



WCS Newsletter

Darren Phelps Principal 780 685 3842 www.worsleyschool.net

September 2011

"We have had an excellent start to the new school year. Our students and staff have been living our mission: Working, Caring, and Succeeding. We have worked to optimize learning opportunities in our elementary grades by providing more individualized instruction for courses like English and Math. Students in high school have been provided with schedules to focus on their individual learning needs. I have met with our senior high students to ensure that they are on track to graduate, and have made these schedules after identifying the needs of individuals. We have students placed in classrooms with teachers who are specialized in their fields.

"Some of our teachers have changed since last year. We have Ms. Melissa Neufeld as our new Science teacher. She has had experience teaching almost all of the Science curricula for several years. Mr. Adrien Hooper is our Social Studies and Physical Education teacher. He has built a strong rapport with students in the first few weeks. We also have the always entertaining teacher, Mrs. Jackie Basnett, who has returned to teach our grade 4/5 English and Math along with our grade 8/9 English. Then there is myself, Mr. Darren Phelps, who is the new principal for the year. I would also like to welcome all of the new students in our school, including the recent graduates from Menno Simons who have chosen to pursue High School studies. In a recent discussion with one of them I asked how things were going in their new school. I was told "things are going really great." This didn't surprise me because Worsley Central School works to promote and maintain a caring school environment.



"The staff is looking for the good that our students do. We are rewarding positive behaviours with weekly prizes because those are the behaviours that we value, as they promote both caring and success. By working hard to satisfy our mission we have seen success in a variety of ways. Many of our previous graduates have gone into post-secondary education programs. Not all of our graduates have chosen this route, but all leave our school with the basic skills needed to be successful in careers that don't necessarily require post-secondary education.

"We want everyone to know that Worsley Central School provides quality instruction which leads towards High School completion and future success. I look forward to working with students, parents, and staff this year to ensure that when June comes, we can confidently say 'Mission Accomplished'.

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Regards, Darren Phelps Principal

Important dates

Grad Meeting Tuesday September 27th at 7:00 pm
Parent Council first meeting Wednesday October 5th at 7:00 pm
Meet the Staff Barbecue and Information Session Thursday September 29th at 6pm
Please note that if our buses don't run, meetings are cancelled.

Parent Council meeting dates:

Tuesday September 27th at 7:00 pm	Wednesday February 15th at 7pm
Wednesday October 5th at 7pm	Thursday March 15th at 7pm
Thursday November 10th at 7pm	Thursday April 19th at 7pm
Thursday December 8th at 7pm	Thursday May 10th at 7pm
Thursday January 12th at 7pm	Thursday June 14th at 7pm

First Report Card 1: Friday Nov. 4th

Parent Teacher Interviews: Tues. Nov. 8th 6-8 pm and Wed. Nov. 9th 5-7 pm

Coaches Needed

Our teams need community or parent volunteers to be coaches. Can you help? If you can volunteer your time, please call the school office.

We need coaches for:

- Jr. Girls Volleyball (Now)
- Sr. Boys Volleyball (Now)
- Sr. Girls Basketball (November)
- Minipaws Basketball (Spring)
- Jr/Sr Track and Field (Spring)

Quality Kids

We saw the following Wildcats doing good things in their school this month, and they all have won a quality kid prize: Shon, Bryce, Casey, Marcus F, Tristin J, and Morgan.

Reminders

Allergies: Several students and staff have allergies in our school. Our school is perfume, cologne, and scented-spray free. Please do not bring these to school. We also have a nut allergy in one of our elementary classes. Worsley School is not nut free yet, but we would ask that parents/guardians of Kindergarten students avoid putting food items containing nuts in any of their children's lunches.

Indoor Shoes: All students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear in order to keep our school clean.

Heart and Stroke Foundation: There is a spare-change jar in our office. Please help by contributing. All money collected will go to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Grade 3/4/5 Recorders: Grade 3/4/5 students need to purchase or borrow a recorder for their child for music class, by Wednesday September 21.

Students Driving to School: Students who wish to drive to school must submit a copy of their driver's licence and proof of insurance to the office. Students who are seen driving without either of these will be reported to the RCMP.

Spaghetti Supper and Meet the Staff Night

Join us for our annual 'Meet the staff supper' to be held on Thursday September 29th, beginning at 6 pm. We want to give parents an update on what is happening in our school and introduce parents to our staff. We also want to give everyone a hearty supper as a thank you for their time.

Communications

Worsley Central School wants to keep parents informed. We will soon start sending information home via e-mail. This includes things like reminders and newsletters. Give the office a phone call and let us know your email address, and we will add you to our mailing list. For those of you who don't use email, don't worry! We will continue providing paper copies of all correspondence.

