



Lord Asquith School Newsletter



*** ** ** ** **

April 16, 2015

Number 8

*** ** ** ** **

TO EMPOWER A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS BY PURSUING SUCCESS FOR ALL

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We appreciate your active involvement and interest in the changes that are happening within our division and the province as a whole due to budget. I encourage you to continue to be involved and engage in meaningful conversations around possible changes in programming and supports throughout PSSD and our school. Please read the following letter from our PSSD Board of Education and our Director of Education John Kuzbik and feel free to visit the PSSD budget website to gain more information.

Thank you to all those parents who have written, called, posted, tweeted, emailed in support of our school and division.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Leanne Gruending



Prairie Spirit faces \$7 million funding shortfall for 2015/16

Budget Facts

Prairie Spirit School Division is facing a funding shortfall of approximately **\$7 million** (or 6% of the overall budget) for the 2015/16 school year.

The shortfall is the amount of funding from the province compared to the cost of maintaining our current levels of programming and services for Prairie Spirit students.

The shortfall is greater than the amount predicted and foreshadowed in the information letter sent to parents prior to the release of the provincial budget.

Prairie Spirit's 2015/16 funding increase of \$3.6 million covers the cost of the provincially-negotiated teacher salaries, leaving the school division with the same funding as last year. New costs, such as increased enrolment, contractual obligations and inflationary costs, are not covered with additional funding.

Prairie Spirit's funding shortfall and inequities began in **2012** when the new provincial education funding model came into effect. The complex formula does not recognize some of Prairie Spirit's operating costs, while providing funding to other school divisions that is not available to Prairie Spirit.

Prairie Spirit is funded significantly lower per student when compared to other similar school divisions. The highest funded school division in the province receives \$4,000 per student more than Prairie Spirit. In fact, Prairie Spirit is one of the lowest funded school divisions in the province.

It is understandable that school divisions are funded differently based on a variety of factors. As a result, the funding amount per student will vary from school division to school division. However, the current funding variance between Prairie Spirit and other similar school divisions is too great and this is not right.

Capital Funding

It is important to distinguish between one-time capital funding and operational funding:

- Capital funding is used to build new schools, to renovate and expand existing buildings and to accommodate our growing student population.
- Operational funding is provided directly for student learning.

Capital costs are not associated with Prairie Spirit's \$7 million funding shortfall.

Prairie Spirit Reality

Prairie Spirit's operational practices, staffing practices and expenditures are similar and often below those of other school divisions in the province. With a funding shortfall of \$7 million, Prairie Spirit is funded well below other school divisions.

Over the past two years, Prairie Spirit has made staffing and programming cuts totaling more than \$2 million.

The Board of Education used \$3 million of limited reserve funds to balance last year's budget, with the assurance that the funding model would be adjusted to address significant inequities.

The shortfall is the amount of funding from the province compared to the cost of maintaining our current levels of programming and services for Prairie Spirit students.

Advocating for Our Students

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education has consulted with the Minister of Education, Ministry officials and our local MLAs over the past three years to advocate for equitable funding for our students.

Despite this extensive advocacy for our students, no changes have been made to address the inequities in Prairie Spirit's funding.

It is both disheartening and disappointing that our local MLAs paid for full-page advertising to support the government rather than advocate for our students to receive equitable funding.

Impact on Our Students

Last fall, the Board of Education identified its priorities for preparing the budget. The priorities include: maintaining a strong focus on improving student and adult learning, retaining staff and maintaining current class sizes.

The \$7 million funding shortfall will challenge Prairie Spirit to maintain our graduation rates, literacy and math achievement results and the success of our First Nations and Métis students, all of which are among the highest in the province.

If you are concerned about Prairie Spirit's funding shortfall, you may wish to voice your concern to your local MLA, or to:
[Brad Wall](#)
Premier of Saskatchewan
premier@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-9433
[Don Morgan](#)
Minister of Education
minister.edu@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-0613
For more details, please visit Prairie Spirit's budget website:
budget.spiritsd.ca

2015/16 School Year Calendar

Dear Prairie Spirit Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of Prairie Spirit School Division, I am pleased to provide the 2015/16 school year calendar. We want to thank all those staff members, parents and students who provided feedback and helped shape the development of the new calendar.

Key things to note about the 2015/16 calendar:

1. The number of instructional days (185) and the length of the school day (5 hours and 9 minutes) will remain the same as in the past year.
2. Teachers will begin the school year on Monday, August 24, 2015, while students will begin classes on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, prior to Labour Day. The provincial government passed new legislation late last fall that allows an earlier school start date in exceptional years when Labour Day falls after September 5.

