

October 2020

Message from the Principal



The guiding principles of Grande Prairie Public School Division is at the core of Swanavon decision making. For everything we decide and do, we will hold ourselves accountable and we will ask:

- Is it good for students?
- Will it build trust and good relationships?
- Will it help us improve?
- Is it a responsible thing to do?
- Are we being open, honest and ethical?

At Swanavon, our learning community strives to bring out the best in every student by building a culture of collaboration where everyone accepts the responsibility for success. Achievement is at the core of what we do daily. We know that every student can learn. As in past years, our students and staff will continue to improve and experience personal success in their learning journey. Our school provides opportunities that contribute to lifelong learning. We educate and encourage each other to be caring, respectful, responsible citizens who contribute to our learning environment.

Swanavon School will continue with citizenship programs already in place: AMA Patrollers; Office Helpers; Cohort Classroom Learning Buddies; and YMCA Afterschool Learning Adventure. This year, we are introducing Battle of the Homerooms. We will have students compete in various challenges to earn points for their classrooms. Most Fridays we will wear our BLUE colours and/or Swanavon School Clothing to show our school spirit and pride.

We anticipate another very successful year for each of our students as we continue working together to improve student engagement and achievement! Please update your contact information with our office to ensure we have current information on file should we need to get ahold of you.

To everyone – Welcome, Bienvenue, Tawâw. **Please know that our doors are always open. The staff and administration are here to help and serve you and our students' needs. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns, ideas, and introductions.** I look forward to and am excited to work with you again this school year.

Your partner in your child's learning journey,

Mrs. Cynthia Matthews
Principal
Swanavon School

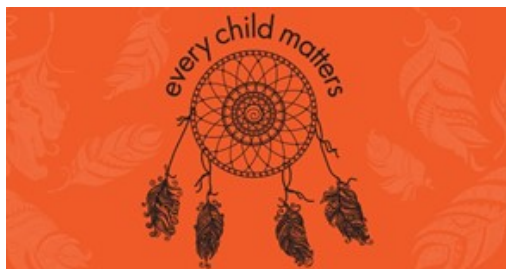


October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 School Council 7:00pm	7	8	9	10
11	12 Thanksgiving No School	13	14	15 Picture Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 PL Day - No Classes	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Halloween Costumes	31

Events That Took Place in September:

During September, we had lots of fun with Wacky Hair Day and are looking forward to ending the month with **Orange** Shirt Day.



Please wear your **orange** shirt on to help commemorate the residential school experience, to honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

[More Orange Shirt Day Information](#)

Social Media:

Most of our communication to parents is done through social media. Please like us on Facebook and follow our year long journey. We post pictures of our staff and students' learning. Our school publishes videos that you can share with family members who do not live in Grande Prairie or who do but for various reasons cannot make it to school events. Success in learning is achieved when there is a partnership between the school and the parent community. We look forward to collaborating with you again this year.

[Click Here for Facebook](#)



School Council Announcements:

School council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The dates are listed in our students' agenda. Thank you to this year's School Council Members for volunteering their time for Executive Positions. This year's School Council Members are:

Ms. Courtney Nisbet, Chair
Ms. Morganne Powell, Vice-Chair
Ms. Stacy Wheeler, Secretary
Ms. Jennifer Stirling, Treasurer
Ms. Pamela Jardine, Member at Large

We warmly welcome all parent(s)/guardian(s) to our meetings. It is a great way for you to have input into the events and happenings of Swanavon School. Each month we will send out a Signup Genius to determine the number of people who are interested in coming to the meeting.

Halloween Costume Day: Oct 30th

Wear your Halloween costume on Friday October 30th 2020.
Please no scary masks and no masks that cover the child's entire face and no weapons.



Swanavon Photos:

Paquin's will be here on October 15th to take your child's photo. Once the proofs go home they are to not come back to the school as all ordering will be done on-line. Students needing absent or retake photos will still go to Watson's at #103, 12125 99 Street in Grande Prairie with their photo proof in hand.



Swanavon Re-entry Plan SURVEY:

We are interested in knowing how to support you and our students with any challenges you are experiencing with school re-entry. And to hear about the fun times you are having!

This survey is being conducted by the Principal of Swanavon School to gather information about your family's experience with school re-entry. Your completion of this survey will provide valuable information for our teachers to use in supporting your child(ren)'s school experience during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

All questions are required, however, if you do not have information to share, please use NA for your answer. We do ask for your name so we can follow up with support to you and our students.

