MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September | 2023

Toujours amis where friendships begin

Message from the Office

With a huge smile and excited, open hearts, OP would like to welcome all our families back for another wonderful year. Special welcome to all our new students and families! We are so happy that our OP community continues to grow and diversify.

We look forward to another busy year of learning, achieving goals, making new friends, and developing critical and logical thinking skills. Embedded within that is our focus on Literacy & Numeracy foundational skills to prepare students for middle and high school and life-long learning beyond. Regular student attendance is critical to achieving literacy rates that will sustain them through their formative years of school. When students attend every day - they build the skills and connections that reinforce the importance of an education for their future success. Working together with parents/guardians, our staff can help your child/ children achieve academic success.

With a new year and new staff members, some of our regular routines return (Dawe Run, Terry Fox Run, Reading Challenge, Math-A-Thon, Special Dress up Days, Christmas Concert & Activities, etc.) but also new ideas and activities for the students. Our OP School Council welcomes all parents to the monthly meetings (more info in the newsletter) and allows you to have a say in your child's school & education.

As you will hear over and over, Literacy is a HUGE focus for us both as a school and as a District. Start regular nightly routines with your child that includes reading. If they cannot read yet, read to them and TALK about the book and story – ask them questions about the story – this builds comprehension. If they are able to read, have them read to you and again – talk about the book and storylines/plot to build their comprehension skills. Students who can read at or above grade level are far more successful in school as they don't struggle with the content and they don't become frustrated learners. If you have any questions about how to help your child learn to read better, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Our school staff, office staff, and Admin team are ALWAYS here for our students and families - call for help on any issues or concerns!

Important Dates

- Sept 5 | All Students Attend
- Sept 13 RDPSD Board Meeting
- Sept 15 Staff Learning Day -No School for Students
- Sept 19 Dawe Run (Alt Sep 26)
- Sept 22 Terry Fox Run @ OP
- Sept 29 National Day for Truth
 & Reconciliation Holiday No
 School for Students
- October 20 Picture Day









NEWS



OP Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming our new staff to École Oriole Park:

Grade 1: Mrs. Ingrid Sinclair (job sharing with Mrs. Salomons) Grade 2: Mrs. Lauren Wark (replacing Mrs. Fowler on Mat Leave)

Grade 3: Mme Cassandra Klaudt (replacing Mme Kayla on Mat Leave) Grade 4: Ms. Jaycee Bourke (replacing Mrs. Stemmler on Mat Leave)
Grade 5: Mme Janene Baile (replacing Mme Beebe who retired in June)
EA: Mme Danielle Lodge (French Immersion EA) - for Sept only

We are so grateful to have these wonderful people join the team at OP!



Swim at School - Lessons

OP is once again partnering with the City of Red Deer to offer "Swim at School" sessions. These sessions are NOT formal "swim lessons" but they could advance your child in the new Swim for Life levels that the City follows in their aquatics program. We will continue to offer this for students in Grades 2 - 5 (since many of the grade 4 & 5 students did not have th opportunity to go during COVID). The fee is \$40 (\$35 to the City of Red Deer for the lessons and \$5 to Prairie for the bussing from OP to the Rec Centre Pool). Swim lessons will be on Tuesday morning for Grades 2 & 3 and Wednesday mornings for Grades 4 & 5. Homeroom teachers will supervise, along with City of Red Deer Rec Centre Pool staff. Field trip forms & payment details to be on your School Engage profile soon! Look for an email on this soon (we're still organizing it) and/or info from your child's homeroom teacher

Please consider attending School Council Meetings!

OP School Council is an active and supportive organization that our school and students are fortunate to have! Working together, our school council supports and enhances student learning and provides a bridge between school & our parent community. The focus of a School Council is to consider the best interest of all students in the school and to work with school staff to develop, maintain & reflect the positive culture of the school. It is naturally made up of our own parents (formerly called Parent Council). We would love to see more parents out to help the wonderful work our school council does for our school, our students and our families!

Meetings are "typically" the 3rd Monday of the month at the school for about 1 hour.

Community Liaison Worker - CLW

Schools within RDPSD are all staffed with a Community Liaison Worker (CLW) This is our school counsellor who helps students & families connect to supports for school and life success. Our CLW at OP is Mrs. Carla Feldberg. If you feel your child or your family would benefit from connecting with Ms. Carla, please call the school and we will put you in contact with her.



RSVP - Power School Important Information for Parents

Schools are **REQUIRED** to have updated information on a YEARLY basis for every student in our building.

Please log into your child's PowerSchool account through your <u>PARENT PORTAL</u> and update (RSVP - Red Deer Student Verification Process) their information ASAP.

