



Prescott Weekend Update



August 25th, 2024

Prescott Learning Centre

340 Pioneer Road
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 0T1
Phone: 780-571-8079
Email: prescott@psd.ca

Principal:

Mr. Chris Shaw
chris.shaw@psd.ca
@seedshaw

Assistant Principal:

Ms. Heather Huisman
heather.huisman@psd.ca

Assistant Principal:

Mrs. Esther van Beek
esther.vanbeek@psd.ca

Inclusive Education Lead:

Mrs. Nicole Blanchet
nicole.blanchet@psd.ca

Head Secretary:

Valerie Bradford

Secretaries:

Shelby Warkenten
Rae Woods

Website:

<https://prescott.psd.ca/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottPSD>

Good afternoon PLC Families:

PLC Update - Aug 25th

Hello PLC Families! Happy New (School) Year Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing summer. For those new to the Prescott Community, this is your weekly weekend memo that I share with families either on Sunday afternoons or the Monday of a long weekend (please ensure that prescott@psd.ca is included as one of your safe sender email addresses so that these and other communications do not get filtered to your junk mail). With an unusually short school start up this year, there is a lot of information to share this week. Here's what you need to know before your child(ren) starts school this Wednesday:

Class Lists/Timetables - Before the end of the day tomorrow (Monday) or sooner, teachers will be sharing an introductory email introducing themselves and will include directions about where teachers will be meeting students on the first day as well as some of the expectations for students. Classroom assignments will be posted to PowerSchool by the end of the day tomorrow as well.

We have spent the last couple of weeks prior to start up accommodating all but a few of the requests we asked of you last Spring. As with previous years, we have attempted to place students in classes with at least one friend. However, the greater priority has been to place students with the supports they need to be successful. As you can well imagine this does not leave much room for changes. Please take a moment to review your child(ren)'s homeroom assignment(s) prior to Wednesday. If you need assistance accessing your Parent Portal, please give us a call in the office any weekday before 3:00 and we would be happy to help you.

First Day Drop Off - Included in the welcome email you should have received from teachers, will be details about where to meet on the first day. All staff will meet students outside of the building on the first day and will then go to classes from there. Please note that home rooms are identified according to

the teacher's last name - i.e. Mr. Brook's grade 6 class will be 6B. Here is the list of entrance locations by grade/class for the first day of school:

Kindergarten	Front North West Entrance (by the outdoor classroom/Cantiro Centre)
Grade 1	North Entrance
Grade 2	Playground Entrance (back field)
Grade 3	South Entrance
Grade 4	South Portable (by the staff parking lot)
Grade 5	Staff Parking Lot Entrance
Grade 6	North Portable (Back Field) North Doors
Grade 7	Front South West Entrance (Just south of the flag poles)
Grade 8 & 9	Front Main Entrance

We will begin escorting students to class between 8:20 and 8:25 am.

Parents/Guardians Entering the School on the First Day of Classes - We always look forward to welcoming parents and guardians into the school. That said, Wednesday will be an incredibly busy day. For the safety and security of students and staff, **we will be limiting classroom access to parents/guardians of kindergarten and grade one students.** The good news is that the office will be open and available to answer any questions and concerns you may have. If you have any concerns regarding this please feel free to call me at the school or connect via email at chris.shaw@psd.ca.

Bikes, Scooters, Skate Boards - For the safety of everyone, particularly our littlest 'Pumas', a reminder that students are expected to walk their bikes, scooters, and other wheeled transportation when on school grounds. Skateboards are to be carried when students arrive on school grounds.

Bell Schedule Change - To accommodate changes requested by PSD Transportation, we have adjusted our bell schedule by starting five minutes later than last year. Rather than 8:15 am, the first bell allowing students to enter the building will be 8:20 am. Classes will start at 8:25 am, the school day will now end at 3:05 rather than last year's 3:00.

Bus Status App - Families with students riding the bus can track route status through the web site at <https://www.psd.ca/transportation/bus-status> or via the "**Bus Status 4**" app available for both Apple and Android. For any other bussing questions or concerns please reach out to PSD Transportation at 780-963-8452 or at transportation@psd.ca.

Parking, Drop-off and Pick-up - With our large school population in such a confined space, traffic flow and parking will invariably be a challenge during drop off and pick up. Please be aware that the Cantiro Daycare parking lot north of the school and the Staff Parking lot behind the school are not safe locations for drop off and pick up. Bylaw officers will likely be patrolling to ensure that parking rules are being followed. As always, please slow down.