Our staff will continue to use **Teacherease**, an online marks program, to provide parents with updates on their child's grades. Many parents have already signed up and should have access to Teacherease. If you don't have access or would like more information, feel free to contact the school. You can access this through our website at www.worsleyschool.net

Our staff will also continue to use **Homework Hotline**. You can access this through our website at www.worsleyschool.net, or go to www.prsd.ab.ca.

Parents and teachers need to work together to ensure that students are remaining focused on their academic studies. Teacherease and Homework Hotline are great ways to help you stay informed.



Smoking Policy

Students are not allowed to smoke on school property. There are no exceptions. High School students (grades 10-12) can obtain off-campus privileges at their parents/guardians discretion, which will entitle them to leave school property. Junior High students do not have off campus privileges and may not leave school property at any point during the day unless their parent/guardian has come into the school to sign them out, or sent a note allowing them to leave the school over the noon break. (These notes must be sent each time).

Rutherford Scholarships

This scholarship provides awards to students after they have completed high school and enrolled in a post-secondary program. The scholarship is based on marks in grades 10, 11 and 12, and will pay up to \$2500.

If you have a son or daughter who may qualify, you must fill out an application.

Information and a form is available at

<http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/scholarships/RutherfordScholarship.pdf>

Graduation Requirements

WCS Graduation requirements for taking part in ceremonies as per PRSD Policy 5.51:

1. Students must be enrolled in Worsley School and have a satisfactory level of achievement in courses necessary to meet the diploma requirements:

High School Diploma Requirements

A minimum of 100 credits

The following courses successfully completed:

- English 30-1 or 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
- Any grade 11 Math course
- Any grade 11 Science course
- Physical Education 10
- Career and Life Management (CALM 20)
- 10 credits in any combination from:
 - Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
 - Fine Arts
 - Second languages
 - Physical Education 20 and/or 30
 - Knowledge and Employability courses
 - Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- 10 credits in two other 30-level courses
(in addition to a 30-level English Language Arts and a 30-level Social Studies course)

2. Students must have a minimum of 75 credits by FEBRUARY 1st of the student's graduating year, and be registered by March 1st in any other courses necessary for a high school diploma.

3. Students shall have satisfactory attendance. No more than 10% of the classes in any subject necessary for graduation may be missed due to inexcusable absence, at the discretion of the Principal.

4. By MAY 1st, students must have a passing mark in all teacher-taught or Work Experience courses necessary for graduation.

5. By MAY 1st, in any Distance Education courses *required for a high school diploma*, students must have completed 75% of the work in the course; the work must have been returned to the student and must indicate a passing average.

6. By MAY 1st, all student fees must be paid in full.

The School Board delegates to the Principal the authority to make decisions for the eligibility of students in extraordinary circumstances.

Food Booth

The items available in our food booth at noon are shown at the right, along with current prices.



<u>Items</u>	<u>Price</u>
Juice Box	\$0.75
Water	\$1.00
Milk	\$1.25
Gatorade	\$3.00
Chocolate Bar	\$1.00
Chips	\$1.00
Noodle Cup	\$1.50
Pizza Pop	\$1.50
Kraft Dinner	\$2.00
Ravioli	\$2.00
Nachos/Cheese	\$2.00
Mini Pizza Sub	\$3.50
Mini Sub	\$3.50
Cheese Burger	\$4.00
Chicken Burger	\$4.50

Substitute Teachers

The Division requires substitute teachers for all subject areas and all grade levels. Substitute Teacher application packages are available in the Careers Section of the Peace River School Division's website (www.prsd.ab.ca) or by contacting Pauline Bull, Human Resources at (780) 624-3650 ext 10126 or bullp@prsd.ab.ca. After the applicant has submitted all required documents to Divisional Office, determination is made for placement on the substitute teacher listing. Applicants are notified of the outcome by phone.

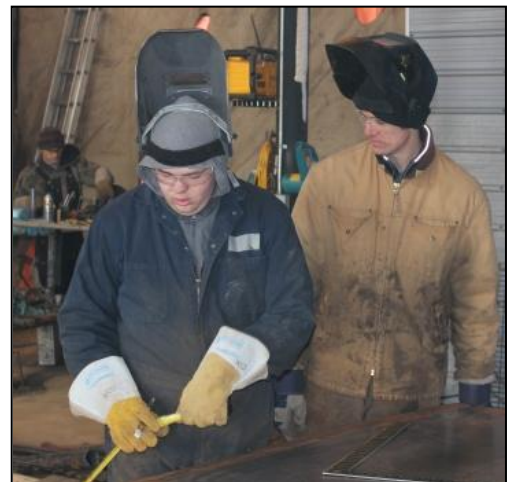
Please note: Placement on the substitute teacher listing cannot occur if the teacher is not certified to teach in Alberta. Non-certified community members can also apply to become non-certified substitute teachers; please contact the school for information.