The survey will remain open until Friday, October 2nd, 2020. Thank you for contributing to this survey as it helps us to effectively continue to support you and our students.

The survey link is [HERE](#)

Emergency Drills:

As you may already know Grande Prairie Public School Division has a Division-wide Emergency Response Plan, which would be implemented in the event of a local disaster or school emergency. The primary objective of the plan is to ensure the safety of your child and our staff.

The Emergency Response Plan is a preparatory measure. Statistics show schools are still among the safest places to be on a day-to-day basis, due to strong commitment of educators, parents and communities to their children. Studies also show that there is an overwhelming urge for parents to attend the site of a disaster. Phone systems are quickly overwhelmed and fail, area roads become congested and interfere with first responders attending the scene. The Emergency Response Plan also incorporates a systematic approach to reuniting children with their parents. Due to the unpredictable nature of any emergency we will only be able to tell you where the Parent-Child Reunion Centre is located at the time of emergency. Should it be necessary to activate a Parent-Child Reunion Centre you will be notified via the School Crisis Communications Network of the location. (Telephone, email, Facebook, Twitter, local radio).

Guidelines for picking up your child doing a school emergency;

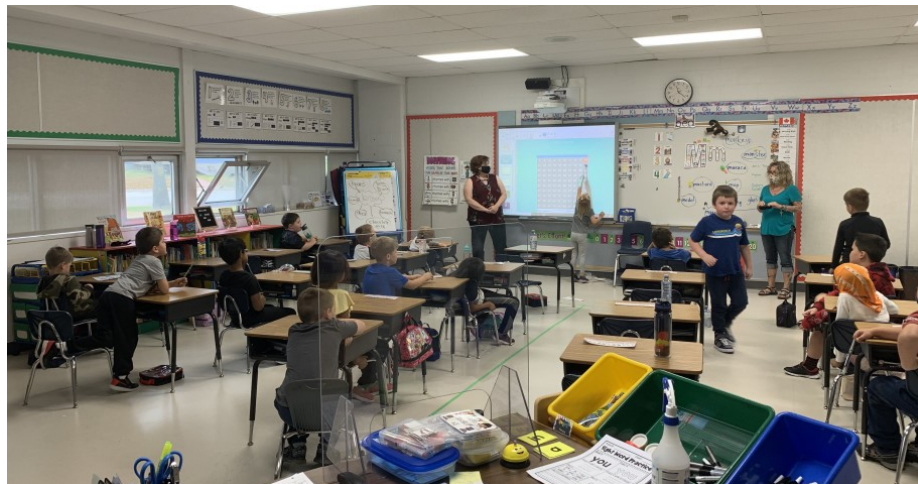
- No student will be release unless you or an individual designated on the student's Emergency Information Card arrives to pick up the student. (It is critical that you ensure this information is kept up to date at the school).
- You will be required to present valid picture identification.
- You will be required to sign for the release of your child.
- Should our normal transportation system be unable to transport your child home, you child will be kept at the Centre until such time as you can arrange to pick them up.
- If you are unable to pick up your child, he/she will be kept at the Parent –Child Reunion Centre until alternate arrangements can be made.
- Your child will be supervised at all times.

We want you to know that your cooperation in preparing your child and helping us to ensure their safety is greatly appreciated. As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding safety at school, please feel free to contact our school's principal, Mrs. Cynthia Matthews, at **780-532-8885**.

IF YOU HEAR "EMERGENCY EVACUATION" or Fire Alarm...

- Visually scan adjacent hallway for hazards; then select a suitable route.
- Instruct students to exit room in an orderly fashion, using a single file.
- Direct first person to hold door open until entire class is through, then fall in line.
- Remind lead students to watch for hazards en route and to lightly touch doors before opening – if door is hot do not open it and call for staff.
- Count students as students exit room.
- Ensure everyone is out. Leave room last.
- Take Classroom Folder and/or Kit, leave lights in current state and close door.
- Place Status Card on floor adjacent to room door, ensure it is visible from hallway.
- Upon arrival at Student Assembly Area situate students so staff can see others.
- Take attendance.
- Display Status Card. Report missing/extra persons with Student Accountability Form.
- Remain with students until relieved of duties or Buddy Team takes over class.
- Do not return to building until Incident Commander issues ALL-CLEAR.

