



RECS RAPTORS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021 •



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY ADAM MURRAY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are infused in education is very important to the Peace River School Division (PRSD). It is crucial that First Nations, Métis and Inuit students see themselves and their cultures in the curriculum and school community, and that non-Indigenous students are taught the true history of Canada, including the, at times, painful relationship between Canada and the First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

As you may be aware, the Canadian government declared September 30th as a federal statutory holiday, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We fully support the importance of this day of observance and therefore the PRSD board of trustees voted to make September 30, 2021 a non-operational day, meaning there will be no school for students and school-based staff. The board of trustees also voted that September 27- October 1, 2021 be declared Truth and Reconciliation Week in PRSD schools.

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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.

As an educational organization, we have a great duty, responsibility, and opportunity to create change and we take this very seriously. Last year, the PRSD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to form an Anti-Racism Committee. The committee includes representation from the board of trustees, students, and staff, and is committed to further positive systemic change, with the goal of ending racism in all PRSD school communities.

We are very excited and humbled to share that on September 23, 2021, we will demonstrate our respect for, and solidarity with, our Indigenous communities by raising the Treaty 8 flag and the Métis flag at the Grimshaw Shared School Facility. This flag raising Ceremony has been planned in collaboration with Duncan's First Nation, Métis Region VI, Holy Family Catholic Regional School Division, and the Town of Grimshaw. At PRSD, we will continue to demonstrate our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by collaborating with our local Indigenous communities to plan future flag raising Ceremonies to be held at each of our schools.

In our classrooms it is emphasized that Indigenous history is Canadian history. It is very important to us that all students learn about the important traditions, cultures, and histories of the First Peoples of Canada. We seek out opportunities to have our staff learn from local Elders and knowledge keepers. For example, our school leaders learned more about the significance of smudging from a local knowledge keeper during their first Administrators Association Meeting of the year. This month, students in Peace River and Fairview will be building tobacco bundles with the guidance of a local knowledge keeper to support the local Sisters in Spirit events when our communities gather to remember missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Although pandemic restrictions have prevented large divisional events such as our Hand Games Tournament, other virtual opportunities have arisen. For example, in the coming weeks, all schools will have the opportunity to have students learn Cree songs with Sherryl Sewepagaham through Zoom sessions. Throughout the school year, opportunities are woven into the classroom whether that is a part of a specific event such as Remembrance Day, Métis Week, or Indigenous Peoples Day, or just as a part of what regularly happens day-to-day in the classroom.

This important work is supported by the vision and passion of the Board of Trustees, and through the work of PRSD's management staff, Indigenous Education Program Coordinator, Indigenous Support Workers, school-based Indigenous Education leads, teachers, educational assistants and through the contributions of Indigenous community members and organizations. These programs and initiatives are supported by way of special funding from the Government of Alberta which is determined by self-declaration. Peace River School Division receives funding for each self-declared Indigenous student. Parents can declare their child's ancestry on the school registration form that is completed every year.

Thank you to our students, staff, families, Elders, knowledge keepers, community members and organizations for your important contributions and support.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BY CRYSTAL SAUNDERS, PRINCIPAL/TEACHER

This month had many great events that kept our students and staff very busy! During Parents (Families) Matter week staff handed out donuts and coffee/hot chocolate to parents at drop off. Students also filled out cards to bring home to their parents and came up with many wonderful reasons why their families are so important to them. Metis week was celebrated in all classrooms with many great activities and discussions. Our elementary students had lots of fun working on a dot art activity. We also had a Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony to commemorate and reflect on the importance of our veterans and their sacrifices. Thank you to all of the parents who attended this ceremony, as well as to the RCMP and Victims Services for their continued support. Also, thank you to our staff and students for all of the hard work that went into preparing for the ceremony.

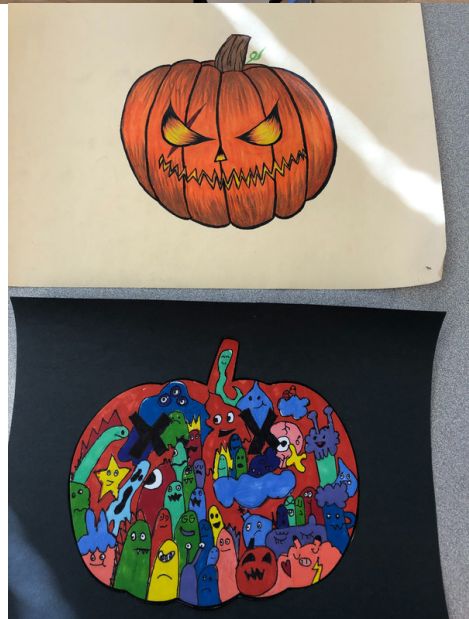
This month we also held our student council elections. We had 12 students run and 8 that were elected to represent their school community. I look forward to working with them for the remainder of the year, they have many wonderful ideas to make our school community a fun and enjoyable place to be!