The last day of classes for students will be Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

3. Feedback from Prairie Spirit staff, parents and students strongly indicated a preference for a two-week Christmas break, a week-long break in February (including Family Day) and a 10-day break in April (including Easter).
4. Schools will continue to provide student-led conferencing in the fall and early spring. Two dates for time-in-lieu of conferencing days will be determined at the local school level and communicated to you through your school's newsletter.

We believe the school calendar for 2015/16 reflects a positive schedule for students, staff and families.

David Wipf
Learning Superintendent



2015/16 School Year Calendar

August 3	Civic Holiday
September 1	School year begins for students
September 7	Labour Day
September 25	No school
October 12	Thanksgiving Day
November 9-10	No school
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 18	Last day of classes (Christmas break)
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 4	Classes resume
January 29	No school
February 12	Last day of classes (Winter break)
February 15	Family Day
February 22	Classes resume
March 24	Last day of classes (Easter break)
March 25	Good Friday
March 28	Easter Monday
April 4	Classes resume
April 25	No school
May 20	No school
May 23	Victoria Day
June 28	School year ends for students
July 1	Canada Day

Legend		Days
	School year begins/ends for students	
	Statutory Holidays	12.0
	School Holidays	18.0
	Preparation Time	9.5
	PSTA General Assembly	1.0
	Professional Development	0.5
	School Operational Days	1.0
	High School Final Exams	

2015	August						0/6
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
						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						

2015	October						21/21
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
				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	

2015	December						14/14
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

2016	February						16/16
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
	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						

2016	April						19/20
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					1	2	
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

2016	June						20/22
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26	27	28	29	30			

2015	September						20/21
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

2015	November						18/18
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

2016	January						19/20
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31							

2016	March						18/18
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27	28	29	30	31			

2016	May						20/21
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29	30	31					

2016	July						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
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185 Instructional Days
Semester I = 92 Instructional Day
Semester II = 93 Instructional Days

197 Operational Days
Semester I = 100 Operational Days
Semester II = 97 Operational Days

Upcoming Events

Student Led Conferences

Student Led Conferences are around the corner! **Parents and students can come to child's/children's home room on April 22nd and April 23rd between 4:00-7:00 PM to have their child discuss their progress.**

Students will lead the conversation and provide justification for the Progress Report assessment rather than the teacher. Students will present a portfolio of work and they will lead their teacher and caregivers through it, hi-lighting their successes, future plans and strategies for improvement. If you are interested in learning how your child feels that they are doing, we encourage you to attend. **Wednesday, April 22nd is designated for those students whose last name begins with an A through M and Thursday, April 23rd is for those students whose last name begins with N through Z.** We look forward to seeing parents and children attend! **The goal is to have all students from grades K-12 present a portfolio to a caregiver to really open up the conversation around learning.**

BOOK FAIR IS BACK!!!

Scholastic Book Fair is back for another amazing reading event!! Come and check out our Library from April 21 to 23, 2015, to see what we have to offer! The Fair is open at the following times:

April 21st – 3:10-4:00 PM,

April 22nd – 9:00 AM to Noon; 1:00 to 3:00 pm; 4:00 to 7:00 PM,

April 23rd – 9:00 AM to Noon; 1:00 to 3:00 pm; 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

All proceeds go towards buying new books for our Library! It's a Win-Win event: You get some amazing books to read and our Library get some new books!! Can't get any better than that!!

Kindergarten Registration for 2015/16!!

Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming 2015/16 year is upon us. Register your children now by calling the school office at 306-329-4331. **If your child will be age 5 by December 31, 2015, your child qualifies to register for Kindergarten.** If you know of new families

who have moved into the area and have school-aged children, please let them know as well.

If you are new to the area, you are welcome to stop by and check out our school. We can introduce you to those important people that you may be in contact with every day, meet prospective teachers, see your classroom, and answer any questions that you may have. For more information, please call 306-329-4331.

ALLERGY AWARE

- Food allergy is a growing public health issue in Canada.
- There is no cure; avoidance of an allergenic food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction.
- About 1.3 million Canadians (4%) have food allergy according to Health Canada.
- One in two Canadians know someone with a serious food allergy.
- The incidence is highest amongst young children (under 3) with close to 6% affected by food allergy.
- About 300,000 Canadian children under 18 years have food allergies.
- Peanut allergy in Canada affects about 2 in 100 children.
- More than 40% of Canadians read food labels looking for allergen information.

www.anaphylaxis.ca

No bake granola bars

1 3/4 cup oats
1 cup rice cereal
1/2 cup raisins or 1/2 cup chocolate chips
Mix your dry ingredients in a big bowl together.
1/2 stick of butter
1/4 cup honey
1/3 cup dark brown sugar



Heat these up on a stove, stirring together. Once it starts to boil, give it about 2 minutes then turn stove off and mix in with your dry ingredients. I'm not going to lie it can be a little challenging to stir and more of an adult job. Once it's all mixed together (it will be slightly hot!), grab a spoon and place in a muffin pan or

Pampered Chef Brownie Pan. I'm sure putting in a pan and letting cool then cutting in granola like strips would work also.

