



## December 2022 School Newsletter

### **Admin Message**

It is hard to believe there are only two weeks of school until the Christmas break. It seems like this fall has gone by incredibly fast. The classrooms and hallways of the school remain filled with energy and engagement in learning. As we move into December we are seeing and hearing many types of Christmas activities beginning in classrooms. Traditions Elementary is a wonderful place to be.

The last day of classes for students will be Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
On behalf of our staff, we wish you a joyous and rejuvenating holiday!

### **Save The Date – School Christmas Programs December 14 and 15**

- Wednesday, December 14 - Kindergarten A, Grades 1 and 2
- Thursday, December 15 – Kindergarten B, Grades 3-5



Traditions Elementary will be holding two different Christmas Programs on the dates noted above. On these dates there will be an afternoon performance at 1:15 which is open to the public (doors will open at 12:55) and an evening performance at 7:00 (doors will open at 6:30). Crowd sizes are expected to be large, so we encourage all to attend an afternoon performance if possible. We also ask for everyone's cooperation in keeping evening attendance to immediate family so that we will have a spot for everyone.

For each evening's performance students are asked to report to their homeroom classroom between 6:30 and 6:45. Students will be picked up by families in the homeroom classroom following the program.

The School Community Council will be planning some post-program refreshments, but a baking table buffet will not be organized this year.

### **Congratulations To Our Intern Teachers**

Traditions Elementary School has been fortunate to have the talents and energy of three intern teachers this fall. We congratulate our interns on the successful completion of their practicums this month and extend best wishes as they return to the College of Education to finish their degree requirements next semester. A large bouquet of thanks and celebration are extended to:

- Eiman Abbas
- Grace Bartel
- Jaydynn Brenner



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## **Unpacking Your Child's Report Card**

Report Cards were issued to students in Grades 1-5 on Friday, November 25. Report cards are different than in the past with the implementation of a common report card for all elementary school students in Prairie Spirit School Division. The other significant change is that the report cards were issued to students/parents through the Edsby platform. Report cards and instructions on how to access them can be found on Edsby.

Prairie Spirit School Division has created a number of resources to help parents understand our assessment and reporting practices. They can be found on the PSSD website in the PARENTS tab [or via this link](#).

As you review your child's progress report we encourage you to consider the following:

- Learning is not a competition. Every child is unique and grows/learns in their own manner and pace.
- Every child/person has strengths and things that come more naturally, and things that take more time, effort and practice to develop.
- The grade is a summary comment that evaluates where a student is at this time relative to curriculum outcomes. A grade cannot adequately explain all of the details and complexities of a student's learning journey.
- Take time to read the comments and discuss them with your child. Teachers take great care in crafting comments that are tailored to each child's learning journey. Comments strive to celebrate successes and strengths and areas to work on as next steps.
- In the spirit of ongoing communication about your child's learning and growth, please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like more details about information contained in their progress report.

## **Cold Weather/Inclement Weather Bussing**

In accordance with Prairie Spirit School Division Busing Policy #805, should the temperature be -40 degrees with wind chill, or if road conditions are considered dangerous, buses will not run. In that situation, it will be posted on the PSSD website [www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca) by 7:00AM. Please make it a habit to check the Prairie Spirit School Division's Transportation page daily for Bus Cancellations. Buses may run at the end of the school day if temperatures are above -40 degrees and road conditions are safe. We want to clarify that families on urban bus routes do not receive a phone call to notify of a bus cancellation. It is important families check the PSSD website for these notifications. You can also check your MyStop app to see if your child's bus is running. If you need your MyStop LoginID and password, please contact the school office.

## **Preparing for Colder Weather**

As we move further into the fall season it is important that students come to school properly dressed to be comfortable when outside at recess breaks. We try to get students outside whenever possible – a little light rain or wind will not preclude us from holding outdoor recess breaks. As the weather turns colder, we use -25 degrees Celsius as the coldest temperature at which we will go outside. At -26 degrees Celsius, students must remain in their classrooms for recess breaks (wind chill included).

When students arrive at the school at/after 8:35AM, they are normally expected to play outside until the warning bell at 8:45 AM.

### **Substitute Bus Drivers Needed/Daily Cancellation of School Buses**

Prairie Spirit School Division has actively been advertising for casual/substitute school bus drivers. Interested applicants can find more information on the Prairie Spirit School Division website. With the shortage of replacement bus drivers, we have recently seen the cancellation of some school buses on days when a driver cannot be located. Parents are reminded to check the PSSD Transportation webpage each morning and are encouraged to sign up for the MyStop app (contact the school office). The school and PSSD Transportation are also committed to emailing affected families with updates.

### **Student Leadership Team – Spirit of Giving Project**

The Awareness, Joy and Community Student Leadership Teams at Traditions would like to get students into the Spirit of Giving this season. They would like to challenge each grade level to bring in specific items to be donated to those in need in our community. Items can be brought to school any time before December 16th. The Student Leadership Team will be promoting this drive with classroom visits and daily announcements.

Each grade is being challenged to make the following type of donations (\*All food items should be non-perishable):

- Kindergarten - Warm and personal care items - new mitts, toques, socks, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent...
- Grade One - Breakfast Items - cereals, oatmeal, granola bars, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jam....
- Grade Two - Baking Supplies - flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder....
- Grade Three - Drinks - juice boxes, hot chocolate, coffee, tea...
- Grade Four - School Snack Items - crackers, cookies, granola bars...
- Grade Five - Supper Items - canned vegetables, canned meats, soups, macaroni, pastas, rice...

When students bring in an item for donation, they may color an ornament from the office to decorate our Christmas Tree in the library!

All items will be donated to the Warman Food Bank. If your family needs some extra help, please call them at 306-934-7007.