SCHOOL NEWS

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Students dressed up on October 29th for their class Halloween parties. Everyone had amazing and creative costumes! Congratulations to the Grades K-3 classes for winning the Halloween decoration contest. The school ordered pizza for their class party. Also, congratulations to Shanae and Noah. They were our finalists in the Jack o'lantern decorating contest.



STEVE HARMER SHOW

Due to a last-minute cancellation in our area, our elementary students got to enjoy a great show focused on Kindness and Gratitude. Steve Harmer has come out to our school on 6 other occasions and his 7th visit did not disappoint. It was great to have this experience!



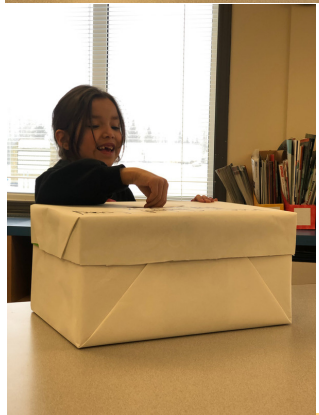
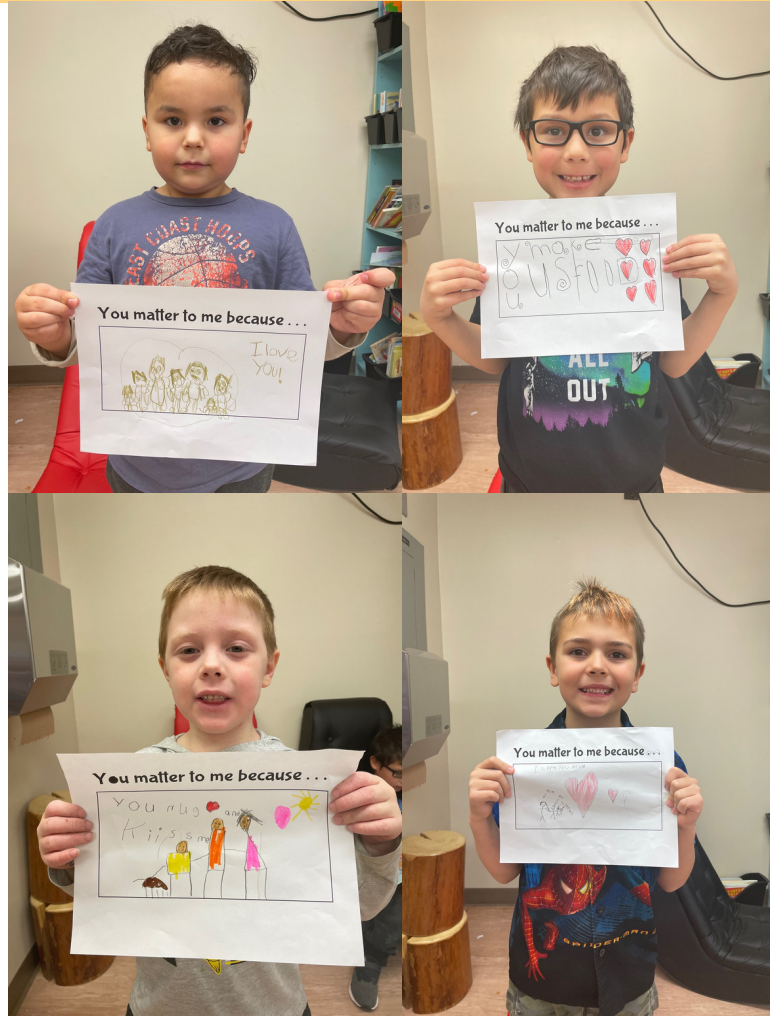
REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Students worked hard to prepare thoughtful and original poems to commemorate this important event. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



PARENTS (FAMILIES) MATTER WEEK

Staff and students enjoyed recognizing our parents during the week of November 15-19. We appreciate all you do to support our school community. All of your efforts do not go unnoticed!