If at all possible, please do your best to avoid turning left (east) on to Prospect Road from Pioneer Road. You will be saving yourself much time and stress by heading south to the traffic circle and going all the way around to loop back (just remember to use your signal). I assure you, it is both safer for students and quicker for you.

Microwaves - Microwaves will not be available for student use during this school year. Please ensure that you are sending items for lunch with your child(ren) that do not require heating.

Important Events This Week				
Monday 26 th	Tuesday 27 th	Wednesday 28 th	Thursday 29 th	Friday 30 th
Professional Development Day (No Students, Staff Only)	Professional Development Day (No Students, Staff Only)	First Day for Grade 1 -9 Students Kindergarten Staggered Entry	Kindergarten Staggered Entry	Wednesday Schedule Kindergarten Staggered Entry
Important Events Next Week				
Monday 2 nd	Tuesday 3 rd	Wednesday 4 th	Thursday 5 th	Friday 6 th
Labour Day (No School)	Kindergarten Staggered Entry			Monday Schedule

Athletics Dates This Week*

Monday	N/A
Tuesday	N/A
Wednesday	N/A
Thursday	Sr. Girls Volleyball Tryouts
Friday	N/A

*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

2024 - 2025 PLC Staffing - I am happy to report that all but one of the educational assistants who were at Prescott last year will be returning this year. After the catchment area changes in previous years, this is welcome news indeed. That said, we have had a few changes in teaching positions. We have bid farewell to Mrs. Peet who has accepted a position at Woodhaven, Ms. Liddell who has accepted a position in the city, and to Ms. Lee, an EA, who has assumed a new position at another school. After 30+ years in education we bid a fond farewell to Mr. Podhaniuk. I would like to express my gratitude for having had the opportunity to work with such exceptional educators and great people; they will be missed. As well, Mrs. Schumacher and Mrs. Johnson both have taken the upcoming school year to be with their growing families. We all look forward to them visiting the office with their latest arrivals.

I am happy to announce that after a busy summer we will be joined by some new and familiar faces. Coming into grade one and three respectively, I'll ask that you join me in welcoming a pair of fantastic educators from Meridian Heights, Mrs. Rachuk and Ms. Strachan. After a great student teaching run last year, Mr. Pontikes is back covering grade five classes. Finally, after previous stints in kindergarten and grade one, Mrs. Wolter is back in kindergarten. Last but not

least, Mrs. Long is back joining the grade six team after last year's stint in grade nine. If you see any of them out and about please take a moment to say hello.

Jr. High Timetable Changes - Over the past couple of years, through the hard work of PLC staff, our students have demonstrated remarkable growth on our numeracy and literacy benchmarking results, as well as overall improvements on provincial achievement exam results (you can find the details on our [school results report](#) from last year). In discussions with Jr. High staff, in order to continue to build capacity, support meaningful collaboration, and improve student achievement, the next logical step is a schedule for teachers that will reflect a more subject specific, rather than grade level, approach to instruction.

To prepare students for high school, teachers will now focus on subject specific, multigrade level instruction. What this will look like is that rather than a teacher teaching Math and Science or Language Arts and Social Studies in a specific grade, teachers will now teach the same subject over multiple grades. In some cases, this may result in a Jr. High student having three core teachers. Grouping teachers in this manner will allow for more opportunities for subject specific professional development and, depending on the subject area, greater opportunities to work with the school's numeracy, literacy, and inclusive education leads. That said, the main point of contact for communication across all grades remains your child(ren)s classroom teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school.

New Province Wide Cell Phone/Mobile Technology Order - Just at the end of the last school year, the Minister of Education, Dr. Demetrios Nicolaidis issued the Ministerial Order on [Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#). Briefly, the order prohibits the use of mobile devices including cell phones, personal computers, tablets, and even smartwatches (and other similar devices) while at school and prohibits access of social media platforms using school networks and devices. The order allows for the use of these devices for medical reasons or to support special learning needs at the discretion of the principal. It also allows for the use of personal devices and limited access to social media, also at the discretion of the school authority and principal.