A Thank You

*We would like to thank **Conoco Phillips** for the generous supply of beef that they purchased at the 4-H sale and donated to our hot lunch program! We appreciate all the continued support they give us.*

RAP Program Successes

Worsley would like to congratulate two students, Gabriel Wiseman and Carson Dimion, for their great success with the RAP program last year. We would also like to acknowledge Gabe, as he was not only successful in completing the RAP program, but also earned 30 credits and 774 apprentice hours towards his first year as an apprentice. Congratulations to both of our students, and good luck to them as they enter their first year of welding this winter at the GPRC Fairview Campus. We hope to have more students achieve success in this program in future!



New Mathematics Programs in High School

Critical Information for Students in Applied Mathematics 30 for the 2011-2012 School Year

Applied Mathematics 30 will no longer be offered as of the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Therefore, students who have not successfully completed Applied Mathematics 30 before the end of August 2012 can choose to:

- Rewrite the Applied Mathematics 30 Diploma Examination. The final administration will be August 2014.
- Register and begin coursework in Applied Mathematics 30 prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Some options for doing so may include using distributed learning materials in your district or through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC). Students have one year from enrolment to complete the course.

Note: The new course, Mathematics 30-2, available as of September 2012, is different from Applied Mathematics 30. Therefore, it is not recommended that students take Mathematics 30-2 instead of completing Applied Mathematics 30.



Critical Information for Students in Pure Mathematics 30 for the 2011-2012 School Year

Pure Mathematics 30 will no longer be offered as of the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Therefore, students who have not successfully completed Pure Mathematics 30 before the end of August 2012 can choose to:

- Rewrite the Pure Mathematics 30 Diploma Examination. The final administration will be August 2014.
- Register and begin coursework in Pure Mathematics 30 prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year. Some options for doing so may include using distributed learning materials in your district or through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC). Students have one year from enrolment to complete the course.
- Register for the new course, Mathematics 30-1, which is available as of September 2012 as this course is similar to Pure Mathematics 30. The first regular administration of the Mathematics 30-1 Diploma Examination will be January 2013.

Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers, counsellors or school administrators regarding their options for mathematics courses that will support their interests and goals and help them be successful in meeting the mathematics requirements of their future plans.

WCS Playground Rules:

1. Students are to stay in the designated play area. (not across pink fence of parking lot, gravel road to teacher houses, or past the science wing door, out of view of supervisor)
2. Students are not allowed to throw or play with any item the supervisor deems unsafe. (i.e. rocks, snowballs, sticks)
3. No fighting! Play wrestling or real fighting is not permitted!
4. Students are not allowed on top of the wooden playground equipment.
5. Proper clothing must be worn by all students. (footwear, mitts, toques, mud-pants, ski-pants, coats ... depending on the weather.)
6. Students need to talk to each other in a respectful manner.
7. Students will not be allowed to have any food, or drinks outside at recess.
8. Students can play with the balls and other equipment supplied, but must put them away at the end of recess.
9. Students must go outside for recess in a timely manner.
10. Students are not permitted to tunnel into or under the snow piles. They may play on top of the snow hills at the supervisor's discretion, as long as there is no pushing or shoving, and the hill is not too hard or slippery.

Alberta's Distracted Driving Law

You are reminded that our province's new distracted driving law is now in effect. Under the new law, drivers will be prohibited from talking, texting or emailing on a hand-held cell phone, using hand-held radio communication devices, using other electronic devices, reading, writing or personal grooming while behind the wheel. Drivers who break the law will be fined \$172. They can face additional charges if they commit other traffic violations, such as running a red light or making an improper lane change. Drivers can also be charged under the existing driving without due care and attention law, a more serious offence with a fine of \$402 and six demerit points.

Are there any exemptions to this law?

Yes, the law does provide some exceptions. The Act specifically exempts the following:

- Drivers of emergency vehicles, including police service vehicles, fire response units and ambulances, may use electronic devices while performing their duties.
- Drivers who need to contact emergency services, such as 911, may use a hand-held cellphone for that purpose.
- Drivers who must remain in contact with their employers, because it is necessary to perform their job duties and it is essential to the business's operation and continued economic viability, may use hand-held citizen's band or two-way radios.
- Drivers who are escorting oversized vehicles and need to remain in contact with the driver of the oversized vehicle and drivers of other escort vehicles may use a hand-held citizen's band or two-way radio.
- Drivers who are participating in search, rescue and emergency management situations may use hand-held citizen's band or two-way radios.