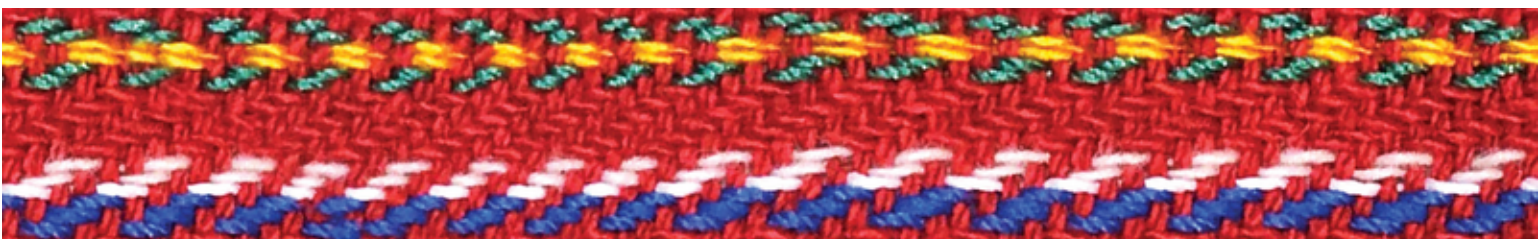
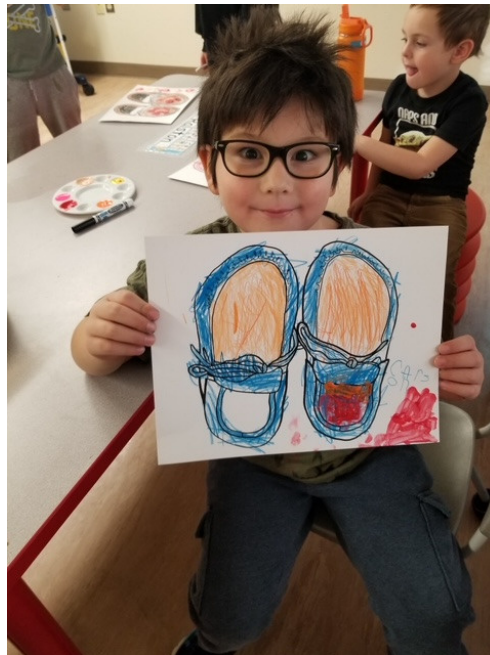
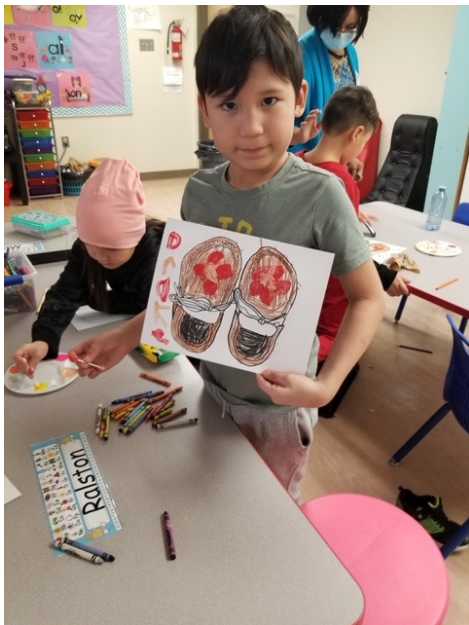
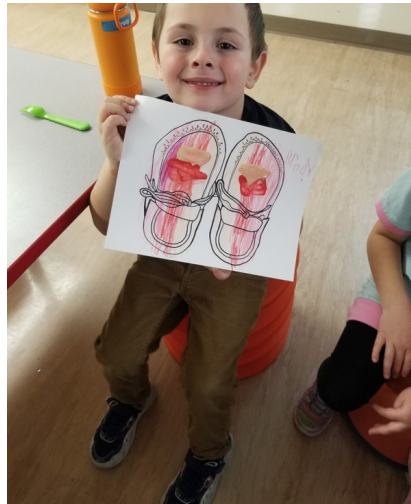
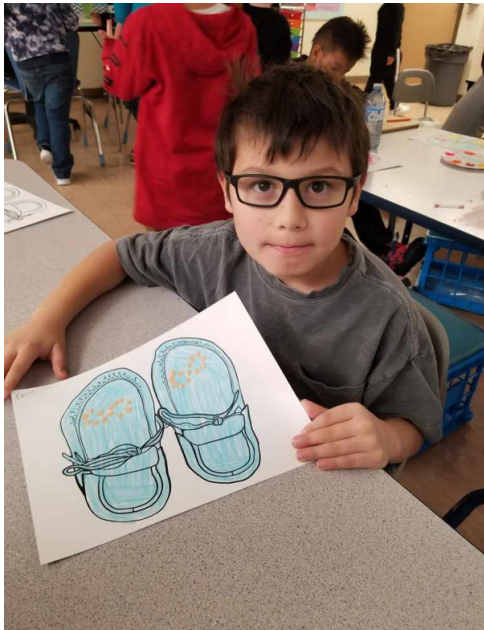


STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We had 12 students run for student council and 8 were elected. All students from K - 12 got to cast their vote for the 7 students they thought would best represent them. Congratulations to our 8 elected members!

MÉTIS WEEK:

is the week surrounding Nov. 16 and it honours the Metis who continue to strive for rights and recognition as a distinct nation. Students did various activities throughout the week in their classrooms to honour Metis week.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT!

Thank you to the MD of Opportunity, Blackgold (Jackie and Travis), and our parent council for arranging the donation of 40 yards of gravel. As well as the manpower and equipment to get the gravel spread. It was completed just in time for the snowfall! Thank you for all of your support. All of your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed!



IMPORTANT DATES

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

19th - Blake

22nd - Ryan

24th - Licia

OCTOBER

2nd - Brody

13th - Leah

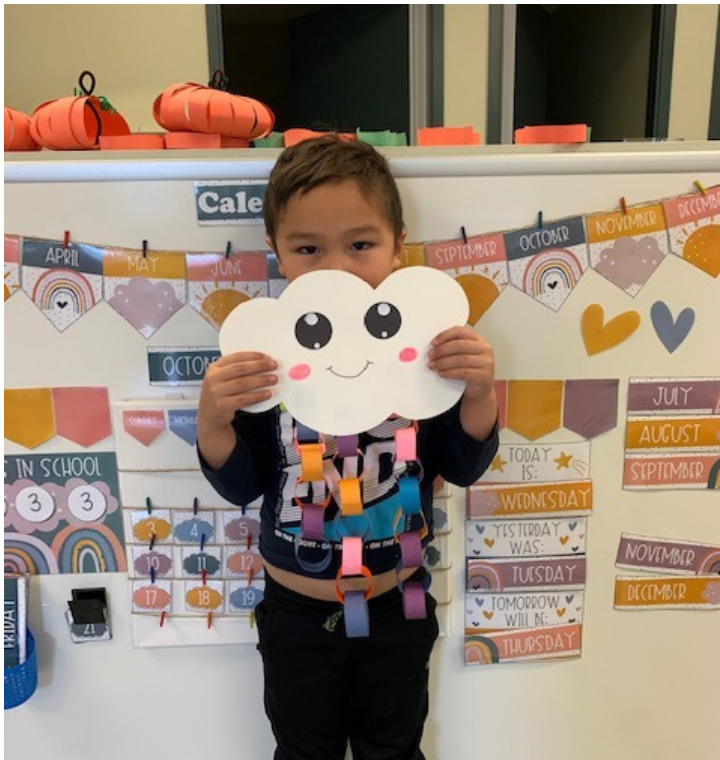
17th - Jas

23rd - Reagan & Jaxon

27th - Georgia

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- Dec. 18 - Jan. 3: Christmas Break
- Jan. 28 - Grades 7 - 12 Report cards ready for pick up
- Jan. 28 - Kindergarten Planning Day
- Jan. 31 - Professional Development Day, No School
- Keep an eye out for our Christmas Concert video that will be emailed out to all parents prior to our Christmas break.



BY CARTER ALOOK

Here is some of Carter's artwork that he has created during the month of November.

Great job Carter!

Classroom Updates

Literacy: Identifying rhyming words, syllables, letters Ff, Ee & Ll and letter sound.

Numeracy: Numbers 6-10, shapes, colors, creating patterns, and sorting objects by color, shape and size.

