



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Message from the Administration

Here we are in December already! It seems like this fall has gone by incredibly fast – and what can we say about the beautiful weather. The biggest question now is – ‘Will there be snow for Christmas?’ As we move into December we are seeing and hearing many types of Christmas activities beginning in classrooms with our programs scheduled for next week. The classrooms and hallways of the school remain filled with energy and engagement in learning. Traditions Elementary is a wonderful place to be. A reminder that the last day of classes is Friday, December 22nd and classes resume on Monday, January 8th, 2024.

On behalf of our staff, we wish you a joyous and rejuvenating holiday!

TES Administration Team

Save The Date – Christmas Programs in December

Traditions Elementary Christmas programs are scheduled for December 6 and 7.

- ❖ Wednesday, December 6 - Kindergarten A, Grades 1 and 2
- ❖ Thursday, December 7 – Kindergarten B, Grades 3-5

On each date 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. Any photos taken should be for personal use and not posted on social media to respect the privacy of all students.

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.

Unpacking Your Child's Report Card

Report Cards are issued to students in Grades 1-5 on Friday, December 1st. Report cards will be issued to parents through the Edsby platform and students will receive a paper copy. Report cards and instructions on how to access them can be found on Edsby.

Prairie Spirit School Division has created a few 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 to the Parent Assessment Site.](#)

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 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.

SCC Christmas Concert Clothing & Food Drive

During this year's Christmas concerts, the Traditions School Community Council (SCC) will be collecting food for the school's Food Drive and will also be collecting gently used children's winter clothing to donate to Warman's Hand Up Cupboard. This volunteer organization has several families in the community and surrounding area in need of warm winter clothing this year. Items they are in particular need of include:

- Mittens
- Toques
- Neck warmers/scarves
- Winter jackets
- Ski pants
- Winter boots

All items donated during the Christmas concerts are asked to be washed prior to donation. We thank you in advance for helping spread some holiday cheer to those most in need in our community this Christmas season!

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, snow 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).

A reminder to label outdoor clothing and footwear with the child's name. This reduces confusion about 'whose is whose' and helps get lost items back to their owners.

Changes to PSSD Bussing Procedures/Inclement Weather Bussing Plans

There have been a few changes to [PSSD AP-805 Bus Service Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather](#) we want to ensure parents are informed about.

- Buses will be cancelled when the temperature reaches -40 degrees Celsius or -45 degrees Celsius with the windchill. (Note: the AP previously stated buses were cancelled when the temperature was -40 degrees Celsius with windchill).
- There is no change for students using wheelchair lifts on buses. They will have services cancelled when the combined temperature and windchill are at or below -35 degrees Celsius.
- Buses may run at the end of the school day if temperatures are above -40 degrees/-45 degrees with windchill - and road conditions are safe.

There have also been some changes to the communication tools that PSSD uses to keep families informed of alterations to regular bus routes:

- Run status, including cancellations and delays, will continue to be posted on the Prairie Spirit website. Updates can be found by clicking here: [Home Page – BusPlanner Web \(mybusplanner.ca\)](#), then “[View Alerts](#)” (top of page).
- Communications regarding run status will occur via the Swift K-12 tool. This provides Transportation staff with a tool to communicate with families via text messages, email, and voice messages, without families needing to sign up for notifications in a separate app. 2023/24.
- The MyStop app has been discontinued; as a result, the live “bus location” features will no longer be available.
- Rural route drivers will continue to communicate with parents directly, as in previous years.
- We locally refer to our urban buses by colour so that they are easily identifiable by all children, but the BusPlanner Web is not able to currently report alerts by the colour designation – only the assigned route number. To reduce confusion with notifications we want to highlight that bus route numbers are indicated on each bus pass. You may also refer to the chart below that shows buses by route and colour designation.

Supporting Social Emotional Learning at Home

The [Alberta Health Services](#) website has provided 10 ways for families to strengthen their child's social emotional skills, reprinted here:

If you have a school-age child at home, you've likely heard the buzz around social emotional learning (SEL). It's a concept that has caught the attention of teachers and parents alike—in part because it makes good sense. SEL is about helping kids learn the types of skills they use in everyday life, like how to handle emotions, cope with stress, get along with others, make decisions, and solve problems. Social emotional skills are essential. They help kids thrive at school, work, and in life.

Kids develop social emotional skills from a very young age. They learn through formal instruction (like lessons at school or in childcare) and through informal, day-to-day life experiences at home and in the community.

Here are 10 practical ways to boost your child's social emotional skills.

1. Build their social emotional vocabulary

Teach your kids to name their emotions. Use [The Feelings Wheel](#) to help them build an emotion vocabulary—beyond basic terms like happy, sad, or mad—so they can find the words to express how they feel. Naming emotions and moods is the first step to managing them in healthy ways.