Back to School resources now available online

Students, parents and teachers can find a variety of resources in the Alberta Government's online Back to School Toolkit to help with preparing for the new school year: <http://www.education.alberta.ca/resources/backtoschool.aspx>

Grade 6/7 Edmonton Trip

The Grade 6/7 class will be starting fundraising soon for their Edmonton trip, that will take place in May/June of 2012. A parent meeting will be held to discuss different ideas in early October.

Breakfast Program

We will be selling chocolate, white and strawberry milk for \$1.25 again this year.

We will be continuing with the morning breakfast program for Elementary and Jr/Sr High, as studies have shown that eating breakfast improves the way the brain functions.

Since Worsley is a rural community and students' bus rides are so long, it's beneficial for students to use this program, to hold them over until lunch.

Donations of jams, peanut butter, Cheese Whiz, bread, muffins etc. are always welcome and much appreciated, and can be dropped off at the school at your convenience.



Clear Hills County

We would like to thank the Clear Hills County for doing Job Shadowing and Work Experience with some of our students. We will be offering this again this year, to one student per semester.

Skills or Trades People Needed

If you have a skill or trade that you would like to share with a student or students, please call the school. Our students would love to learn from you!

A Message From Dallas Bjornson

My name is Dallas Bjornson and I am the Youth Support Worker for Clear Hills County. My role at the school is intended to help students with, but not limited to: social skills building, relationships, bullying, test anxiety, staying in school, post-secondary information, scholarships, and healthy lifestyle choices.

I am currently in the midst organizing a career fair. The fair will be held in the Hines Creek Composite Gymnasium on October 6th from 10:00-11:50 am. All students and parents of students in grades 9-12 are welcome to attend.

Here is a list of attendees for this year's event.

1. NAIT
2. RCMP
3. Grant MacEwan University
4. GPRC
5. University Of Calgary
6. Lakeland College
7. Rocky Mountain College
8. MC College (Hair Stylist career and training)
9. Mount Royal University
10. SAIT Polytechnic
11. The Kings University College
12. Red Deer College
13. Olds College
14. Thompson Rivers University
15. Concordia University College
16. Lethbridge College
17. University of Alberta
18. University of Saskatchewan
19. University of Northern British Columbia

Alberta Health Services will also be in attendance. I am also trying to recruit some financial institutions in case students would like to discuss financial aid.

Recently I have started a peer mentoring program, which will run from the end of September until the middle of June. This is an opportunity for Sr. High students to give back to the school and community, which in turn allows them to earn credits. The program helps foster positive peer relationships and social interactions. While enrolled in the peer mentoring program younger students get a chance to interact with their mentor in a positive setting. This fosters self-esteem, respect for others, eases transition from Elementary to Jr. High, and offers students a creative outlet outside the classroom setting. I appreciate the opportunity to work with the students and hope everyone has a great year.

Thank you. Dallas Bjornson Youth Support Worker

Welding Program

Thank you to Bill Davidson (Gold Buckle Welding) for being such an amazing friend of the school. The welding program lets two Sr. High students learn the basics of welding and have the opportunity to enter the RAP program.

Library News

Welcome everyone back to school, especially our new students and staff! All newcomers should stop by the library so that I can get your information entered and you can begin to sign out books.

This year, the school library, in partnership with the public library, is going to bring awareness of the many cultures we are fortunate to have within our school and community. Promoting multiculturalism has been a project that I have long wanted to do, and this year the interest in learning about various cultures has increased. Would you as a parent, grandparent or member of the community like to come in to the library during the day and talk with the students? You could tell them about your home country if you were not born here, or the differences between educational systems in your home country and here. You could talk about your family history, and where your ancestors were from originally.



I am planning on having story times, crafts and perhaps even foods as a culminating activity for the students. Last year, our Student Library Committee members made posters depicting how Christmas is celebrated in other lands. These posters were very well received and it was wonderful to see not only students and staff, but members of the public stop and read them. Comments were very favourable and most people stated that they had learned something that they did not know about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries. If you would like to share your stories with us, please contact me at the school, at 780-685-3842. We would love to have you visit .

“What I love about my school” Twitter Contest

WCS wants to remain as connected to students, parents, staff and the community as possible. We are excited to launch a cool Twitter contest. Until Oct. 31, students, parents, staff and community members who tell us what they love about their school AND ‘follow’ WCS on twitter are automatically entered in a draw for a \$100 prepaid Visa card! This contest is restricted to Worsley, Cleardale, and surrounding communities. The winner will be notified through a private message on Twitter. Follow WCS on Twitter at www.twitter.com by logging into your Twitter account or registering for a new one, and follow the account: **worsleyschool**. Once you’re set up, tweet the school account and tell us in 140 characters or less what you love about your school. Be sure to include the community you live in. Twitter is a popular means of communication. We can tell you about our school events, notices and the great things happening at WCS. Twitter updates are live, ‘real time’ information and can be accessed through your computer and/or smart phone.



