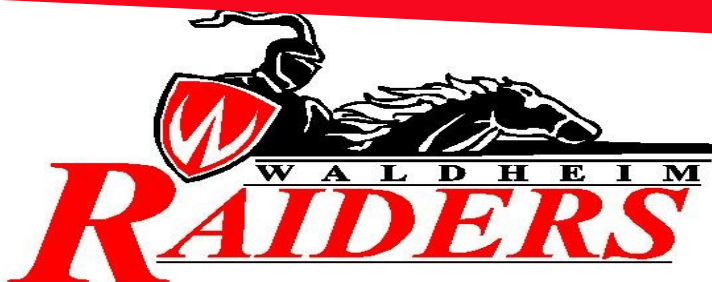


December to January, 2016/2017

## WALDHEIM SCHOOL

Box 367  
Waldheim, SK  
S0K 4R0  
Principal: Chris Mason  
Vice-Principal: Bruce Mellesmoen  
Website: [www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool](http://www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool)



PLEASE



NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS

Phone: 306-945-2211

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E-mail: [corinne.neufeldt@spiritsd.ca](mailto:corinne.neufeldt@spiritsd.ca)

### From the Administrative Team

Christmas is an interesting time of year. There are so many things happening. Preparation for Christmas can be very busy. It can create lasting memories. For many families there is the shopping, baking, Christmas cards to send, tree decorating, parties to attend, presents to wrap, house cleaning, and favorite movies and shows to watch. I think it is important to create these memories. It is not about spending money or the biggest and best gifts. It is about all of the things that you do together that matters. It is about playing cards and board games, tobogganing or skating, telling stories and sharing laughs, or just lounging around and being lazy.

It makes me think about our upcoming Christmas Concert. The students have been learning about how Christmas is more about enjoying the important things in life, like family. This time of year allows people the opportunity to get together and celebrate. They give thanks, reflect on the past and express hope for the future. It is a time to come together with loved ones to share a special meal, make crafts, dramatize past events, exchange gifts, and honor ancestors.

The school, like our lives, is busy. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and not stop to reflect on how lucky we are. We are lucky to live in a town, province, and country that have such a strong sense of community. We are surrounded by people who want the best for one another. We are fortunate for the simple things in life that we take for granted like freedom, friends, and our safety.

We hope that you are able to stop and consider the things that you are thankful for. We also hope that you will have a special time with your family celebrating a marvelous event, remembering, giving thanks, expressing hope, sharing wonderful meals, and sharing your love with one another.

On behalf of the staff of Waldheim School, we would like to wish you the best Christmas holiday. It is our hope that you and your family will share and make some unforgettable memories!

Chris Mason, Bruce Mellesmoen



#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

**December 19 (1:00) - Christmas Concert, Matinee performance**

**December 20 (7:00) - Christmas Concert**

**December 21 - Last Day of Classes for 2016!**

**December 22 - January 3 - Christmas Break**

**January 3 - First day of classes for 2017!**

**January 13 - Subway Sale!**

**January 24-27 - Final Exams for semester 1 (grade 9-12)**

**January 30 - Semester turn-around/Teacher Prep Day, NO CLASSES!**



# What's Happening?

## Kindergarten 1

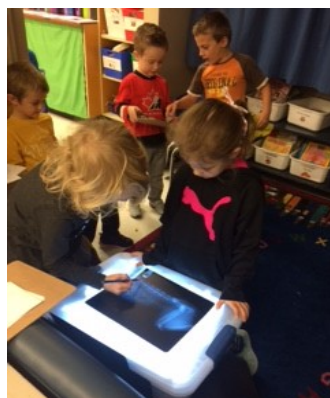
We are having a lot of fun in the K1 class! We've been exploring "our wonders" and learning a lot of interesting things about the world around us! We spent some time discovering the work of community helpers – our classroom had a doctor and vet's office (complete with an "x-ray machine" and real animal x-rays), a post office, book-making factory, and a construction zone.

In reader's workshop we invited some moms to join us and help us make "oobleck" after reading

Bartholemew and the Oobleck by Dr. Suess. It was a sticky success! The students continue to work on cracking the "secret code" of letter sounds and discovering how words are built. They're even starting to read and write some words!

Now we're anticipating the Christmas concert as we practice acting out the Christmas Story for our first school performance!

