



# OP Newsletter September

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

There is NOTHING like the start to a new school year! The excitement and anticipation; the smell of freshly cleaned and waxed classrooms & hallways; smiling faces and nervous glances, new shoes & clothes & backpacks and pencil crayons galore! And teachers & EA's who can't wait to embrace the diverse personalities who make up their classrooms each year.

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year! We are looking forward to a year filled with fun, friendships, and making wonderful memories. We will certainly focus on student wellness and ensuring our OP students are well cared for as they transition back to school – whether they've been gone just for the summer, are new to our school, or whether they've been doing At Home Learning since March of 2020. Each and every student has a place within our OP Family.

Please read through the full newsletter so you can learn about the District & OP's initiatives to make this school year one of growth & development for your child/your children. School is about so much more than reading and arithmetic and our goal is to focus on the needs of the whole child – social, emotional, physical and academic.

Please know – we are always just a phone call away to have a respectful conversation about meeting your child's needs.

### THIS MONTH at OP

(Please check our [School Website](#) for updated [Calendar of Events](#))

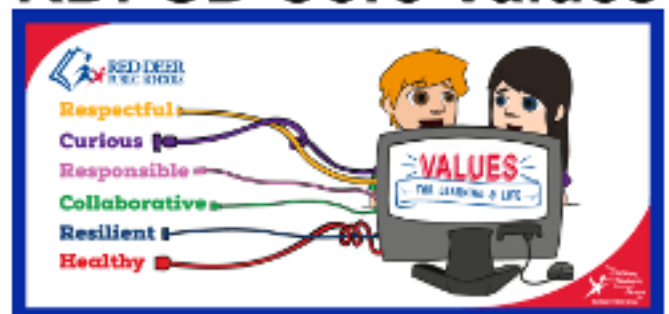
- Sept 6 – Labour Day – No School
- Sept 7 – All students attend
- Sept 17 – Staff Learning Day K-12 – No school for students
- Sept 20 – OP School Council Meeting – 3:45 pm
- Sept 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

*"Literacy is  
one of the  
greatest gifts a  
person can  
receive"*

*Jen Selinsky*



## RDPSD Core Values





École Oriole Park School  
orolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca  
403-347-3731

# Welcome New Staff

OP would like to formally introduce and welcome all our new staff this year:

Educational Assistant: Mrs. Yosra Boudhrioua - English Language Learner & French Support

Educational Assistant: Ms. Terrilyn Chapman - Inclusive Educational Assistant (was here part of last year)

Community Liaison Worker: Ms. Carla Feldberg (Interim Counsellor as of Sept 7)

Mademoiselle Apryl Wallace: Grade 2 French Immersion Teacher (AM Only)

Madame Roberta Koelmans-Cameron: Grade 2 French Immersion Teacher (taught @ OP part of last year)

Madame Tanya Baril: Grade 3 French Immersion Teacher

Madame Keira Rudge: Grade 4 French Immersion Teacher (co-teaching with Madame Beebe)

Mrs. Jessica Coates: Grade 4/5 Teacher

Ms. Jennifer Lacourse: Grade 5 Teacher



## Student Success

The two greatest factors in student success in school are:

- ▶ regular and consistent attendance
- ▶ reading skills/literacy skills

Students who attend regularly build good school habits, miss less instruction, understand more of the material and build a solid foundation on which to build social relationships and academic knowledge. This translates into good school habits through middle & high school and into any post-secondary studies. Students who are allowed to miss school (notwithstanding illness) are much more likely to not graduate high school. Please encourage your child to attend and support the importance of education 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 every night. This will increase their literacy skills and lead to success in school at all grade levels.

## Bus Parking

The things out of our control - now we will add sidewalk/ concrete pouring on the North side of our playground.



Typically Olsen Street is where the Prairie buses park to drop off & pick up students. The contractor responsible for pouring new sidewalks in that area has not quite finished the job. As a result, we've had to move our bus zone to Oleander Drive.

Please ensure you don't park along the lane that extends from the City Bus Stop up to our Gym entrance doors - this will ensure the safety of our students who disembark &/or wait to board Prairie Bus for their transportation to and from school.

Thank you for your understanding & cooperation!



## RDPSD Commitment to Learning

As we transition into the new school year, RDPSD is committed to ensuring children have access to the best instruction and strategies for the following **3 Division Goals**: Literacy & Numeracy, Equity, and Student Success & Completion at every level. Within that, **Oriole Park's School Ed plan** and our daily focus is on meeting and exceeding those goals. Along with the focus on those three Division goals, the District has also spent a great deal of time developing a solid plan to address those goals within the pandemic. The details of that focus can be found **within this document** and as the year progresses, we work closely together with District specialists to ensure we have the best supports in place for our students.