Meet our Students and Teachers in Their Learning Environments in Gr 1-6



Mrs. Wheeler
Grade 1



Ms. Pelley
Grade 2



Mrs. Zimmerman
Grade 3



Mr Tordoff
Grade 4



Mrs. Hoveland
Grade 5



Mr Tordoff
Grade 4

COVID-19 & Your Mental Health :

Information for Parents

Maintaining positive mental health in your home is important. Children can react to what they see and hear from the adults around them. Here are some things you can do to support your children, youth and families in supporting your physical and emotional wellbeing. Check-in regularly to see recent updates. The following information has been provided by Alberta Health Services

How to Talk to Children About COVID-19

Remain calm and reassuring.

Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others. Make yourself available to listen and to talk. Make time to talk. Be sure children know they can come to you when they have questions.

Avoid language that might blame others and lead to stigma.

Remember that viruses can make anyone sick, regardless of a person's race or ethnicity.

Avoid making assumptions about who might have COVID-19.

Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio, or online.

Consider reducing the amount of screen time focused on COVID-19. Too much information on one topic can lead to anxiety.

Provide information that is honest and accurate.

Give children information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.

Talk to children about how some stories on COVID-19 on the Internet and social media may be based on rumors and inaccurate information.

Teach children everyday actions to reduce the spread of germs.

Remind children to stay away from people who are coughing or sneezing or sick.

Remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash.

Get children into a handwashing habit.

Teach them to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not available, teach them to use hand sanitizer.

Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol. Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in schools and childcare facilities.

Facts about COVID-19 for Discussions with Children

Try to keep information simple and remind them that health and school officials are working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy.

COVID-19 & Your Mental Health :

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the short name for "coronavirus disease 2019." It is a new virus. Doctors and scientists are still learning about it. Recently, this virus has made a lot of people sick. Scientists and doctors think that most people will be ok, especially kids, but some people might get pretty sick. Doctors and health experts are working hard to help people stay healthy.

What can I do so that I don't get COVID-19? This will help keep germs out of your body.

You can practice healthy habits to help protect against the spread of COVID-19:

Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

If you sneeze or cough into a tissue, throw it in the trash right away.

Keep your hands out of your mouth, nose, and eyes.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Follow these five steps— wet, lather (make bubbles), scrub (rub together), rinse and dry.

You can sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.

If you don't have soap and water, have an adult help you use a special hand cleaner.

Keep things clean. Older children can help adults at home and school clean the things we touch the most, like desks, doorknobs, light switches, and remote controls.

If you feel sick, stay home. Just like you don't want to get other people's germs in your body, other people don't want to get your germs either.

What happens if you get sick with COVID-19?

COVID-19 can look different in different people. For many people, being sick with COVID-19 would be a little bit like having the flu. People can get a fever, cough, or have a hard time taking deep breaths.

Most people who have gotten COVID-19 have not gotten very sick. Only a small group of people who get it have had more serious problems. From what doctors have seen so far, most children don't seem to get very sick. While a lot of adults get sick, most adults get better. If you do get sick, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19. People can get sick from all kinds of germs. What's important to remember is that if you do get sick, the adults at home will help get you any help that you need.

When Do I Keep My Child At Home:

Stay at Home Guide

When do I keep my child at home?



Grande Prairie
Public School
Division

It's confusing. When should I keep my child home?

The new public health measures for COVID-19 mean students and staff who are showing signs of illness, must stay home from school. To simplify the 'should I keep my child home' and 'how long does my child need to stay home' process, we've created a visual guide to help you understand how our schools are making decisions around managing student illness.

My child is sick. How long do they need to stay home for?