Mrs. Kitchen



## Kindergarten Creates!

We have had a very exciting start to the school year! Each day is a new adventure in our classroom. Whether it's finding dinosaur fossils, making walkie talkies out of juice boxes, or designing crafts with our Bigger Buddies, there is always something new to explore and learn!

Mrs. Fong

# What's Happening?

## Kindergarten 2

Thank you book for community helpers!

Emma and Kathryn checking for mail



Grayson using his police walkie-talkie



Fun with bigger buddies!



## **Riding and Reading**

Travel is just the thing to get young minds moving. Turn travel time during a family trip into a great bonding and learning adventure with activities that build language for literacy and boost kids' brain development. Don't forget to pack your imagination!

### **What to bring**

**Music.** Before your trip, take time to make a sing-along playlist of family favorites. (Remember to bring whatever you need to connect your mobile device to the car stereo and keep it charged.) On the road, get kids listening by asking them to keep an ear out for certain words or sounds and clapping when they hear them. Then get them singing along!

With the car stereo off, try teaching each other classic kids' songs, folk songs, Sesame Street and Disney tunes, the national anthem, or Broadway hits. You'll find lyrics online or you can show kids how they can make their own music by inventing new verses to songs like "If You're Happy and You Know It."

**Books.** Invest some time before your trip in choosing some audio books the whole family can listen to. Search for recommendations in Reading Rockets list of Favorite Audio Books (<http://www.readingrockets.org/articles/books/audiobooks>) or ask your librarian for ideas. Your public library may have books on CD that you can borrow or lend electronic audio books you can download to your device. Choose audio books that will stimulate discussion, like classics or books on topics of interest to everyone in your family.

Look too for audio books of stories you've shared with your child, and plan to talk about how the reader's interpretation is similar or different from yours, especially if the audio book reader is the author! If you are listening to picture books, bring along a copy so kids can look at the illustrations while listening.

Let kids pack some favorite titles to look at, to read to you, or have read aloud to them while you're on the road. And bring along some new books, too. A new release by a favorite author or a new book in a beloved series will add excitement to your trip.

**Stories.** Family stories, tales of road trips past, adventures of your youth stories, and stories and facts about your destination do more than pass the time on the road. As kids hear and learn from the successes, mistakes, values, and ideas in your stories, their understanding of how to have their own adventures — and their own stories — will grow.

As you share stories, give your child a chance to ask questions and offer his perspective. Storytelling is more fun if everyone gets a chance to tell a story! Try telling a memorable family story with everyone taking turns or turn family photos into family stories. Have photos on your mobile device or bring along copies of pictures and share stories about the people and the places important to your family.



### Leslie Hinz...

I think my love of books began as a young girl with the “Trixie Belden Series.” (That’s dating me!)

I still enjoy a good mystery book to this day.

I am always amazed when an author can pull me into a story within the first few pages. Those are the books that keep me up at night! Nothing much happens around my place until that final chapter and sentence have been read.

Mysteries are not my only genre. I love reading books of inspiration and teaching. I have read books and articles that help me have a better understanding of students and the struggles they may be having.

I have read biographies and inspirational books that challenge and encourage me to grow in my faith.

Most of the authors I read are Christian but I also like to read books that are recommended by friends and colleagues.

I would have to say summer is when I catch up with my reading –mostly because it is a less scheduled season and I can read for hours without guilt. However, there is nothing like curling up with a good book on a cold Sask. winter night.

My goal is to read more, learn more and enjoy the written word—I hope that is one of your goals as well. Read on!

### Blaine Gaudet....

I have not always considered myself as a reader. I love reading now, but that has definitely not always been the case. When I was in school I did not like to read. It always took me a long time to get through a book and I would become frustrated when my friends were finishing books so quickly! This often resulted in me abandoning books or 'fake reading'. I finally began liking books when I was in high school and my teacher began recommending books for me to try. Now, many books and characters later, I love reading, and I love trying new genres. At the moment, my favourites are fantasy and historical fiction. I really enjoy diving into a different world or a different time.

As I face a new adventure in my life, I am looking forward to reading tons of books to my little one! I am excited to share a love for reading and hopefully my child will develop a passion much earlier than I did.