Let it cool for about 30-45 minutes and then place in little bags or wrap them up and you have an easy healthy breakfast or snack!

www.pinterest.com

School and Community Council

Our next SCC meeting is **Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 PM.** We'd love to have you join us as we plan the remainder of the school year. All community members and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If you have any suggestions or questions, the SCC can be contacted via email: asquithscc@gmail.com.

- ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Meetings are held in the Staff Room.
- Childcare is available.
- Questions? Email: asquithscc@gmail.com

News from the Booth



The Booth will be selling white and chocolate milk for 50 cents a glass at lunch time starting Feb. 23rd. Tuesday is homemade soup for \$1.50 and Thursday is grilled cheese for \$1.50. These are first come, first served. Many of our students are enjoying the fresh fruit, fresh veggies, and hummus and cracker bags - each sold for \$1.00. Keep watching for new items for sale and, if you have suggestions, please let us know.

Health Promoting Schools

Congratulations to Livia James who won the Random Act of Kindness draw and a job well done to all our students who were caught doing Random Acts of Kindness. Our students are caught everyday being helpful; it was fun to show that we notice. Thanks to our Youth Engagement and Jr SLC groups who made the veggie cups for the Family Fun Night.

Bits and Pieces

Lost and Found!!!

Our tubs are once again close to overflowing!!! If you have misplaced or lost your items, please come and check our Lost and Found tubs soon! All items not claimed will be donated to a charitable organization. Please claim your items as soon as possible!! Many thanks!



Moose Jaw Fundraising

Our Grades 6-8 students are planning an exciting trip to the Tunnels of Moose Jaw followed by an afternoon of swimming in conjunction with their ELA and Phys. Ed. curriculums. They will be holding the following events to raise the necessary funds:

Thursday, May 14

Taco-in-a-Bag Sale.

HOT MEAL NEWS

Parent volunteers supply hot meals, once a month throughout the school year, to help raise funds for the school. Recently, their support has resulted in the purchase of microwaves for the classrooms and iPad minis for the school. Each meal purchased helps support the school. If you would like to help with meal preparation or to volunteer for this program, please contact the school. Thank you!

Hot Meal Coordinators

Future hot meals:

April 27 -- Soft Taco or Taco in a Bag,
Death by Chocolate, Fruit

May 22 -- Pulled Pork, Tossed Salad or
Coleslaw, Brownie, Fruit

June-BBQ -- Hamburger or Hot Dog, Chips,
Puffed Wheat Square, Watermelon



*Immunization Notice
from Population and
Public Health*

April 2015

All immunization records located in the Saskatchewan Immunization Management System (SIMS) have been moved over to a new system called Panorama.

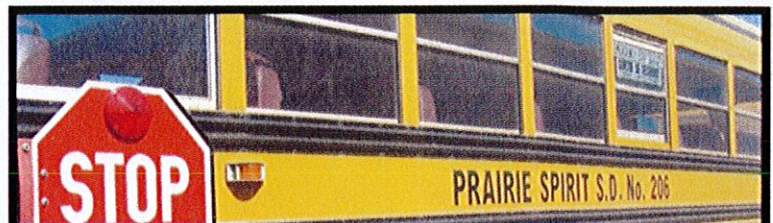
Panorama is a secure electronic health record system designed to record and store immunization related information. Confidential immunization information is only available to authorized health care workers, such as members of your public health team, physicians, and nurse practitioners across the province using secure networks.

Nurses use Panorama to access records to immunize students in grades 1, 6 and 8 and to control the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases when present in a school or classroom.

If you have questions about Panorama, visit www.ehealthsask.ca/panorama or call 306-655-4612.



Division News



A Prairie Spirit Bus Driver:

- Receives free training
- Is well supported by the school division
- Follows the school calendar
- Enjoys daily contact with students
- Supports the local community
- Could take their young child along on route

Applications for Bus Drivers are now being accepted

*Call the Prairie Spirit Bus Garage at (306) 374-2496
for more information about this flexible opportunity.*



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

Prairie Spirit School Division
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m.

Waldheim School

4008 Second Avenue East, Waldheim

The meeting will include a report from the Board of Education, the Director of Education and the Chief Financial Officer.

Waldheim School and Hague Elementary School will share their learning improvement plans.