This is vital so we have correct information not only for Alberta Education, but also in the event of an emergency. DEADLINE: September 15. If you are unsure how to do this, instructions are found on our **District website under Registration - RSVP**

Run Club - Dawe Run - Terry Fox Run

To prepare students for the Dawe Run, Mrs. Terrenzio will be running a Run Club on Tuesday & Thursdays in September for Grades 4 & 5 at lunch recess. Students will be informed over OP News (OPN) and through their Phys Ed Class. The Run Club is optional, however, all students in Grades 4 & 5 participate in the Dawe Run. The Terry Fox Run is a little "smaller" and will include all grades. **DATES:**

Dawe Run: Tuesday September 19 (details to follow to parents of Grade 4&5 students) (Alternate Dawe Run Date: Sept 26)

Terry Fox Run: Friday September 22 - during the school day @ OP (weather permitting)

AHS Info - Respiratory Illnesses

AHS requires all schools in the province to report illnesses when:

- absenteeism due to illness is 10% or greater
- there is an unusual number of individuals with similar symptoms

After a school reports, the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team will determine if the school has an outbreak and provide recommendations to stop the spread of illness.

Section 26 of the Alberta Public Health Act and the Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Schools provide additional details for your information.







RDPSD Fair Notice & Practice

In accordance with RDPSD Admin Procedure 165, the Fair Notice brochure is linked here for your information and perusal. This outlines the process and procedures used to assess threats within a school at all levels. Please contact OP Admin Office if you have any questions.



Student Road Safety

Student safety is always our first priority. Please help us keep your children safe by:
Using marked crosswalks to cross roads and not "jaywalking" - modelling safety first!
Parking in designated parking areas only and never overcrowding the parking area around the bus zones (on Oleander Drive and on Oldbury Street)

• NEVER walk your children between the buses to cross the road - if the bus rolls forward or back,

someone could be SERIOUSLY injured

· Please abide by the AMA Student Crosswalk leaders when they start up. They are volunteer students who are helping keep our children safe and we need to ensure we are all working together to ensure their safety too.

Please do not park near the crosswalks and allow for good sightlines for our AMA Patrollers & supervisors. Thre is LOTS of parking on Olsen Street at the beginning and end of the day where

here is far less congestion!

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe everyday!

Student Success at School

Research shows that the TWO greatest factors for student success in school are:

- regular & consistent attendance
- reading skills/literacy skills

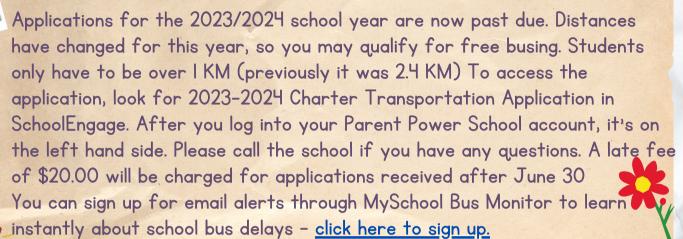
Students who attend regularly build good school habits, miss less instruction, understand more of the curriculum, and build a solid foundation on which to build social relationships and academic knowledge. This translates into good school habits through middle and high school and into any postsecondary studies. Students who are allowed to miss school (notwithstanding illnesses) are much more likely to not graduate high school and have a harder time in the workforce securing regular employment - good school habits and the skills they learn correlate directly to the workforce. Please encourage your child to attend regularly and support the importance of education and literacy as often as you can! Elementary students seldom have "homework", however, all students should read at home every night. As part of the regular bed time routine, encourage your child to read to you at least 15 - 30 minutes nightly. This will increase their literacy skills and lead to sucess in school! It also reinforces the importance that your family places on learning, literacy, and school.











Parent Volunteers

In order for parents to volunteer in the classroom or on a field trip, you must have an RCMP Criminal Record Check. There is a \$10 fee required by the City of Red Deer for this CRCheck. You can apply for the Crim Record Check ONLINE through the City of Red Deer using this link. You will require a letter from OP School to upload in your application for the Crim Record Check. Sandy or Jacki will email you a digital copy of this letter for you to upload in your application upon your request. Please return your Criminal Record Check to the principal when everything is done. Thank you so much for helping out and volunteering with our students!

Healthy Hunger

A nice treat each month is our <u>Healthy Hunger</u> program - lunches made & delivered to the school by local restaurants. Parents order and pay online & students enjoy a fun hot lunch. Log in to create an account and order for the entire year! At the time of newsletter delivery not ALL the dates have been set, but School Council is working on it! We're hoping by Friday September 8th - all dates will be set for the year. So far, here are the upcoming dates & lunches:

Sept 21: Fresh Slice Oct 18: Original Joes Nov 23: Edo Japan Dec 14: State & Main

We will update in the October newsletter when the rest of the year is set!

healthyhunger.ca

Breakfast / Lunch Program

OP is pleased to continue our Breakfast Program, which is available to ALL students. There are many reasons why a student may come to school without breakfast, so if that happens, please know that we will ensure your child has something to eat. We have wonderful volunteers who help prepare nutritious breakfast items for the students. The Mustard Seed supports our students in need of lunches daily - Please contact Jacki, Sandy or Carla Feldberg (our CLW) if your child would benefit from the lunch program.