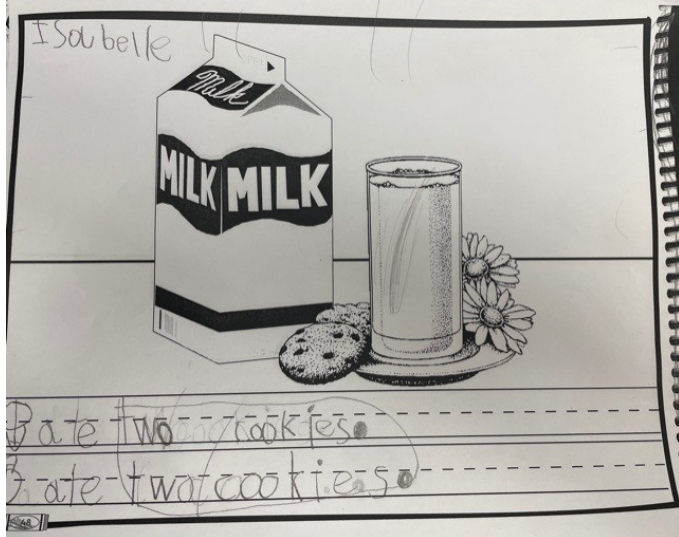
Skills Emphasized: Questioning skills (who, what, why and how), increasing vocabulary and oral presentation skills.



Classroom Updates

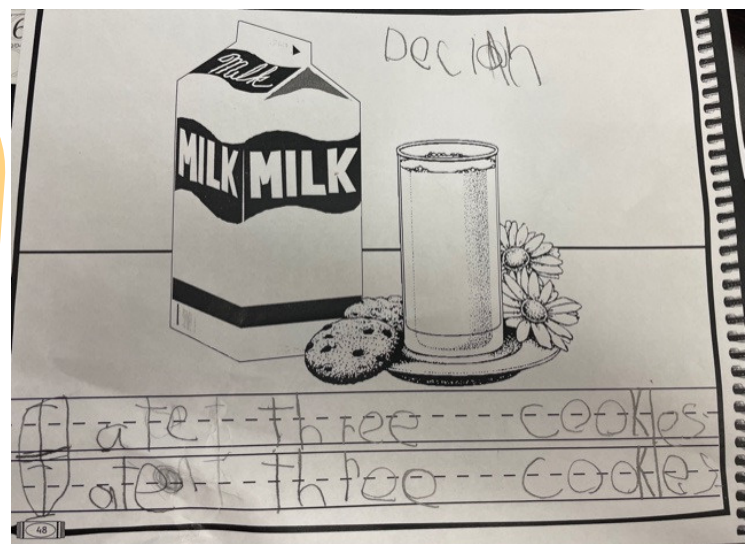
This month the grade 1 students have been working hard on their Sentence-a-day lessons while the grade 2/3 students have been working very hard on their opinion writing pieces. Below are a few examples of how Sentence a day looks from two grade one students, Isabelle and Declan. Read below the opinions of Noah and Easton on what month is the best.

Grade 1 Sentence a day Writing



Upcoming Dates:

December 10th, 2021-Christmas pajama day
December 16th, 2021- Christmas concert video




Mrs. Wiggs contact info:
phone number: 780-649-3898
wiggsa@prsd.ab.ca
<https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?c=CCFEY4S>

Grade 2-3 Opinion Writing

Opinion Writing

Title _____



I think October is the best month. One reason is you get to carve a pumpkin. Next you get to go trick or treating on the last day of October. Last you get to decorate for Halloween. Now you know why October is the best.


Halloween. Now you know why I think October is the best month.

Opinion Writing

Tell what you think or how you feel about something. Begins with an opinion about a topic. Gives reasons to support the opinion. Uses linking words to connect the reasons.

Opinion Writing

Title April is the best.



In my opinion April is the best month. First of all in April it is my birthday. Next you get to jump in puddles and I get to play in the rain. In April I get spring break. Now you know why April is the best month.

©Sally Avolio, Teaching for



Classroom Updates

This month, in grade 4/5/6 students have been working extremely hard to create their own acrostic poems for Remembrance Day.

Students listened to music and looked through photographs as inspiration for their poems. These poems were read during our Remembrance Day Ceremony of November

10th, 2021.



