click HERE

Tips from the Canadian Mental Health Association

Did you know 52% of Canadians report feelings of anxiety, depression and isolation during the holiday season. Make a plan now to protect your own mental health from holiday stress. Here are five tips that may help:

- Dan't fall prey to the great expectations that come along with the holiday. You get to celebrate (or not celebrate) in whatever way feels best for you.
- Remain aware of overindulgence, whether that's with food, commitments or gifts. Stick to a budget, eat what makes your body feel good, and remember the holidays are meant for rest as well as fun.
- Don't worry about being a perfect host. Delegate tasks, take a break, and don't forget to create and maintain personal boundaries.
- 4. Holidays can be especially hard for those who have lost a loved one. To avoid feeling sad and alone try volunteering at a foodbank, or a toy drive, write letters to far-away friends and family, or do something special just for you.
- 5. For others, being around more people than normal during the holidays can be emotionally and mentally draining. Remember to set boundaries, and attend events that energize you. It's akay to leave early or not go at all.

May you have a safe and healthy holiday season!



Loro Koski Mental Health in Schools Program Manager



Sandra MacKenzie Mental Health Capacity Building Program Manager



Chris Kolp Travis Mitten Divisional School School Social/Emotional Social Worker Behaviour Consultant



Connie Kromer School Family Liaison Worker



Margaret Buruma School Social Worker



School Social Worker



Springfield School Office # 780.624.2143

December 2023 Calendar

<u>Sun</u>	Monday	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					1 No School for Kindergarten- Planning Day	2
3	4	5	6 Hot Lunch- A&W	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Hot Lunch- Smitty's	14	15 Dress Like Christmas Day	16
17	18	19	20 <u>NO</u> Hot Lunch Fornal Day & Christmas Concert Day 9:30am & 1pm	21 PJ Day! Last day of school	22 No School– Christmas Break	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
31	See you back at school on Monday, January 8, 2024! (Except for Kindergarten)					

January 2024 Calendar

Springfield School Office # 780.624.2143

<u>Sun</u>	Monday	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
New	ippy v Year	No School Christmas Break				
7	8 Back to School Grade 1–4 Except for– NO Kindergarten – Planning Day	9 Kindergarten first day back.	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Hot Lunch- Subway (for those that ordered)	18	19 Hogwarts/ Harry Potter Day	20
21	22	23	24 Hot Lunch- Kita North (for those that ordered)	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 No School- PD Day			