The Minister has stated that schools and school authorities are to have policies and procedures related to the order in place by Jan. 1st, 2025. Fortunately, with your input, last year we instituted procedures related to cell phones that made mobile devices off limits for all students from kindergarten to Grade Six, and allowed for limited access to such devices outside of class time for Grade Seven to Nine students. In anticipation of the expected policy changes and in consultation with my administrative colleagues at Spruce Grove's other two K-9 schools, we have agreed to the following changes in relation to mobile devices starting Aug. 28th:

- Students from Kindergarten through Grade Six are to refrain from accessing cell phones and smart watches/smart devices while at school. These devices are to be on silent mode or powered off and stored out of view;
- Students in Grades Seven through Nine are to keep cell phones and smart watches/smart devices on silent mode or powered off and stored out of view while at school. However, Grade Seven through Nine students will be provided brief access to these devices during morning recess and at lunch hour. However, during the remainder of recess and at school during lunch hour, cell phones and smart watches/devices are to be on silent mode or powered off and stored out of view;
- For now, personal computers and tablets will be permitted at the discretion of the teacher or school administration during instructional time provided students use these

devices for educational purposes and refrain from accessing social media sites and gaming applications, and refrain from communicating via said devices;

- All students are to refrain from accessing social media using school networks and devices.

The consequences for students who struggle to abide by the expectations outlined above remain the same as last year and are included in the updated school handbook which I will post shortly on the PLC website. Staff will be having conversations with students regarding these changes starting Wednesday.

Because of the timing of the ministerial order and the policy/procedure deadline this January, in all likelihood these expectations will change. However, considering the detrimental effects of online bullying and the educational and socio-emotional impact of social media on students, it is prudent that steps be taken to address a growing threat to the well-being of students.

Unfortunately, I have often had to confront a student who is torn between following the school's cellphone procedures and honouring their parents/guardian calls or messages. It is a tough situation for any kid. Because of this, I'll ask that you avoid calling or texting your child(ren) during class time. Our secretaries will be happy to pass on any messages you may have. I need to thank you in advance as we work towards a solution that is in the best interests of your child(ren).

Extracurricular Activities - Keep an eye open for Music Notes from Ms. Surrendi in our PLC Weekend Memo; information about choir will be coming next week.

Over the past two seasons PLC has fielded no less than seven volleyball teams each season. We anticipate that this will continue for 2024 -2025. We will be starting with Sr. Volleyball tryouts over the next couple of weeks for students in grades 7-9:

Sr. Girls tryouts	Thursday, Aug. 29th 3:10 pm-4:30 pm
Sr. Boys Tryouts	Tuesday, Sept. 3rd 3:10 pm-4:30 pm
Jr. Girls Tryouts	Wednesday, Sept 4th @ 3:10 - 4:30
Jr. Boys Tryouts	Thursday, Sept 5th @ 3:10 - 4:30

Students in younger grades will be invited to try out for junior and developmental volleyball after senior tryouts have concluded. Cross Country running for students in K-9 will be beginning shortly. Watch for more information on these and other opportunities in the upcoming weeks. Last year, our volleyball programs were so popular that we added three extra teams to our usual four boys and girls senior and junior teams. However, in order to do this again this year, we are asking for community volunteers to work with teacher supervisors to support our junior and developmental teams. If you are interested in helping out please reach out to Mr. McNaughton at carson.mcnaughton@psd.ca.

Extracurricular Athletic Fees/Jerseys - Unfortunately, we still have quite a few outstanding athletic fees and jerseys that haven't been paid or returned from last season. Athletic programs are expensive endeavors that fall outside of school funding. Further, jerseys are extremely costly to replace. ***I need to let you know that before student participation in extracurricular can occur, activity fees must be paid and jerseys must be returned.*** Any jerseys that haven't been returned will be added to the final fee statements. We'll ask that you take a moment to check in closets and under beds in order to avoid a painful surprise on your final fee statement.

If there are any financial circumstances that make it difficult for you to pay these, or any other fees, I'll ask that you reach out to [Ms. Bradford](#) or [me](#) directly so we can facilitate payment options. Any and all inquiries will be held in the utmost confidence. Our goal is to ensure that no child be prevented from participating in extracurricular activities due to financial hardship.

Prescott Travel Club Hello Prescott Families! As many of you may already know, Prescott is starting a Travel Club! We are planning to take a group of grades 7, 8 and 9 students to Quebec over spring break of the 2025-2026 school year! That means that if your student is entering grade 6, 7 or 8 this year (2024-25), they are eligible to travel with us! If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please send an email to Mrs. Saysana at sarah.saysana@psd.ca.



School Council/PLCFF Meetings - We will be holding our first School Council of the year on Wednesday Sept. 11th at 6:30 here at the school. School Council meetings are your opportunity for direct input in the daily operations of the school as well setting the school's direction for the future. I invite you to come out and meet the PLC administrative team. An invitation and reminder will be sent out on Sept. 9th.

