

Puma Pride...in our School...in Each Other...In Ourselves!



Prescott Weekend Update



January 28th, 2024

Good Afternoon PLC Families:

You'll recall, over the past couple of Weekend Memos I have shared the effects and impacts of poor attendance/being consistently late for class and the importance of sleep in improving achievement and attendance. This week I'd like to share specific strategies between home and school to improve attendance and limit tardies. A couple of things before I begin: one, much of what you are about to read was derived from a great school district website from Guelph Ontario, the [Upper Grand District School Board](#); and two, a result of these recent memos we have seen a marked increase of families like yourself contacting the school for support regarding attendance and lates: good. That was exactly the point. Thank you for reaching out to us.

I share this because if you have a child who is struggling to get to school on time, or even at all, I need to assure you that you are not alone. Raising children is one of the most rewarding yet challenging responsibilities that we all have in common. Rarely is the path without problems or pitfalls. Your child's struggles are not a reflection of your parenting skills. And remember, we have children too. We know how hard it is, there's no judgement.

If your child is struggling with attendance, the best advice is to never give up on the expectation to attend school. Even if your child has anxiety, rather than working around the issue, it is important to deal with the anxiety directly. Ask why they don't want to attend school, ask questions about what is worrying them, and encourage them to talk about their

anxiety. As the key adults in their lives we are often so concerned for their well being that we make assumptions as to why they don't want to attend school. We need to keep an open mind and validate their concerns. What may seem 'minor' or even 'silly' to us is a big deal for a kid: certainly, big enough to keep them from attending school. Often reluctant attenders don't have a sense of belonging. To help create a connection with the school community, encourage your child to get involved in a school extracurricular activity or participate in our monthly Puma Pride Dress up days/events (last week's beach day was a hit!) As well, consider offering a desired activity, trip or special treat if your child reaches a pre-set attendance goal. If their reason for not attending is an issue at school, reach out to us and share what you have learned. We will do our best to address these concerns and provide your child with a safe place when the causes of anxiety pop up at school.

As I mentioned last week, sleep routines and schedules are vital in addressing attendance issues. As difficult as this may be, it is critical that screen time be removed 30 minutes prior to bedtime. Also consider laying out clothes and packing lunches and backpacks the night before. This will make it easier to get out the door in the morning. And if you get the call during the day that your child wants to leave school early, let the office know. Sometimes, connecting with a caring adult allows for a much-needed break that will enable them to return to class for the remainder of the day.

Finally, if your child refuses to attend, it is important to make staying home as boring as possible. Consider removing all screens during the day including video games. I have had parents go so far as shutting down the internet during the day or taking the power cord to the Xbox or Playstation to work with them. Keep in mind that attendance and lates can escalate quickly making it critical to reach out early. We can support you in ways that you may not be familiar with. Before staying home becomes a habit, make the call or send the email, it is always far more productive when we work together to solve the problem. With

this in mind, and with Teachers Convention on the horizon the week after next, here's what is happening at PLC this for the next couple of weeks.

Important Dates This Week

Monday: Phys. Ed Learn to Curl Week
Monday: Gr. 7 Science Midterm
Tuesday: Gr. 7 Language Arts Midterm
Tuesday: Report Cards Live on PowerSchool (Parent Portal Open 3:00 pm)
Tuesday: Ski & Snowboard Club - Rabbit Hill @ 2:30 pm
Wednesday: Gr. 7 Math Midterm
Wednesday: Gr. 3 Field Trip to Aerials Gymnastics (Montgomery's Class)
Thursday: Gr. 7 Social Studies Midterm
Thursday: Gr. 3 Field Trip to Aerials Gymnastics (Matsuba & Peet's Classes)
Friday: Tuesday Schedule

Important Dates Next Week

Monday: Kinder Deep Blue Field Trip (Mon-Weds)
Wednesday: Valentine's Dance (K-Gr. 5 @ Noon, Gr. 6-9 Afternoon)
Wednesday: School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Thursday: Teacher's Convention (No School for Students)
Friday: Teacher's Convention (No School for Students)

Important Dates Feb 12th - 16th

Monday: Online Registration Opens
Tuesday: Ski & Snowboard Club - Rabbit Hill @ 2:30 pm
Wednesday: PLC Fundraising Foundation Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Thursday: Gr. 7-9 Fit for Life Skating Field Trip
Thursday: Kinder Deep Blue Field Trip (Tues-Thurs)
Thursday: New Kinder Open House @ PLC 6:00 pm
Thursday: Gr. 9 Open House @ SGCHS 6:00 pm
Friday: Staff Planning and Development Day (No Students Attend)

