

Principal's Corner



... Wow, it's hard to believe we are at the end of the first week of school! It's difficult to imagine that we will soon observe and participate in events like the Terry Fox Run and Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day. Then, planning will happen for Halloween celebrations, and the year will swiftly move along.

I've recently read a meme that said, "We get 12 spring breaks, 13 first days of school, 12 Easter baskets, etc..." It has helped me put into perspective the importance of these moments in our lives. Getting back into the routine can be very exciting, and many kiddos look forward to seeing all their friends, teachers, and a familiar playground again. On the other hand, other little learners will struggle with anxiety and getting back into the routine. They may also struggle with learning new things and being challenged to stretch the boundaries of their comfort zone and knowledge. It's rewarding to see both types of learners gain perseverance and grow in their knowledge and personal lives.

I want to encourage all caregivers (parents, siblings, grandparents, Kokums/Mosums, aunts/uncles, cousins, and neighbours and friends who are like family) to take the time to enjoy these moments, soak them in, savour every sound, sight, and experience together. I also want to encourage you that when you read this, if you have an internal voice that says, "I can't enjoy these moments right now; things are tough, and I'm struggling!" We understand! We got you! We are here to join your team and help your littles become the best humans they can be. We are here to help you and your littles achieve all the dreams you've had for them. We are a team; we want to partner with you! If there is ever anything we can do to support and help you and your family obtain any learning and personal goals, please let us know!

Welcome to our new families and students, and welcome back to our veterans; you are all a part of TA - Team Awesome!



2024 2025 Online Registration for Returning Students

There are still a number of families that have not completed their child's returning registration form online. In the Spring we distributed/emailed letters containing your Snapcodes to electronically register your child as a returning student for the 2024-2025 School year. Reminders were sent out over the summer. Please take the time to update the information/data on the form and

return it to us as soon as possible if you have not already done so.



ATTENDANCE:

It is a very busy time of year for everybody - if you know your child is going to be absent from school for the day or longer – whether it be for illness, medical, dental, hockey, dance, other sports, musical festival - please contact the OFFICE and inform us by calling 780-624-3144, my extension is 13303 and leave a voicemail. Or you may send an email to Mrs. Guey at Gueyl@prsd.ab.ca, this will save on the interrupting phone calls, emails and text messages while you are at work. Thank you very much.



SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY

Peace River School Division - ALL doors to the school will be locked in the safety of everyone within. If you need to pick up your child early or are dropping off from an appointment or are late for school – please use the doorbell and camera at our Main Entrance (Flagpoles location at the south side of the school); also, any visitors and volunteers who need access.



STUDENT DROP-OFF:

Parents dropping off children for school, please instruct your child to use the **Cross Walk** in the *middle of the bus loop* **OR** better yet, drop them off at the *north end of the school yard* near the mailboxes and they will not have to crossroads or the bus lane at all. Students will then proceed directly to the grade appropriate entrance. They are not to be using the staff or main entrances unless they are Late. Please do not park on the road to the south of the school (Main entrance)

before or after school as this is very busy with Bus traffic and can get very congested with cars parked on both sides of the road.



Parent Portal Access – Please!

New students to our school & New entry of Grade 5 students to our school, on the first day of school your child brought home with a Letter for Parent Portal, Form(s), School Messenger info. If you have not already signed up for your Parent Portal Account, please sign up to use the PowerSchool Parent Portal and have instant access to your child's assignment and test marks, attendance, report card history, and more! Sign up by clicking the waffle button (square button with 9 boxes inside) on the top right-hand side of the Peace River School Division website, or any of our school websites, and choose "PowerSchool Student and Parent Portal"

<https://prsd.powerschool.com/public/>



OPEN HOUSE & PARENT COUNCIL

We will be hosting our Open House on Thursday, September 12th at 5:00 pm - please use the Main Entrance (Flag Poles). Please come and meet your child's teachers and find out answers to questions you may have.

The Parent Advisory Council will be hosting their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm in the library. Please take this opportunity to have your say and participate with the Parent Advisory Council.



School Supplies – School website

Please take the time to browse the TA Norris Middle School's [website](#). You will find information such as Staff Members and email addresses, [School Supply Lists](#), bulletins from Central Office and much more.



School Cash Accounts

If there are any fees for your child, such as Hot Lunch Cards, Hockey Academy, Dance/Gymnastics Academy, Yearbook, damaged or lost school textbooks, they will appear on your child's account. Please take the time to set up your SchoolCash account and make any outstanding fee payments. You will find the easy sign-up on the Peace River School Division's website, the waffle buttons on the upper right-hand corner and selecting School Cash Online Payments. This will also be used to order hot lunches once the program has been organized (possibly by early October). Instructions attached.



We continue to use School Messenger, <http://www.schoolmessenger.com/> which allows us to send information in three ways:

By SMS – texts will go out to the cell phone numbers we have on file here at the school. If your phone number has changed recently, please let us know! You need to opt into this service as indicated on the attached information sheet.

By Email – we will continue to send our weekly email list of activities, however School Messenger will be used for special bulletins.

By Phone – this allows us to send a pre-recorded message to your primary phone number. If there is no answer, the message will be delivered to the other phone numbers we have on file until a connection is made. Please wait for the school-initiated portion of the call to begin as School Messenger will consider the call to be incomplete if you hang up during the introductory portion. Please opt into the SchoolMessenger program – thank you. **Please take this opportunity to register your phone to receive important messages via text using the attached instructions.**

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **724665**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!**



**Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 724665**

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/tm for more info.



Register for SchoolCash Online today

It's fast, easy & free

Create an account today so that you can be notified via email and pay for your child(ren)'s school activity fees online.

Why register?

- 24/7 shopping convenience
- Secure, contactless & easy-to-use
- Receive email notifications as new items are available for purchase
- Manage all of your child(ren)'s school activity fees from a single account
- Check your account history at any time
- View & print receipts as needed
- Eliminates the need for your child(ren) to carry cash

How to register

- Go to <https://prsd.schoolcashionline.com> and click **Register**.
 - Enter your first name, last name, email address, and create a password
 - Select a security question
 - Select **Yes** to receive email notifications (note that you will not receive any promotional emails)
- You will receive a confirmation via email. Check your Spam folder if you don't receive it.
- Use your email address and password to log in to your account.

How to add children to your account

- Sign in to **SchoolCash Online**:
<https://prsd.schoolcashionline.com>.
- At the top of the page, navigate to **My Account**.
- From the dropdown menu, select **My Students**.
- Click to add a child:
 - Type your school board name.
 - Choose your school from the list.
 - Enter your child's details. You may add up to 8 students to your account.
 - Click **Confirm**.

How to make a payment

- Select the item which you would like to purchase & click **Add to Cart**.
- Once you have finished adding items to your cart, click **Continue** to make a payment.