Food Program Volunteers - Our volunteer lead Grab N' Go and Forgotten Lunch food programs have been one of the highlights during my time here at PLC. These programs, along with our Nutrition Nook fridges on the first and second floor have, and with your support will continue, to provide a healthy snack or meal for our students.

Typically, a volunteer will sign up for one morning or lunch break shift a week. Often, two or more volunteers work the shift together. Each shift lasts roughly an hour, and consists of preparing and distributing food to students. If you cannot commit during the school day we are also looking for volunteers as purchasers to pick up and deliver food items to the school.

Schedules are flexible, there are no meetings (okay, we did have one optional meeting mid year last year to look for efficiencies, my bad), and our WhatsApp phone app makes finding coverage if you can't make a shift quick and easy. If you are able to help out, or have any questions, please reach out to our head secretary Val in the office at 780-571-8079 or via email at valerie.bradford@psd.ca. Thanks in advance for helping out, and here's to a great year.

Final Thoughts - Once again, I look forward to seeing you all again in the parking lot during student pick up and drop off this year.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either me or my assistant principals at:

heather.huisman@psd.ca

esther.vanbeek@psd.ca

chris.shaw@psd.ca.

See you on Wednesday!

Take care, Chris



TRIREGION FOOD RESOURCES

Updated: November 2022

FOOD HAMPERS

Parkland Food Bank

105 Madison Crescent, Spruce Grove
Monthly Food Hampers, by appointment,

- Tuesdays 8:30AM-4:30PM
- Wednesday 8:30AM-2:00PM + 6:20-8PM
- Friday 8:30AM-4:30PM
- Saturday 8:30AM-12:30PM

780-962-4565 ext. 1

WEE Community Food Bank

5019 50 Ave Entwistle AB (Old Fire Hall)
Monthly Hampers, by appointment on Wednesdays, Call before Tuesday for appointment.

780-727-4043

Wecan Food Basket

5600-50 St, Stony Plain
Fresh Nutritious Affordable Food Basket
Order by first Friday, pickup on third Thursday of month
Monday - Friday, 9AM-4PM
587-338-1101

Warming Hearts Pantry

4911-50 St., Tomahawk (liquor store)
Food pantry of non-perishable items. No appointment necessary.

BASIC NEEDS HELP

Community Helps Team

180 Century Road, Spruce Grove
780-962-5611 / 789-306-1955
helps@sprucegrove.church

NeighbourLink Parkland

Serving Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, Parkland County
780-960-9669
www.neighbourlinkparkland.ca
neighbourlink.parkland@telus.net



FOOD RESCUES

Auggie's Cafe

131 Church Rd, Spruce Grove
Tuesdays 11-1PM

apfa Food Rescue

Family Connection Centre
5600 50 Street, Stony Plain
Thursdays 10AM - 3PM
Fridays 1-4 (Check facebook for updates)

Food for the Soul

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church
49 Boulder Blvd., Stony Plain
First and third Saturday 10AM-1PM

Grace's Table

250 Century Road, Spruce Grove
Second Friday of month 5PM-6:30PM

Community Table

180 Century Road, Spruce Grove
Last Friday of the month
<https://www.sgconline.breezechms.com/form/communitytable>
780-962-5611

COMMUNITY MEALS

Auggie's Cafe

131 Church Rd, Spruce Grove
Drop-in for take out bagged lunch
Tuesdays 11-1PM

Food for the Soul

49 Boulder Blvd., Stony Plain
Drop-in for bagged lunch
First and third Saturday 10AM-1PM

Grace's Table

250 Century Road, Spruce Grove
Hot meal to go for pick up
Second Friday of month 5PM-6:30PM
www.sgac.net/eventregistration
780-962-4700

Community Table

180 Century Road, Spruce Grove
Hot meal to go for pick up
Last Friday of the month
www.sgconline.breezechms.com/form/communitytable
780-962-5611



COMMUNITY LOW COST COUNSELLING SERVICES

Updated November 2023

All listed services do not exceed \$75.00 per hour and are available to anyone in the Tri-Municipal Region.

Dochas Psychological Services Hub for Hope

202, 636 King Street, Spruce Grove

- Hub for Hope provides individuals with 8 (50 minute) counselling sessions at no cost, provided by an intern psychologist.
- Counselling options can be provided either in person or virtual.

Phone Number: 780-446-0300

Family Life Psychology

201, 323 McLeod Ave, Spruce Grove

- Family Life Psychology offers counselling services with Mental Health Therapists at a reduced rate of \$75 per hour.