## SEPT 6 DECISION ON MASKS & COVID SAFETY

After the Government of Alberta announced new restrictions late on Friday, Sept 3, the Board of Trustees for Red Deer Public School District called a meeting on Monday of the Long Weekend to respond. The decision was to maintain the highest level of safety for our students, staff, and families with a balanced approach considering the social, emotional, physical, and educational needs of our children.

Full information on the decision can be **found here on our OP Website**. We will continue with cohorting our students as much as possible, enhanced cleaning & sanitization during the school

day, regular hand washing, plastic barriers between staff and students when working in close proximity and masking when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We understand that the decision – either way – was a challenging one for some families. We will work diligently and respectfully with all our students and families through this challenging time. Please contact Mrs. Irvine, Principal if you would like to discuss this matter.

## BREAKFAST PROGRAM/LUNCH PROGRAM



In order to ensure all students start the day with a nutritious meal, OP is pleased to continue our Breakfast Program, which is open to ALL students. There are many reasons why a student may come to school without breakfast on any given day, so if that happens, please know that we will ensure your child has something to eat.

We have a wonderful volunteer (which in COVID guidelines, we are allowed limited volunteers within the school) who prepares a nutritious morning snack. The food is individually packaged for safety and students have time to eat in the morning.

Further, the Mustard Seed supports our students in need with lunches. If you feel your child would benefit from accessing the supports of the Mustard Seed, please contact the main office (Jacki or Sandy) or our CLW (Ms. Carla Feldberg). We will ensure they deliver a lunch for every child who needs one.





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## OP SCHOOL ENROLMENT & CLASS CONFIGURATIONS

Every school has its challenges and ours is no different. We are funded based on our enrolment and have to make teaching, administration and support staff all function within that budget.

When we have 30–35 students in a particular grade (for example, in Grade 5 English Program), that is (unfortunately) not enough funding for 2 classes of Grade 5 at 17/18 students each; so we make a split class of Grade 4's and 5's since our numbers are similar in Grade 4 too. Teachers have been instructing within split classes for years, not just within OP or RDPD, but in jurisdictions all over the globe.

Naturally, there are mixed feelings with split classes but there are also many benefits, both academically and in a social context. Teachers are meticulous about ensuring curriculum is covered in the appropriate age group, but beyond that, they go above and beyond to teach empathy, understanding, and acceptance of all within their blended class.

Small schools like Oriole Park will always have certain class grades that will have to be split. We are so fortunate to have teaching staff who collaborate, support and share resources to make a split class an amazing choice for our kids!

## STAY INFORMED - COMMUNICATION



School Website ~~~ Class Webpages ~~~ Newsletters

Our [OP School Website](#) is our primary source of communication between the school in general and home. Please ensure you check out the OP Website regularly. You can also follow us on Facebook &/or Instagram.

Each homeroom teacher hosts a [class website](#) as well as a Google Classroom (online teaching platform). If your child is going to be absent for any extended period of time, please connect with their homeroom teacher to stay updated on the material they will miss.

Each month, the office emails out (no paper copies for an environmentally friendly footprint) our monthly newsletter. You can subscribe to the service by going to [this link](#) and on the drop-down menu: *List*, choose *School Newsletter*; enter your email and click on *Subscribe*.

## OP Contact Information



403 - 347 - 3731



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[oriolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca](http://oriolepark.rdpsd.ab.ca)



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[opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca)

or use the [Parent App](#)



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## SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

### School Council Meetings

OP School Council is an opportunity for the parent community at École Oriole Park to have a voice in the decisions made at your child's school. It is a great way to stay updated and to keep lines of communication open and transparent. We welcome all parents to join our School Council meetings.

School Council meetings are held (typically) the 3rd Monday of each month at 3:45 pm. September's meeting will most likely be virtual.

[Google Meet Link here](#)

( <https://meet.google.com/hqk-jxtq-qdt> )

email: [op-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:op-schoolcouncil@rdpsd.ab.ca)

*Our next meeting will take place on:*

**September 20 @ 3:45 PM**

## IMPORTANT LINKS for Parents

[Child under 18 Health Screening Form](#)

[COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols RDPDS 2021](#)

[OP Parent Corner](#) - programs/info from  
Community Sources for your information only

[opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca](mailto:opinfo@rdpsd.ab.ca) - attendance email to report  
your child's absence