Cosmetology

We recently purchased some cosmetology equipment and would like to have this program up and running for students as soon as possible. If you have anything that might be useful to this program we would greatly appreciate it. We will also be looking for people to help with the program. If you feel that this is something that you could help with, please call the school. We would love to let you help share your expertise.

What's Happening in Our Classrooms

Welcome to Kindergarten!

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH!!

September 7th
First Day of Kindergarten

September 28th
Green Day ..wear something green
Early Dismissal Day @ 2 PM

THEME: Me, School, Fire Safety

Letters: P, U

Number Math: Sorting, Counting 1-10, 10-1

Subtheme: Body Parts, 5 Senses

Language Learning: Rhyming, Attributes,
Categorizing

SEPTEMBER 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	K 7	8	9	10
11	K 12	13	K 14	15	16	17
18	K 19	20	K 21	22	23	24
25	K 26	27	K 28	29	30	

Grade 1/2 with Mindy Rowe

We have had a great start to the school year. Students have adjusted to our classroom routines and are eager to learn. The grade ones have been learning their first spelling words, reviewing the alphabet, and reading level 'A' books. Grade twos have been reviewing the beginning, middle and end sounds of words. They are learning about the '_an' word family, and working on their spelling words. Both classes have started their 'Handwriting without Tears' printing books. We are working on starting at the top when making our capital letters. The students really enjoy working in their printing books.

In Math, both grades have been working on patterning. We have made patterns out of colours and different shapes and sizes, using a variety of classroom manipulatives. We also made bead pattern bracelets for moms, grandmas or sisters!

In Health we are working on learning about healthy lifestyles. We have talked about why exercise is important and how it is good for your body. Students chose partners and performed a puppet show to illustrate their ideas about exercise.

In Social Studies we are learning about where we belong. Students have discussed the groups they belong to. From hockey teams, church, school, family and soccer teams, students are gaining a true sense of community.

Science class right now is about studying colours. Students brought in leaves from home and they created rubbings of these leaves in different colours. Students have also used water colour paint to create light, medium, and dark shades of the same colour.

We are off to a great start. Everyone is working so hard. I am so pleased with the effort and positive attitudes of all the students.



Job Posting: *Wanted: parent(s) to come into the grade 1/2 classroom to read with the students. I will schedule you in for any time that you can make it.*

Music 1/2 with Kathleen Cordeiro

I am so excited to be teaching music again this year to the 1/2 class! They are always so excited to learn ... it makes my job very enjoyable! We have started the year off by focusing on 'beat'. We have been playing games and singing songs where they have to find the beat and stomp to it. We have also just started reviewing our 'ta' and 'titi' rhythms, which we find and clap with our hands. And we always sing songs with lots of fun actions! You should ask your child to sing one of these fun songs for you, so you can enjoy them too.

Computers 1/2 with Bonnie Morgan

The grade ones and twos are getting back into the swing of things by discussing internet safety and computer lab rules. If you would like more information on internet safety, please visit <http://www.netsmartz.org>

Math 3 with Kate Phelps

We have started the year by learning about three-digit numbers. Students have been building them with base ten blocks and grouping them into hundreds, tens and ones. They have also been learning different ways of writing and representing the numbers. Help your children by asking them how many hundreds, tens or ones are in a given three-digit number, and ask them to draw it in different ways.

Social 3/4/5 with *Kate Phelps*

Students will be examining four communities from around the world: Peru, Tunisia, India and Ukraine. We have started by learning about Quality of Life and what that means in a community. We are continuing to examine Quality of Life in these communities and how they compare to Canada.

Language Arts 3 with *Kate Phelps*

Students have already started writing, and learning about the writing process. They have started pre-writing by brainstorming and planning what they are going to write. We have used our new graphic organizer 'Story Map' to help us plan and organize our ideas. We have also started work in our Communicating Skills books, which give practice with grammar and conventions. We learned about compound words, and that a sentence is a group of words that makes sense all on its own. Lastly we have started our spelling 'tic tac toe'. Students are given a 3x3 grid with different activities that all involve writing spelling words. They need to draw a line through three boxes and one more (which includes the 'must do' box) and complete those four.

Students need to practice their words at home for their mini spelling tests on Fridays. Keep an eye out for these different activities!

Math 4/5 with *Jackie Basnett*

The class has been busy working on the patterning unit, using both their text books and practice books.