Phone Number: 780-963-7451

Alycol Integrated Health Services Restore Program

Suite 201, 95 McLeod Avenue, Spruce Grove

- Alycol's Restore Program offers no/low-cost therapy sessions on a case-by-case basis with a maximum rate of \$50.00 per hour with a practicum intern.
- Counselling options can be provided either in person or virtual.

Phone Number: 780-409-8798

Family Resource Network

Family Connections Centre
5600 50 Street, Stony Plain

- The Family Resource Network offers free single session virtual counselling to children and youth under 18 and their caregivers.

Phone Number: 1.877.244.2360

Schaffer Psychology

Suite 103, 7 Boulder Blvd, Stony Plain

- Schaffer Psychology offers no/low-cost therapy sessions on a case-by-case basis with a maximum rate of \$50.00 per hour with a practicum intern.

Phone Number: 780-910-3420

If you are a service provider in the Tri-Municipal Region, and would like to be included on this list please contact connect@stonyplain.com . Please note, being included on this list does not constitute an endorsement by the Town of Stony Plain Community and Social Development.

Tri-Municipal Region Support Guide

I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE NOW (24H)

Distress Line	780-482-4357(HELP)
Addiction Helpline	1-866-332-2322
Child Mental Health (8am-11:45pm)	780-407-1000
Kids Help Phone	1-800-668-6868
Bullying Helpline	1-888-456-2323
BriteLine (for 2SLGBTQIA+)	1-844-702-7483
Seniors Abuse Helpline.....	780-454-8888
Family Violence Info Line.....	310-1818
Sexual Assault Centre (9am-9pm).....	780-423-4121
First Nations & Inuit Mental Health Hope for Wellness	1-855-242-3310
National Indian Residential School Crisis Line	1-866-925-4419
MMIWG Helpline.....	1-844-413-6649

I NEED IMMEDIATE HELP **Call 911**

Emergency Financial Assistance ..	780-644-5135
Access 24/7 (Adults)	
Addictions & Mental Health	780-424-2424
Child Intervention Services	780-422-2001
Children's Cottage Childcare	780-944-2888

I NEED HEALTH INFORMATION

Health Link Alberta (24/7)	811
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I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START?



24-hour information and referral line connecting you to social, health and government services.



www.HelpSeeker.org
Get the app on your phone to find local supports and resources.

HELP FOR HARD TIMES TRI-REGION SUPPORT GUIDE

Spruce Grove FCSS
#105 - 505 Queen Street
Spruce Grove, AB
780-962-7618

Town of Stony Plain
Community and Social Development
#107, 4613 - 52 Avenue
780-963-8583



WHERE CAN I FIND A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT?

George Spady (men, women)	780-424-8335
Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre	780-423-5302
Hope Mission (ages 16+, men, women)....	780-422-2018
Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS).....	780-468-7186
Salvation Army (Transitional Housing, \$13/day)	780-429-4274

I NEED A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters 24/7	1-866-331-3933
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I NEED DETOX SUPPORT

George Spady.....	780-424-8335
AHS Detox Centre	780-427-4291
Youth Edmonton Detox.....	780-408-8783

I NEED A SAFE CONSUMPTION SITE

George Spady Centre	780-424-8335
Boyle McCauley Health Centre....	780-422-7333

I NEED HELP WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR ADDICTIONS

Access 24/7 Adult Addictions/Mental Health	780-424-2424
Youth Addiction Services	780-408-8783
Access Open Minds (youth 16-25).....	780-415-0048
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.....	825-402-6799
WestView PCN Youth Mental Health Clinic (ages 11-24)	780-960-9533

I NEED HELP WITH BASIC NEEDS

NeighbourLink Parkland	780-960-9669
Community Helps Team	780-962-5611
Pay Forward Kindness (homeless supports).....	587-286-4663
Parkland Pregnancy Support Centre (Tue & Thurs 12-3pm).....	780-962-5505

WHERE CAN I FIND FOOD?

Parkland Food Bank	780-962-4565
WeCan Food Basket.....	587-338-1101

WHERE CAN I FIND A COMMUNITY MEAL?

Auggies Café (Take out, Tues 11AM-1PM) 131 Church Rd, Spruce Grove.....	780-962-5131
Food for the Soul (1 st , 3 rd Sat 10AM-1PM) 49 Boulder Blvd., Stony Plain	780-963-3110
Grace's Table (2 nd Fri 5-6:30PM) 250 Century Road, Spruce Grove	780-962-4700
Community Table (last Fri 5-7PM) 180 Century Road, Spruce Grove	780-962-5611
apfa Food Rescue Community Fridge (M-F 8:30-4PM) 5600-50 Street, Stony Plain	780-963-0549