OUR POETRY:

HOPE

Honor the soldiers along the Highway of Heroes.
Others fought for us.
Poppies grow in Flanders Field.
Everyone fought for us and some died.
- Zoe Bosomworth

RESPECT

Respect the fallen soldiers that fought for us.
Every soldier in the war fought for us
Soldiers risked their lives for us to have better ones.
People fought for us and our country.
Every country has something to fight for.
Crying families cry for their loved ones.
Today's the day we remember the soldiers that fought for us.
- Donovan, Mikayla, Nitanis, Kashton

Highway of Heroes

Heroes that sacrifice their lives for our country.
I will never forget their stories.
Gave their lives to protect us.
Honor of those men and women that fought for us.
We stand for 2mins, for the women and men that died.
A poppy grows in a Flanders Field.
You veterans are the reason we are here today.

Others that fought in the war.
Fear of fighting.

Honor our country.
Every poppy that grows in the field.
Remember the ones who fought for our country.
Others that died in the war.
Every November 11th, we remember.
Sacrifice their life for us.

- Blake, Ty, Makayla, and Sadie

BRAVE

Brave are the people who fought for us.
Remember them for what they did for us
to live.
As they sacrificed their life to make our
country a better place.
Veterans all across Canada, thank you!
Each and every one of you.
- Lexxi, Mila, Kaliah, and Tesslyn

POPPY

People that died for us.
Over the road of heroes to the gates of heaven.
People that went to the war that fought for our
country.
People that died to save their family.
Young people went to the war as well.
- Amara, Lillie, Tina and Koohna



ORIGINAL STUDENT POEMS:

BY GRADES 7-9 STUDENTS

*Soldiers who fought for our peace over violence
Heroes we respect with a moment of silence
Lives we commemorate with the poppies we wear
All the souls we never got to show how much we care
We respect the veterans for the sacrifices they had to pay
We are all so grateful they are here with us today
Thank you for your service and bravery.
- Elizabeth Bosomworth*

Remember - By Jaxon Gabert
Remebering all the lives lost we put poppies on a cross
Everyone stands for a moment of silence for all the soldiers that had
to go through all the violence
Many hearts were broken that day that's why we put poppies over
our hearts today
Everlasting fields of poppies help us remember the soldiers who
sacrificed their lives for our freedom
Moments we take to commemorate the battles fought for peace and
freedom in our country
Brave soldiers with the bravest souls fought for all we know
Every veteran has a story to tell even the ones who couldn't make it
back home
Rows of poppies showing the place were fallen soldiers lie

Classroom Updates

Language Arts 7-9:

This month, students worked hard to commemorate those who fought for our freedom by writing thoughtful Remembrance Day poems and creating 3 dimensional watercolour poppy art.



Grades
7, 8, & 9

CLASSROOM NEWS

MR. HAITEL

NOVEMBER 2021



MEET THE TEACHER

BY DAVID HAITEL, GRADE 7, 8 & 9 SOCIAL, SCIENCE & PHYS. ED
TEACHER

Hello,

I am so excited to be at Red Earth Creek School for the 2021/22 school year. My name is David Haitel and this is my first year at Red Earth Creek School. My wife Janelle and our three daughters (aged 15, 12, and 8) recently moved to Red Earth Creek from Edmonton at the end of August. I enjoy reading and ice hockey.



Grades
10, 11 & 12

CLASSROOM NEWS

MRS. SAUNDERS

NOVEMBER 2021



Here's a photo of some students enjoying a competitive game of chess during Flex block!

Students also participated in the student council election this month. Congratulations to Chandler and Reagan who will be our high school representatives!

All high school parents should have received an email this month regarding signing up for access to the Powerschool Parent Portal.

Our report cards have gone digital. Powerschool gives you access to your child's report cards as well as attendance and other information that can keep you up to date on your child's progress. If you need any support to get access to the Powerschool Parent Portal please contact our school office at (780) 649-3898.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Dockery

A big shout out to Mrs. Dockery, she works hard every day to ensure all students receive something for breakfast as they arrive to school!

She also ensures there are extra lunch items available in case a student needs lunch! We appreciate all she does to support our students at RECS!



TECH DEPT.

Thank you for delivering and setting up our Chromebooks! PRSD is committed to ensuring students have one-to-one devices.

Chromebooks are used to support student learning at all grade levels and in all subject areas.



WHERE TO FIND SCHOOL UPDATES

1



A calendar will be sent home with students at the beginning of each month.

2



Follow our school Facebook page for up to date information regarding school events, news and reminders.

@Redearthcreekschool

3

Check out our school and divisional website!

OR

**Call our school office
@ 780-649-3898**

redearthcreekschool.ca

prsd.ab.ca