Language Arts 4/5 with *Jackie Basnett*

I am very glad to be returning to WCS this year! I have the pleasure of teaching grade 4/5 LA, Math, and 8/9 LA. Like previous years, I will be happy to be a part of the annual Christmas Concert. Mrs. Cordeiro and myself are also hoping to create a spring musical! We will announce the play and schedule in the new year.



In Language Arts we have been working on assessment projects, so that I can see where the students are at. Each day the students are given 10-15 minutes of DEAR ('drop everything and read') time. They will begin to do projects based on their own choice of novels, and so must bring one to class each day. Throughout the week, we will have lessons on spelling, grammar, a 'writer's workshop' and a 'reader's workshop' (related to DEAR).

In LA 4/5, the students will begin working on a writing unit based on the book, 'The Jolly Postman'. The culminating activity will be creating their own book.

Science 3/4/5 with *Kate Phelps*

We are starting with our 'Building with a Variety of Materials' Unit, where we learn about different structures. Students were very excited to build a napkin holder, a gift box (both container structures), and a model of an animal. They are very anxious to start building different types of bridges (structures that span a gap). If your child is coming home asking for different materials to bring to school, it is probably for this unit.

Music 3/4/5 with Kathleen Cordeiro

I am very excited to be teaching the 3/4/5 music class again. They are a wonderful bunch of students who are always eager to learn. We have been looking for middle C on the piano keyboard, and putting our phone numbers into music notation and playing them on the piano. It has been fun.

I have a request for parents. If your child has a recorder at home, could you please send it with them to school for us to use for music class as soon as possible? Thank you, and I am looking forward to a magically musical year!



Computers 3/4/5 with Bonnie Morgan

Students have been getting used to the new Microsoft Office 2010 programs. Also they have been using Google to research what exciting events happened on their birthday, using different websites.

Science 6/7 with Darren Phelps

Students are reviewing basic science skills involving WHMIS, graphing and unit conversions. This will help them prepare for the units they will see throughout the course.



Do you know what this symbol means? What are some safety precautions to take when handling these materials?



Phys-Ed 6/7 with Darren Phelps

The class is working through basic volleyball skills. They are practicing serving, setting, bumping and identifying the rules of the game. Do you know how many players are supposed to be on a volleyball court for each team?

Math 6/7 with Melissa Neufeld

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I am very excited to be here this year teaching math 6/7, science 8/9, science 10, and chemistry 30. This is my fifth year teaching in Alberta and am pleased to be teaching math and science. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school and town of Worsley for being so inviting and welcoming. This has been a great move and I look forward to working with the staff, students, and parents!

In Math 6/7 we have been studying algebra and writing expressions. The students have been doing an excellent job.

Language Arts 6/7 with Kathleen Cordeiro

We are off to a great start this year! I am so excited to have the 6/7 students in my homeroom class all year long. I have a lot of great ideas for this year, including a novel study of the book 'Underground to Canada' which will start in October, some literature circles, a graphic novel study and many more fun activities. We are starting the year with a short story unit based on the theme of friends and relationships. We are also starting a writer's workshop for the first time. This will take place on Thursdays. It will be a consistent time set aside for everyone to be able to work on their writing. Right now we are working on ideas and organization, two of the writing traits we will be focusing on this year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to an excellent year with each one of you!



Music 6/7 with Kathleen Cordeiro

I am excited to have the 6/7 class for music this year, as they are always happy to learn new concepts. We have been looking for middle C on the piano keyboard and putting our phone numbers into music notation and playing them on the piano. It has been fun. We are going to continue working with music notation as we learn how to play the ukulele and the hand bells this year. I am looking forward to a magically musical year!

Social Studies 6/7 with Adrien Hooper

This year the class will be working with the grade 7 curriculum, which focuses mainly on Canada's history of diverse people (a variety of Aboriginal nations, the British and the French), significant events leading up to Confederation (the fur trade, exploration, the great deportation and competition between the French and British), as well as Canadian expansion following confederation (the effect on the Metis, immigration, and the effects of technology and urbanization), all in an effort to understand how and why Canada has become the country it is.

Throughout the course we have been, and will continue to develop and refine the skills necessary for an active, engaged and skilled citizen. Areas that we will focus on are thinking (critical, historical and geographical), cooperation with others, communication in a variety of ways (written, oral, etc.) and research skills.

Computers 6/7 with Bonnie Morgan

The class has been getting familiarized with the new Microsoft Office 2010 programs, designing their own ad flyers, learning to format and make use of the 'whole space'.

Language Arts 8/9 with Jackie Basnett

In Language Arts we have been working on assessment projects, so that I can see where the students are at. Each day the students are given 10-15 minutes of DEAR ('drop everything and read') time. They will begin to do projects based on their own choice of novels, and so must bring one to class each day. Throughout the week, we will have lessons on spelling, grammar, a 'writer's workshop' and a 'reader's workshop' (related to DEAR).