Student Recognition

Congratulations to the following amazing OP Students for being recognized and celebrated for demonstrating one of the RDPSD Values for Learning & Life. (Student names & values are celebrated on OP News weekly, students receive a certificate from the Principal in class, and public recognition in the monthly newsletter (assuming no FOIP restrictions)) Congratulations to all our students who received an OP Student Recognition Certificate this past month. Way to go Orioles!!!

RESPECTFUL

MONTH Names to follow

Each month we will list the names of students nominated by their teacher for one of the District Values for Learning & Life

CURIOUS

MONTH Names to follow

If your child has a FOIP document signed, we will contact you for permission to post their FIRST NAME only for recognition

COLLABORATIVE

MONTH Names to follow

Since we have just started the school year, the October newsletter will display the names of students nominated in the month of September

RESPONSIBLE

MONTH Names to follow

RESILIENT
MONTH
Names to follow

HEALTHY

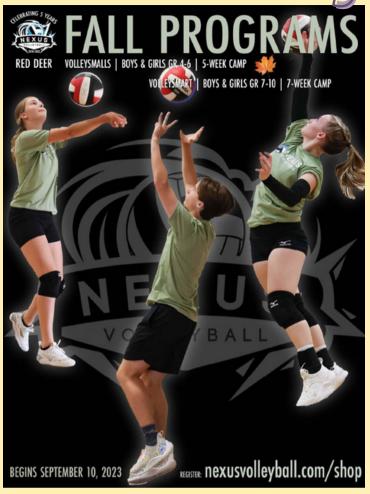
MONTH Names to follow







Community Connections





Red Deer Minor Football

Atom Athletes (Ages 8-10) - season runs September - October PeeWee Athletes (Ages 11-13) - season runs mid-August to November Teams are co-ed - all skill levels welcome!

www.reddeerminorfootball.ca



OP Family Dayhome

Red Deer Child Care Day Home spots available for full time or before/after school care.
Accredited and Licensed, Level 2 Early Learning and Child Care Worker with First Aid. 7 min walk from Oriole Park School.
Call, Text, or email Keri Adkins @ 780-719-9153 or kerbearhugs@gmail.com

Red Deer Native Friendship Society

September Newsletter Link

Back to School

Resources for

Families

(Common Sense Media)



CONTACT US

OP Contact Info



403 - 347 - 3731



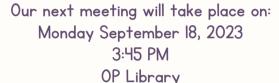
op@rdpsd.ab.ca



oriolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca



School Council Meetings: (formerly called Parent Council)





SCHOOL Attendance

403 - 347 - 3735 <u>opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca</u> or use Parent App ALL OP Parents are welcome to attend.

Please join our Oriole Park School Parents & School Council Facebook Group! <u>Link Here</u>



5 Oldbury Street Red Deer AB T4N 2A8

OP School Council

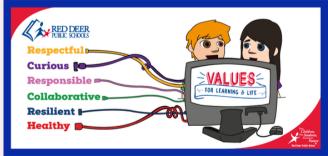
welcomes ALL parents to our meetings so you have a voice and can stay informed on what is happening at your child's school. We look forward to a wonderful working relationship with our families and OP Staff.





OP School Council email: op-schoolcouncil@rdps

School Council Fundraiser: HealthyHunger.ca



Quick Parent Links

OP Parent Info - Website

Healthy Hunger

Volunteering in RDPSD Schools

OP Communication

Our OP School Website is our primary source of communication between the school & home. Please ensure you check out the OP Website regularly. You can also follow us on Facebook (@OrioleParkElementaryRDP) &/or Instragram (Ecole_Oriole_Park_School)

Each Homeroom teacher hosts a class website as well. Please connect with your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns about communication.

We host Parent-Teacher Conferences on the following dates:
October 4 & 5 (informal) // December 6 & 7 (Report Card) // March 13 & 14 (Report Card)

Each month, the office emails out our monthly <u>newsletter</u>. If your email address changes, please ensure you update your <u>RSVP in PS</u> as that is the only way we can communicate en-masse with families. Sandy, Jacki & the OP Admin are always available to answer any questions or field any concerns. RDPSD abides by a 6 am - 6 pm policy - please do not expect communication from staff outside those hours or on weekends.