Athletics/Basketball Dates This Week*

Monday: Jr A Girls Practice @ 11:41-12:41
Jr A Boys Practice @ 3:00 - 5:00
Jr B Girls Game @ Living Waters 3:30
Jr B Boys Game @ Living Waters 4:30

Tuesday: Jr B Boys Practice @ 11:41-12:41 (SG)
Jr A Girls Practice @ 3:00 - 4:30
Sr Boys Game @ Muir Lake (3:45)
Sr Girls Game @ Woodhaven (5:00)
Jr B Boys @ Graminia 3:45

Jr B Girls @ Graminia 4:45

Wednesday: Jr B Girls Practice @ 11:41-12:41 (SG)
Jr A Boys Practice @ 11:41-12:41
Sr Boys Practice @ 3:00 - 5:00
Jr A Boys - BYE (No Game)
Jr A Girls Game @ HP - 4:00

Thursday: Sr Girls Practice @ 11:41-12:41
Sr Boys Practice @ 3:00 - 5:00

Friday: Sr Boys Practice @ 11:41-12:41
Sr Tournament @ Prescott - [Click For Tournament Schedule](#)

Saturday: Sr Tournament @ Prescott - [Click For Tournament Schedule](#)
Athletics/Basketball Dates Next Week (Feb 5th-7th)*

Monday: Sr Girls Practice @ 11:41 - 12:41
Jr A Boys Game @ Graminia - 3:45
Sr Boys Practice @ 3:00 - 5:00

Tuesday: Jr B Boys Practice @ 11:41 - 12:41
Jr A Girls Practice @ 11:41 - 12:41
Sr Girls Games @ PLC vs St. Peter the Apostle - 3:45
Sr Boys Game @ PLC vs St. Peter the Apostle - 5:00

Wednesday: Jr B Girls Practice @ 11:41 - 12:41 (SG)
Jr A Boys Practice @ 11:41 - 12:41
Jr A Girls Game @ PLC vs Woodhaven - 3:45
Jr A Boys Game @ PLC vs Muir Lake - 4:45
Jr B Girls Game @ St. Mathew's Lutheran - 4:00
Jr B Boys Game @ St. Matthew's Lutheran @ 4:45

*These times are subject to

change. Follow our Facebook athletics page "Prescott Learning Centre Athletics" for up-to-date pictures and info. You can also access the athletics calendar on our school website - <https://prescott.psd.ca/programs/athletics> - This should make it easy to filter by your athlete's team and sync to your calendar on your device.

New and Updated Information

February School Council & PLC Fundraising Foundation Meetings- Our monthly School Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 7th at 6:30 in the Collaboration Centre. All are invited to attend. Virtual invitations will be sent out on Monday the 5th. The PLCFF Meeting will take place on the 14th. Again, invitations to attend virtually will be sent out the Monday prior.

Music Notes from Ms. Fleming: Choir members will be bringing a note home regarding details for our upcoming Oil Kings performance on Feb. 25th. Please read carefully and return the form asap. Just a heads up, if you need tickets or require additional tickets please refer to this link: <https://fevo.me/prescott>. \$3 from every ticket purchased goes right back to the school.

Choir rehearsal is cancelled for the next two weeks and will resume on Wednesday, February 14th; if you have any questions, please direct them to the office or they can email Ms. Fleming at shauna.fleming@psd.ca

Valentine's Day Dance: On Wednesday February 7th, the day before Teacher's Convention, we will be holding our second annual Valentine's Day Dance(s). During Lunch Hour on the 7th, we will be holding a dance for our kindergarten through grade five students. For the afternoon, the grade six through nine students will hold court in the gym. In addition to a professional DJ, we will have photo booths as well as a concession (for grade 7-9 students only) with all proceeds going towards PLC extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to dress in red, white, or pink for the day. For students not wishing to participate we will have a quiet, supervised work space on the second floor.

PLC Fundraising Foundation Update - We have a special request from PLCFF in advance of a possible Spring Fling Family Dance. Our last couple of school dances have been a huge success, nearly selling out both times. We have heard from many parents and students that they love these community events, however, there is a lot of work involved. ***Unfortunately, as of right now, we have had no volunteers to organize a Spring Dance. If you and some other parents you might know would be interested in organizing, please let us know!***

In looking forward, in order for another dance to be possible, we need your help. We are seeking numerous volunteers to commit now with respect to a multitude of roles, from the initial planning and prep work, to set-up, volunteering at the dance itself and clean up. If you are interested in any of these roles, please reach out to executive@plcff.com so that we can continue to run these events for our children.