Core COVID-19 Symptoms	Other Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever (above 38 C or 100.4 F) Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening) Runny Nose Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chills Painful Swallowing Stuffy Nose Headache Muscle or joint aches Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or unexplained loss of appetite) Loss of sense of smell or taste Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
<p>This is my child. Now what?</p> <p>If your child has one of the core COVID-19 symptoms, they must do the following before returning to school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for a minimum 10 days (or longer if they still have symptoms) OR Receive a negative COVID test result and no longer have symptoms. 	<p>This is my child. Now what?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A COVID-19 test is recommended, but not required. The sick person must stay home and minimize contact with others until symptoms resolve. Once symptom free they can return to school.
<p>How do I get my child tested?</p> <p>If your child has one or more of the 'core' symptoms we strongly encourage booking them a COVID-19 test. This can speed up the return to school process, as the turn-around times for testing are generally faster than the required 10-day isolation period.</p> <p>Book a testing appointment online with AHS assessment tool or call Health Link 811. https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No official document is required for 'proof' of a negative test result. In a family with more than one child, only those with symptoms are required to isolate. 	<p>What if my child has a pre-existing medical condition with similar symptoms?</p> <p>A student who has allergies or other pre-existing medical conditions that cause similar symptoms must get at least one negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school.</p> <p>These symptoms would then be their baseline health status. The student can attend school as long as they stay the same.</p>
	<p>What does it mean to stay home and self-isolate? www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx</p>

Information for the creation of this document was taken from: COVID-19 in School (K-12) Settings, Symptoms and Testing. Retrieved on September 9, 2020 from: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-testing-in-alberta.aspx> Adapted from Prairie Rose School Division

Learn more by visiting our website: www.gppsd.ab.ca

COVID-19 Return Date E-mails:

If your child has to miss school because they either have a “core symptom” or an “other symptom” please watch your e-mail for communication from our office. The e-mail will have a return date stated in the e-mail when your child can return.

If you are seeking clarity or have any question at all about when your child can return please contact our office at 780-532-8885.

Please click on the link below to connect you to Alberta Health Services - COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans.



Launch self-assessment >

Mask Up Before Entering the School:

Just a reminder that if you are having to enter Swanavon School we ask that you please have a mask on prior to entering the building. This will help to keep our students, staff and your family safe.



2020-2021 GPPSD Calendar :



Grande Prairie Public School Division 2020-2021 CALENDAR Approved

AUGUST 2020							27	Professional Learning Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	28	Professional Learning Day
						1	31	Professional Learning Day
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							
							3/0	

SEPTEMBER 2020							1	First Day of School
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	7	Labour Day
		1	2	3	4	5	18	Professional Learning Day
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					
							21/20	

OCTOBER 2020							12	Thanksgiving
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	23	Professional Learning Day
				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		
							21/20	

NOVEMBER 2020							11	Remembrance Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	20	Professional Learning Day
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							
							20/19	

DECEMBER 2020							4	Day in Lieu
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	11	Professional Learning Day
		1	2	3	4	5	19-31	Christmas Break
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				
							13/12	

JANUARY 2021							1-3	Christmas Break
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	4	First Day Back
					1	2	29	Professional Learning Day
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								
							20/19	

FEBRUARY 2021							1	Semester 2 Begins
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	15	Family Day
	1	2	3	4	5	6	26	Professional Learning Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28								
							19/18	

MARCH 2021							4/5	Teachers' Convention
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	19	Day in Lieu
	1	2	3	4	5	6	26	Professional Learning Day
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					
							22/19	

APRIL 2021							2	Good Friday
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	3-11	Easter Break
				1	2	3	12	First Day Back
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	23	Professional Learning Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30			
							16/15	

MAY 2021							7	Professional Learning Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	24	Victoria Day
					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							
							20/19	

JUNE 2021							4	Professional Learning Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	21	Nat'l Indigenous People Day
		1	2	3	4	5	25	Last Day for Students other than Students writing the scheduled Diploma Exam on June 28
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	28	Last Day for Staff and those Students writing the scheduled Diploma Exam
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					
							20/18	

Day off for Students & Staff

Full Day off for Students

1st Semester 98 Staff/90 Student
 2nd Semester 97 Staff/89 Student
 Total number of days
 195 Staff / 179 Students

No Dogs on School Grounds:

Bylaw C-1226 states that “The owner of a dog shall ensure the dog does not enter or remain in or on any area where dogs are prohibited by posted signs, or within five meters of a playground, athletic field or school ground.”

Bylaw Officers are responsible for enforcing Bylaw [C-1226](#).

[Click Here for More Information](#) 



No Smoking on School Property:

Grande Prairie has made school property and the school parking lot a “smoke free” area according to the “No Smoking Bylaw” [C-1278](#). The penalty that will be issued by the city is a \$250 fine.

[Click Here for More Information](#) 



**NO SMOKING
ON THE
SCHOOL
GROUNDS**



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Visit our [school](#) page:
www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/swanavon