In LA 8/9, students will be starting a 'reader's theatre unit', followed by short stories.

Grade 8/9 Computers with Bonnie Morgan

The class has been using the internet to research different events and, in their own words, rewriting the article and formatting it using Microsoft Office 2010. The class will be reviewing how to use Microsoft Word, then moving into Microsoft Excel.



Mathematics 8/9 with Bill Willis

This is a combined class, although we are learning a separate curriculum in each class. However, the first unit in each course is very similar in content, so we are doing a lot of cooperative work, with the grade nines helping the eights. We're working on square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Science 8/9 with Melissa Neufeld

In science we are doing the grade 9 curriculum, and starting the biological diversity unit. In this unit we are studying life around the Earth and conservation of our natural resources. The students are lively, and bring excitement into the classroom.

Music 8/9 with Kathleen Cordeiro

Welcome to music class! I am really excited to have the 8/9's be a part of our music program. We have been looking for middle C on the piano keyboard and putting our phone numbers into music notation and playing them on the piano. It has been fun. We are going to continue working with music notation as we learn how to play the guitar this year. I am looking forward to a magically musical year!

Social Studies 8/9 with Adrien Hooper

Social Studies this year focuses on the Grade 9 curriculum, which is centered on issues facing Canadians (governance, rights, and economic systems in Canada and the United States). We have begun with governance, and have examined the branches, components and activities of the federal government (executive, legislative and judicial).

Currently we are turning our attention to how laws are made at a federal level, and shortly we will be exploring different groups that attempt to influence government processes and decisions (political parties, media and lobby groups). Throughout the course we will be working important skills for thinking (critical, historical and geographic), research, communication and cooperation.

PhysEd 8/9 with *Adrien Hooper*

The start of the year has been exciting, sweaty and fun for all involved. We began the year by introducing the students to a game many were unfamiliar with – Ultimate Frisbee. Anything new can be challenging, but the students persevered, developed their skills, and by the end of the unit they were engaged in a friendly competitive game.

The weather has turned a bit chilly in the morning, and due to hazardous conditions on the field we have moved our class indoors and begun the unit on volleyball, to coincide with the start of the 2011 volleyball season.

I would like to encourage students to have PE clothes daily, as there are some students who have not been bringing gym clothes on a regular basis. This does have an effect on their grade as hygiene is part of the curriculum.

I would like to welcome Tyrell K. as the instructional assistant to the class

CTS: Dollhouse Construction with *Darren Phelps*

Students are planning to build and sell large dollhouses. Each student group has a general theme and will begin assembly of the structures as soon as they have a detailed plan approved.



Mathematics 10-C with *Bill Willis*

This is the second year for this new course, and students are doing well. We are almost finished the first unit on metric/imperial conversions and measurement formulas, and will be having a test soon.

English 10 with *Kathleen Cordeiro*

Welcome to high school English class! We are off to a great start this year. We have been working extensively on the writing process and many hands have been sore getting back into writing shape this fall. We are currently working on a short story unit based on fictional writing such as flash fiction, short stories, novel excerpts and myths, fables, legends, and folktales. We will be starting our novel study 'To Kill a Mockingbird' in October. I am introducing independent novel study projects, which will be due Friday, December 9th. I am looking forward to a great year with each one of you.

Science 10 with *Melissa Neufeld*

We are beginning with the chemistry unit. This unit is the basis for high school chemistry, and the students have been working hard. Great work everybody!

English 20 with *Kathleen Cordeiro*

Welcome back to the English classroom! We are off to a great start this year. We have been working extensively on the writing process and many hands have been sore getting back into writing shape this fall. We are currently working on a short story unit based on fictional writing such as Canadian and international fiction and novel excerpts. We will be starting our novel study 'Lord of the Flies' in October. I am introducing independent novel study projects, which will be due Friday, December 9th. I am looking forward to a great year with each one of you.

PhysEd 10/20 with *Adrien Hooper*

Much like the 8/9 PE class, we were outside for the beginning of the year and again many of the students were unfamiliar with the high paced game of Ultimate Frisbee. The students picked up skills and strategies of the game quickly, resulting in back and forth high paced games that were enjoyable to watch and fun to take part in.

The class is now moving onto the next unit – volleyball. Due to slippery weather condition in the field, we have moved activities indoors. The class is excelling in their skills development and most students are participating on a regular basis.

There are a number of students who are having medical/physical/health concerns. It is impossible for me, as a teacher, to know how they are feeling. A note from a parent is a great way to inform me of conditions limiting a student's ability to participate. To avoid any misunderstandings between myself and students I need to be informed of what they can and cannot participate in – thank you.