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

Community and Surrounding Area News



Asquith Minor Ball Registration

Date – Monday April 20, 2015

Place – Asquith Rink

Time – 6:30pm - 8:00pm

For more information please email:

asquithball@gmail.com



BOTTLE DRIVE

ASQUITH AND AREA

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

19 APRIL 2015



**THE ASQUITH FENCING CLUB WILL BE
HOLDING ITS SPRING BOTTLE DRIVE**

**PLEASE SAVE YOUR CANS AND
BOTTLES FOR US!**

**IF YOU HAVE A DONATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO
DROP OFF AT OUR FENCING SCHOOL, PLEASE
CALL 227-5240.**

**All funds raised help to provide affordable fencing
instruction to the adults and youth of Asquith and
Area.**



ASQUITH COMMUNITY ZUMBA

FREE DROP IN PROGRAM

Monday's & Wednesday's

9:00am-10:00am

(doors open at 8:45am)

Garde House 490 Main Street

Asquith Community Zumba is a FREE DROP IN PROGRAM

For Asquith and surrounding community members designed to promote both physical and mental health.

This is a kid friendly class designed for all community members who wish to participate in a fitness program. Children are welcome! Bring a friend, the kids and a water bottle and get ready to feel the music!

For more information, contact Jo 306-329-4547 / 306-717-6782

jojames@sasktel.net

visit jojames.zumba.com

or follow me on my *Zumba with Jo James* facebook page

Dates to Remember:

- April 16: Newsletter #8
Junior Badminton Conferences, Delisle and Martensville
- April 17: Report Card Day, Grades K-12
- April 18: Junior Badminton Districts at Warman High
- April 19: Asquith Garde Fencing Club Bottle Drive, 1 PM
- April 20: Asquith Minor Ball Registration, Asquith Rink, 6:30 PM
- April 21: SCC Meeting, 6:30 PM
- April 21-23: Scholastic Book Fair, LAS Library
- April 22: Senior Badminton HOST Conferences, 2:00 PM
- April 22-23: Student Led Conferences, 4:00-7:00 PM
- April 25: Senior Badminton Districts at Martensville High
- April 27: Taco in a Bag or Soft Taco Hot Meal
- April 29: PSSD Annual General Meeting, 7 PM, Waldheim School



- May 2: Senior Badminton Regional Playoffs at Meadow Lake
- May 8: Deadline for Newsletter #9
- May 9: Senior Badminton Provincials at Moose Jaw
- May 14: Newsletter #9
Grades 6-8 Taco-in-a-Bag Sale
- May 15: Day-in-Lieu of Student Led Conferences - NO SCHOOL
- May 18: Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL
- May 19: SCC Meeting, 6:30 PM
3000M Conference
- May 20: Track and Field Conference A at Griffith Stadium
- May 22: Pulled Pork Hot Meal
- May 28: 3000M Districts
- May 29: Track and Field Districts at Griffith Stadium



June TBA:	BBQ Hot Meal
June 5-6:	Track and Field Provincials at Yorkton
June 10:	Deadline for Newsletter #10
June 15:	Newsletter #10
June 16:	SCC Meeting, 6:30 PM
June 18:	Last Day of Classes for PreKindergarten
June 23-26:	High School Exams
June 26:	Last Day of Classes for students
June 29:	Graduation Day: Banquet, 5:00 PM; Exercises, 7:00 PM
June 29-30:	Prep Time - NO SCHOOL
June 30:	Report Card Day, Grades K-12, 9:00-10:00 AM





April 2015




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Family Fun Night, 6:00-8:00 PM	2 "Magical Munsch", 9:00 AM	3 Good Friday (No School)	4 
5 	6 Easter Monday (No School)	7 Easter break	8	9	10	11
12	13 Deadline for Newsletter #8	14 Jr. Badminton Pre- Conference Playoffs	15	16 Newsletter #8 Jr. Badminton Conferences, Delisle and Marrensville	17 Report Card Day, Grades K-12	18 Jr. Badminton Districts, Warran High
19 Asquith Fencing Club Bottle Drive, 1 PM	20 Minor Ball Registra- tion @ the Rink, 6:30 PM	21 SCC Meeting, 6:30 PM Scholastic Book Fair	22 Sr. Badminton HOST Conferences, 2:00 PM/Student Led Confer- ences, 4:00-7:00 PM Scholastic Book Fair	23 Student Led Conferences, 4:00-7:00 PM Scholastic Book Fair	24	25 Sr. Badminton Dis- tricts at Marrensville High
26 	27 Taco in a Bag or Soft Taco Hot Meal	28	29 PSSD Annual General Meeting, 7 PM, Waldheim School	30 		



May 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5		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			