

LAIRD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year as we move forward, working together, for the benefit of the students of Laird School! A Laird student's school day during the pandemic has been quite similar to school before the pandemic and restrictions were placed upon us. We have adapted as an educational community being resilient with wearing masks, distancing 2 meters or more when possible, sanitizing, avoiding sharing personal items, and staying home when not well. We have also worked together and shown resilience with the changes to learning that have come about such as being prepared to move to a different model of learning if required, using online platforms including Google Classroom and SeeSaw, communicating about your child's learning through email and over the phone, and going virtual for our annual Christmas Concert. Having to change has caused us to do things differently and, although it's not the same, there have been positives and learning opportunities for our students. We may continue with some changes for student learning even when we can return to the way things were, but our collective resilience will help us continue to achieve positive learning and wellness outcomes for our community – we are stronger together!

I wish you all the best in 2021 and beyond,

Corinne

Corinne Dutka *Principal*, Laird School
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PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION
Learners for Life
Located within Treaty 6 Territory

- January 29 - Prep day - No classes for students
- Feb 15-19 Family Day and February break
- March 8 - Prep/PD Day - No classes for students

Communications Highlights

- Students have been given the opportunity to participate in the "Our School Survey" this month.
- Continue to show kindness and empathy. Laird School's message is: "Learning, Growing, Respecting and Caring for yourself and one another."

A very special thank you to outgoing SCC member Susanah Hamm for her many years of dedication and participation with our SCC. Thank you for all you have done for our school community, Susanah! We wish you well!

Mr. Adam Grant – Grade 6/7/8 Teacher



Mr. Grant graduated from the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in 2019. This is his second year teaching in the Prairie Spirit School Division, and his first at Laird School. Mr. Grant and his wife are adjusting to life as new parents. Their son Felix was born in the early months of 2020. Prior to working as a teacher, Mr. Grant worked in the music industry for over ten years, most of which consisted of extensive travelling around Canada. His hobbies and interests include (but are not limited to): reading, woodworking, writing/recording music, fishing, spending time with family and writing.



Miss Rebecca Gudnason – Kindergarten/ Grade 1 and 2 Teacher

Hi, Laird School families! My name is Rebecca Gudnason and I'm teaching the K/1/2 class this school year. This is my 4th year of teaching. Prior to Laird, I spent the last 3 years at Warman Elementary School. My time there had me teaching a variety of grades/subject areas including: Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grade 3, Literacy Support and Arts Education.

I currently live in Saskatoon, however, grew up on a cattle and grain farm just outside of Wynyard, SK. My small-town roots have made Laird feel very much like home. I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers. When not at school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, getting outside with my dog, Millie, and enjoying time at the lake in the summer. Laird School is a wonderful place that I feel very lucky to be a part of this year. Take care, everyone!



Ms. Corinne Dutka - Principal, SERT, and Grade 5/6 Teacher

My name is Corinne Dutka and I am honoured to be your principal and a teacher at Laird School. I have been teaching for over 25 years but, my passion for teaching began as a young teen, teaching figure skating where I found the joy of supporting others' learning. I've mostly taught grades 1 through 6 while teaching in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. I started my teaching journey with Prairie Spirit School Division teaching grade 1 at Waldheim School. I have also taught in Martensville, Warman, Pike Lake and many other schools in the division as a supporting teaching working out of the division office. My in-school administration positions began at Warman Elementary School in 2016 as vice-principal and then moving to Pike lake School as principal for 3 years before coming to Laird.

I'm truly thrilled to now be in your community where I feel like I am 'home'. I grew up in Wakaw, SK and I am grateful to once again be part of a small Saskatchewan community! And, if my father knew I would one day be a teacher and principal in Laird, SK he would never have believed it when he attended Laird School with his sisters, Pearl, Jean and Marion, and possibly youngest sister Anne. Thanks to all for welcoming me into your community! I look forward to working with all our school partners and parents. It will be very exciting to have you back into the school once Covid restrictions are lifted. Till then, phones, video calls and email are a good start – I look forward to communicating with all parents!

SCC virtual meeting, Tues Jan 12 at 6:30 p.m., everyone is welcome! Please email Ms. Dutka by 3:30 p.m. on Jan 12 at corinne.dutka@spiritsd.ca if you'd like to join this virtual meeting.

"Life throws challenges but with patience and resilience, you can convert every challenge into a new opportunity to grow."

– Amit Ray



We acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Metis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Metis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

(**GREEN** days are Kindergarten)

January

2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Day 4/D	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	Day 1/A	Day 2/B	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Day 3/C	Day 4/D	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	Day 1/A	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Day 2/B	Day 3/C	Day 4/D	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Day 1/A	Day 2/B	Day 3/C	Day 4/D	Prep Day – no classes	

(**GREEN** days are Kindergarten)

February

2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	Day 1/A	Day 2/B	Day 3/C	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Day 4/D	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	Day 1/A	Day 2/B	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	No school - Family Day	No school	Winter break	No school	Winter break	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Day 3/C	Day 4/D	Day 5/E	Day 6/F	Day 1/A	
28						