Mathematics 20-1 with *Bill Willis*

This course is brand new this year, although it is very similar to the previous Pure Math 20.

We also have six students in Hines Creek Composite, who are receiving the course via videoconferencing.

We are now finished the first unit on Sequences and Series, and will be having the unit test within a day or two.

Mathematics 10-3 and 20-3 with *Bill Willis*

We have a few students who want a career in the trades after high school, and these courses are designed for them. Students are learning the material through Distance Education packages, and I am teaching and helping them in the classroom. As is true for almost every Distance Ed course, if the students do the work and ask questions, they will be successful.

Chemistry 30 with *Melissa Neufeld*

In Chemistry 30 we have started the thermochemistry unit. We are studying heat transfer and calculating it in different ways. This is a challenging unit, but the students are persevering. Their hard work is very encouraging.

Sports



Jr. Girls Volleyball

After a bit of uncertainty about the number of players committing to the team and finding coaches to help the girls develop and improve their skills, I am happy to announce there will be a Jr. Girls' volleyball team this year. Practices will begin on Sept. 20, at 3:30 until 5:00, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of the season. Parents please make a note to pick up your daughters after practice, or make arrangements to have them picked up.



Sr. Girls Volleyball

The Sr. Girls volleyball team has just returned from their first tournament in Spirit River. The team did well, winning their first match handily and giving their opponents a run for their money in their following three matches, going to extra points in several sets.

Players have identified areas of improvement and have high hopes for their next tournament, coming up in Valleyview on September 23 and 24. STM in Fairview will be the location of their third

tournament, on October 28 and 29. Zones will follow shortly afterward on November 18 and 19, in Hines Creek. Please come out and support these young women as they represent our school and community.

The Sr Girls team is also planning a fundraiser shortly to pay for two additional tournaments they are interested in attending, in Grimshaw and at Glenmary. The ladies would appreciate support from the community and hope they can count on you.

Sr Boys Volleyball

There are seven boys who are interested in forming a team this year. However, a large hurdle stands in their way – no coach! The boys and the school are asking if anyone in the community can lend their time and expertise to these fine young men. They are eager to show what they've got, and are keen on representing the school and the community in north-western Alberta and beyond.

Room 21C News

(Communicating 21st Century Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes)
“Inspiring all Learners: Creating Successful Inclusive Classrooms”



This final year of AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) Cycle 4- ‘Engaging and Supporting the 21st Century Learner’ is focused on using all we have learned during the past two years of this project to ensure that all students are engaged and supported ... to make inclusive education the culture in all PRSD classrooms. Over the past two years we have seen fantastic initiatives from staff and students as we embarked on the journey of learning in the 21st century. Staff and students collaborated to develop those skills essential to our 21st century world - collaboration, communication, technology, critical thinking and problem solving. Many schools built in supports for student achievement through Learning Support Teams (School staffs working together to program for diverse learning needs), Learner Profiles (collecting information about how students learn, their interests, academic strengths and areas of growth to help with classroom planning), Professional Learning Communities (staff groupings, planning, creating common assessments and looking at good teaching strategies to improve student learning) , careful instructional design and technology (which instructional strategies and technology tools are best for learning different concepts and student engagement). Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design have become the norm in teaching practices – practices that engage and support all learners.

In June 2010 Alberta Education launched “Action on Inclusion.” This initiative defines a large part of how our classrooms and schools work with students. Alberta Education defines Inclusive Education as *a way of thinking and acting that demonstrates universal acceptance of, and belonging for, all students. It is a value-based approach to accepting responsibility for all students and means that all students will have equitable opportunities to be included in classrooms/programs.* This is achieved by physically setting up classrooms to support student needs and choosing specific teaching strategies that will support diverse student needs. Whether the support comes from a classroom, school, or divisional level, it is targeted to meet the student’s needs in achieving curricular outcomes. Over the next year, the Divisional/AISI Learning Coaches will continue to support and work with teachers in collaboration with Curriculum and Instruction, Student Services, Mentorship, and Technology Services so that all learners are engaged and supported.

On August 29th at the Divisional Kick-off, all educators from the entire District came together to share and discuss the message “Inspiring all Learners: Creating Successful Inclusive Classrooms” with guest speaker Dr. Christi Kasa-Hendricks. Plans for the year began, focusing on the work we can do together as a division in each school to embrace the bold, challenging and complex needs present in learning today.

We all play a role in preparing our students for life beyond the classroom walls. In these times it is more important than ever that we all work together as stakeholders to support our students in becoming successful life-long learners who are inspired to achieve all that they can.

For more information on Alberta Education’s “Action on Inclusion” please visit <http://education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr/inclusion.aspx>

You may also contact the PRSD Learning Coaches if you have any questions.

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