### Brenda Wilton...

My favorite book? That’s a tough question to answer because I love reading and have read so many amazing books! I have, however, recently discovered a new author that I really enjoy. Jane Urquhart is a Canadian author who writes historical fiction and poetry. I have started collecting her books because I enjoy them so much – so far I own five of her novels! I don’t typically read poetry but I am enjoying her descriptive, poetic writing style so much that I may have to get my hands on some of her books of poetry as well.

There are two other books that I will mention because they hold a special place in my heart; Baba`s Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Wedding and Baba`s Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Christmas written by Marion Mutala (an author from Saskatchewan). I enjoy these books because I love learning about my Ukrainian heritage. There is even a Ukrainian Glossary at the back of these books – I love this because it is fun to try and pronounce many of the words I grew up hearing as a child! I still need to purchase one more book to complete this trilogy – Baba`s Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Easter (maybe I will get it for Christmas this year).



## Communication Protocol for Parents/Guardians

It is only natural that parents/ guardians are going to occasionally have questions or concerns. At Waldheim School (and in our school division) we follow a communications protocol that has proven to be very effective. When there are questions or concerns the first step is to talk to your child's teacher as they are the one who knows your child best. We know from experience that when this first step occurs most questions are resolved at this point. In the event that a resolution cannot be found at this first step, the next step would be to contact the school administration for support. Please use your child's teacher (or the specific teacher involved) as your first step when you have a question or concern.



The Saskatoon Blades are calling on Grades 4s and 5s from across the Prairie Spirit School

Division to join them at their Team Up For Respect game Monday, January 30, against the Regina Pats. Puck-drop is at 11:30 a.m.

Since this game falls on our semester break, the Blades ask any grade 4 or 5 student from Prairie Spirit who would like to come to the game with their parent (or other caregiver) to pick up tickets in advance at the Blades office in SaskTel Centre (before the end of the day, January 23). There will be no charge.

Students will also receive a free activity book at the game, which includes lessons on the theme of the game, which aims to increase respect and decrease bullying.

This game has proven to be a huge hit, drawing thousands of students from Prairie Spirit as well as the Saskatoon Public and Saskatoon Catholic school districts. Come join the fun!

For tickets, stop by the Blades office at SaskTel Centre and/or contact:  
Luke Anderson  
Ticketing Manager  
Saskatoon Blades

## Win a trip and support your school!



Our **Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation** is holding its second annual **Trip a Month Raffle** to raise funds to support innovative programming in Prairie Spirit schools.

For every \$100 raffle ticket sold through your school, the school will receive \$30 to support innovative student learning initiatives.

*Details are as follows:*

- There will be 12 draws for a \$2500 travel voucher (*winners can choose their own destination!*)
- EVERY ticket is in for EVERY draw (*12 chances to win!*)
- Only 1000 tickets will be sold (*great odds!*)
- Draw date: January 26, 2017
- Trip details will be finalized with Gateway Travel in Martensville

**To purchase a ticket with cash or by cheque, please contact the school office.**

**To order online and for more information (including Rules of Play), please go to:**  
[www.prairiespiritschoolsfoundation.ca](http://www.prairiespiritschoolsfoundation.ca)

**Prairie Spirit Schools  
FOUNDATION**

*With its mandate to support innovation in public education by funding a range of experiences that help students realize their potential, the Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation provides donation and investment opportunities for projects and partnerships which would not otherwise be possible and which will enrich learning opportunities for our students.*

## Keep Your Kids Reading Over the Holidays

One of the things kids look forward to in December is the academic downtime, but there's no reason why they can't keep their minds sharp during the holidays. And, believe it or not, they can have fun while doing it. "Reading doesn't have to mean sitting at a table with a boring school book for a set amount of time each day," says Kathy Doyle Thomas, executive vice president of the bookstore chain, Half Price Books. "You can easily 'sneak' reading into daily activities." Here are her tips for sneaking learning into holidays at home:

- Have your children read holiday cards when they are received in the mail, and let them write a message in outgoing cards.
- Let children read ingredients from holiday recipes while you bake together. It's a great way for them to learn measurements and temperatures.
- Set aside time for kids to "show off" their new reading skills to visiting relatives. Children love being the focus of attention, and grandparents are usually more than willing to see their progress.
- Make special holiday readings a tradition. Find a special book for Hanukkah or Christmas, and have each member of the family read from it at the same time each year.
- Even if no books make your child's wish list, make sure you give at least one as a gift, and encourage them to read it.