2. Focus on their strengths

Talk to your child about their strengths—what they can do, what they're good at, and what they enjoy. Notice the positive things about your child. Try not to compare them to their siblings or friends.

3. Give them responsibilities

Talk to your child about ways they can contribute at home. Together, figure out tasks that suit their age, interests and talents—they could help with pet care, chop vegetables for dinner, or weed the garden. Having responsibilities helps them feel valued, confident, and secure.

4. Play!

Create time, space, and opportunity for your child to play in ways that make sense to them. Whether they play alone or with others, freely or in structured ways, they'll be learning and trying out social emotional skills. Join your child in pretending, building, cooperative games, and the like—just be sure to let them guide the activity.

5. Help them work toward goals

Help your child set ambitious goals and work toward them with small, realistic steps. Whether they want to improve their reading, try a new sport, or cook dinner on their own, they'll likely need your support to get there. Show them how to break big goals into smaller, doable parts. Celebrate small wins along the way—it helps them stay positive and motivated.

6. Put them in the driver's seat

Give your child a chance to weigh in on decisions. Get them to plan what they'll have for school lunch, choose their own after-school activities, or decide how to style their hair. Involve them in family choices, like where to go camping or how to celebrate a special occasion. When kids have an active voice in decision-making, they learn to think through choices and consequences.

7. Teach them how to cope with stress

Help your child explore different ways to cope with stress. Try physical activities (like running or dancing), calming activities (like art or yoga), or spending time outside. Some kids also benefit from techniques like starfish breathing or box breathing. Learn these strategies in just 5 minutes with this handy video: [Stress explained \(Elementary edition\)](#).

8. Guide problem solving

Listen to your child when they share problems with you, when they talk about challenges with friends or siblings. Try not to jump in with opinions or ideas to improve a situation. Instead, help them brainstorm solutions and weigh pros and cons.

9. Reframe mistakes

Teach your child that it's normal to make mistakes or have set-backs with goals. Talk about mistakes or set-backs you've had and how you've handled them. Keep the focus on what you learned or what you could do differently next time. This approach will help your child feel capable, optimistic, and in control.

10. Ask about SEL at school

Talk to your child's teacher or principal about what's going on at school when it comes to SEL.

Student Leadership Team- Spirit of Giving Project

Traditions Student Leadership Team would like to get students in 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 day before December 18th. The Student Leadership Team will be promoting this drive with classroom visits and regular 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, drink mix ...
- Grade Four – School Snack Items – crackers, cookies, granola bars...
- Grade Five – Supper Items – canned vegetables, canned meats, soups, 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 is needing help, please call them at 306-934-7007.

Student Leadership Team- Spirit Week

Traditions Student Leadership Team would like to jump start the fun this December with a few Spirit Days from December 13 to December 15.

December 13 - **Red** & **Green** Day – come to school wearing your favorite red and/or green clothing.

December 14 – Decorated Day – got some tinsel in your hair? Is that a stocking hanging on your back? Let's decorate ourselves and have some fun.



December 15 – PJ/Stuffy Day – come to school comfy and cozy this Friday!



Meet The Staff

Name: Emily Johb

Role: Grade 4 Teacher

Number of years at TES: 7

Favourite subject: My favourite subject was D.E.A.R.(drop everything and read).

Hobby/Special Interest: I enjoy hiking, reading and crafting.

Immediate Family: My husband is Josh.

Favourite thing about TES: I appreciate the welcoming environment, staff & students.

If I could meet any famous person, I would like to meet Oprah.



Name: Jennie Warren

Role: Kindergarten/Grade 3 teacher

Number of years at TES: New this year

Favourite subject: I liked Language Arts.

Hobby/Special Interests: I like to read and craft.

Favourite colour? My favourite colour is pastel pink.

Family: My husband is Doug and I have 3 kids – Sophie, Matt and Ryder.

If I could travel anywhere, I would like to go to Hawaii.



Name: Alana Raison

Role: Grade 4 teacher

Number of years at TES: 7

Hobby/Special interests: I like to travel, reading and dog sitting for SDR

My favourite way to treat myself is Starbucks.

This is my 31st school year!

If I could meet any famous person from the past or present, I would like to meet Taylor Swift- I'm a Swiftie!



Name: Sarah Mennie

Role: SERT for K-2

Number of years at TES: 2

Favourite subject: My favourite subject at school was history.

Hobby/Special Interest: I enjoy crocheting and reading.

Favourite way to treat yourself: I like a Dairy Queen Blizzard.

How many years have you worked in the Education field? This is my fourth year teaching.

If I could travel to any place, I would go to Japan.