HOT Lunch Orders are now open! PLCFF - Hot lunch orders for Boston Pizza on February 1st will be closing on Thursday! You can sign up here: <https://prescott.hotlunches.net> Boston Pizza Hot lunch is Thursday, February 1
February 7 - The Lunch Lady February 15 - LOVE Pizza February 21 - Boston
Pizza February 29 - The Lunch Lady March 6 - LOVE Pizza March 14 - Boston
Pizza March 20 - The Lunch Lady

Previously Shared Information

AP 750 Severe Weather Supporting Student Learning - With all of the recent bus cancellations, I would like to draw your attention to a recent change to PSD Administration Policy 750. Prior to COVID, teachers were not permitted to introduce new lessons while students were unable to access buses. However, as the pandemic taught us, being away from school isn't the same barrier to learning as it was in the past. The policy states that "[t]eachers shall endeavour to balance the learning-outcome requirements of students who have arrived at school with the learning-outcome requirements of students who are remaining at home". Section 11.1 states that ***even when buses are canceled "[t]eachers may distribute new or ongoing learning tasks through familiar online platforms (Google Classroom, Class Dojo, etc.) and/or monitor and support learning tasks already in process."*** meaning if they are able students can continue with virtual learning when the buses don't run. For more information please click the link for [AP 750](#).

Ski & Snowboard Club - A reminder to PLC Ski and Snowboard families that if the temperature dips below -20 degrees Celsius, we will look at rescheduling another trip. This will be communicated through our Class Dojo app.

Hoodie orders were due last Friday as well as payment! If you have not paid for your hoodie yet, please do so by Wednesday at noon. After that, the order will be placed for all who have paid.

Please send your child to school on these days with all ski/snowboard gear. We will meet your child at the storage room across from the gym and beside the kitchen (same place as last year). We will have this storage room locked for the day. Your child will be dismissed at 2:35 from class to get his/her belongings and get on the bus. Students are welcome to bring their own dinner or money to purchase food and drinks. Please plan to be at the school to pick up your child at 8:00pm.

Once again, here is our schedule for this year:

~~January 23,~~ January 30, February 13, February 27, March 5, March 12.

Just a reminder that the Terrain Park is not available for any students to use while we are at Rabbit Hill. Please have a conversation regarding this policy prior to Tuesday! Thank you, Mrs. Vasileff & Mrs. Blanchet

CTF Fee Update - We apologize for the delay in adding the Term 2 CTF fees to PowerSchool. The fees were added to PowerSchool this past week. Thank you for your patience! Should you have any issues after they have been released, please contact Valerie Bradford in the office for assistance. valerie.bradford@psd.ca

Spruce Grove Composite High School Grade Nine Open House - SGCHS will be hosting its Grade Nine Open House at the Comp on Thursday Feb. 15th. Presentations will begin at 6:00 pm in the main gym with displays throughout the school to follow. There will be an information evening for parents and guardians in the late Spring. For more information, please check the attachment at the end of this memo.

University of Waterloo's "Beaver Computing Challenge" - Prescott Learning Centre would like to recognize and acknowledge the 20 grade 7 students who participated in the University of Waterloo's "Beaver Computing Challenge" in November! 12,897 grade 7 and 8 contestants from all over Canada participated in the contest. Our Prescott Learning Centre students worked on their own time to prepare for this challenge to have their math skills tested! Congratulations to the following: Hayley W., Eve P., Zelaney V., Lucas B., Shepherd I., Abby B., Emma T., Reginald C., Natalie H., Avery N., Jazlyn W., Alex L., Warner H., Edwin A., Marianna M., Grayson P., Emily L., Cole L., Logan N., and Carter C. for all of their hard work! You make Prescott very proud!

Edmonton Oilers Spirit Night - This year PLC has joined with the Edmonton Oilers to celebrate *School Spirit night* at Rogers place. Let's show our school spirit and our love for the Oilers by cheering them on this season! Win a chance to sit in the penalty box during warm-ups, have a Mascot visit to our school and other prizes!

The top selling school will win prizes selected by the Oilers Group!!

Check your child's backpack for the flyer that was sent home last week or scan the QR code attached to the flyer attached at the end of this memo to order your tickets. If the flyer did not make it home please reach out to Ms. Bradford (valerie.bradford@psd.ca) at the office. Ticket prices start at \$63 and there are 8 games to choose from. As a result of the demand from PLC,

the Oilers have let us know that they have added a few more games and have made more seats available.

Final Thoughts - With a three-day school week as a result of Teacher's Convention on Feb. 8th and 9th I am going to take a break from the memo next week. You can expect the next memo in your inbox on Sunday, Feb. 11th. However, if there is something important or timely that comes up, I'll be sure to reach out and share.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to my assistant principals or me at the school by calling 780-571-8079 or emailing us at:

heather.huisman@psd.ca

esther.vanbeek@psd.ca

chris.shaw@psd.ca.

Chris