Find books that focus on an interest your child has. For example if they ask for a bike, find a children's book that includes a bicycle adventure. There are books out there to suit every interest under the sun – it just takes a little browsing.

## Cold and Inclement Weather



It is difficult for some of us to think about the winter weather that will soon be upon us. Especially after the unseasonal weather we experienced in October. Here is the school's plan for cold and inclement weather as stated in our handbook:

At break times and before school, all students from Kindergarten to grade 6 will go outside and play. Your child should always come to school with proper cold weather attire, regardless of the season. When the temperature with wind-chill factor falls between -27 and -29 degrees Celsius, children will be expected to spend a shorter time outside. When the wind chill factor is -30 degrees Celsius or colder, students will not be required to go outside, however they should always have sufficient outdoor clothing in the event of an emergency.

Should a student's medical condition require him/her to temporarily stay indoors, we ask the parent to notify the teacher. We would encourage you to keep your child at home if they are ill.

## Severe Weather/Bus Cancellations

All Prairie Spirit School Division bus cancellations are prominently posted on the Prairie Spirit website ([www.spiritsd.ca/Buses](http://www.spiritsd.ca/Buses)) by 7 am, each school day. Please keep in mind that you will need to refresh your computer in order to ensure you are able to see the most current updates to the website. Buses in Prairie Spirit School Division will not run if the combined temperature and wind chill factors result in a reading of -40 degrees or below at 6 am, (as reported by Environment Canada for Saskatoon at [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)). Prairie Spirit School Division will post bus cancellations on its telephone hotline (306-683-2805) and Transportation webpage ([spiritsd.ca/buses](http://spiritsd.ca/buses)) after 6:00AM. Local radio stations will no longer be contacted. In stormy conditions, bus drivers will use their discretion to determine whether or not to run. Buses are not to operate if weather conditions such as freezing rain, dense fog, heavy rain or severe dust storms impair visibility or otherwise cause dangerous travel conditions. Bus drivers are to decide whether or not to run by no later than 30 minutes before the first scheduled morning pick up, and by no later than one hour prior to the scheduled afternoon dismissal. Buses that do not run at the regular time in the morning due to weather conditions are not to run at all on that same day.



## Prairie Spirit School Division Bus Rules

- **Students must show respect for driver, equipment, other students and their personal space.**
- **Student seating will be assigned by the bus driver.**
- **Students must remain seated and facing forward on the bus.**
- **Quiet conversation with close neighbors is allowed.**
- **Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted. Water will be allowed.**
- **Windows are to be adjusted only with permission of the bus driver. Keep head and arms inside the bus at all times.**
- **Student personal items and books must be placed near feet or on lap.**
- **The aisle must be kept clear of objects at all times.**
- **Students must promptly obey instructions of the driver.**



**If this is a charter, there must be a teacher or adult on the bus to supervise the students. It is not the charter driver's responsibility to enforce these rules. Exception would be Band and HE/IA charters.**


# December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's kindergarten class K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's kindergarten class				Day F (K2)	Day A (K1)	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
	Day B (K2)	Day C (K1)	Day D (K2)	Day E (K1)	Day F (K2)	
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
	Day A (K1)	Day B (K2)	Day C (K1)	Day D (K2)	Day E (K1)	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
	School Christmas Concert Matinee 1:00 p.m. Day F (K2)	School Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m. Day A (K1)	Day B (K2)	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>						

# January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Day C (K1)	<b>4</b> Day D (K2)	<b>5</b> Day E (K1)	<b>6</b> Day F (K2)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Day A (K1) Subway sale forms due by 3:00 pm!	<b>10</b> Day B (K2)	<b>11</b> Day C (K1)	<b>12</b> Day D (K2)	<b>13</b>  Day E (K1)	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Day F (K1)	<b>17</b> Day A (K2)	<b>18</b> Day B (K1)	<b>19</b> Day C (K1)	<b>20</b> Day D (K2)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Day E (K1)	<b>24</b> Day F (K2)	<b>25</b> Day A (K1)	<b>26</b> Day B (K2)	<b>27</b> Day C (K1)	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Teacher Prep Day, NO CLASSES!	<b>31</b> Day D (K1)		<b>K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's kindergarten class</b> <b>K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's kindergarten class</b>		