



Ochre Park Post

March 2023

Phone 780 942-2901 Email opark@sturgeon.ab.ca



Message from the Principal

The month of February has passed and we are now preparing for a very busy month in March. With the last part of the month being spring break, there are several things that have been planned prior to the time off. It appears some warmer weather may be headed our way, which is a welcome sight for some. I'm quite sure everyone is happy to see the sun and enjoy some extra warm weather. This is a healthy addition to our days at this time of the year.

We have a new staff member coming to Ochre Park School. We would like to welcome Taryn Hickey to our school. She will be starting on March 6, 2023. In addition to this addition, we have also been provided with some extra support for our gr. 3 class. Shannon Stadnyk, who currently teaches Grade 1SL in the morning and has a few other responsibilities in the afternoon, will provide some support. As well, Mrs. Gingras will also be providing some support in the morning. As such, Mr. Booker has taken over some extra library classes. Mrs. Stadnyk will also be providing some intervention support to grade 4.

Our planning for next year has begun and as part of those preparations, student registration has begun in Sturgeon Public Schools. It is vitally important to our planning to have as many students registered as possible, so we encourage our families to go online and complete that process. We thank those parents who have already done so.

Sturgeon Public Schools has made the decision to add more LOFT boards to our school. In addition to what is being funded by the division, our school will be purchasing 2 additional boards and our Ochre Park Parent Society will also be purchasing one for our school. For those who don't know, we currently have these interactive screens in Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1G. We will be adding new boards to all other classrooms, including the Music Room. This will leave only one more that we will hope for into the future, which would be a portable board for our Learning Commons/Library. In addition to this new technology, we will also be revising our bell schedule for the 2023/24 school year. We will be moving from 25 minute blocks (currently 12 per day) to 30 minute blocks (10 per day). We don't anticipate significant changes to the start and end of the day, but a more specific schedule will follow in the near future. This change will allow us to more effectively utilize our time and resources. It will also make classes like physical education and music seem a bit longer, as it takes some time to get organized and walk to them and in the gym, time is needed for set-up and take-down or clean-up.

Later this month, our school will be hosting Parent/Teacher interviews. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks in regards to signing up for a time. This time allows for an opportunity to get an update on your child's progress and address any challenges they may have at school. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on March 21/22 from 4-7 pm each day.

We are continuing to gather names of parents who would be willing to sit on a Playground Committee, as we are hoping to pursue new playground equipment to replace older equipment that is rusting and is prone to breaking. When that happens, the decision will need to be made to either repair or remove that piece of equipment.

I'm sure everyone is already aware, but there is no school on March 24 (day off in lieu of parent/teacher interviews) and there is no school from March 27-31, 2023 due to Spring Break. We hope all families are able to enjoy some time away from school and hopefully when we return at the beginning of April, we will be well on our way to warmer days.

Mr. Calvin Anhorn
Principal, Ochre Park School

Ochre Park Happenings

Registration for the 2023-2024 School Year opened February 1, 2023 (K-4). If you haven't done so already, please log in to your parent portal account and complete the registration for your child before March 17, 2023. If your child will no longer be attending at either Ochre Park or moving to Grade 5 at Redwater School, please contact the office at 780-942-2901 for assistance., :)

With the nicer weather fast approaching, the playground will soon have puddles. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, splash pants, rubber boots, et cetera. An extra change of clothes and socks are recommended to keep your child dry and comfortable should a muddy mishap occur.



COURTESY TO OUR OP NEIGHBORS

We understand that parking is a challenge around our school at both drop-off and pick-up times. We have reached out to our Facilities Dept. at SPS Central Services and hope we are able to arrive at a solution going forward. In the meantime, we ask that you use kindness, patience and courtesy while parking around our school at these times by not blocking driveways and interfering with normal operations for our OP neighbors.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Calvin Anhorn, Principal

Our school playgrounds are increasing in age and will need to be replaced in the future. These come with a large bill and therefore planning and collecting funds/grants for this needs to start as soon as we can. We would like to start a Playground Committee to do this work. If any parent's would like to be a part of this please contact Ochre Park Parent Council/Society . We would love some of the parent's with kids in the younger grades to be a part of this as it will take a few years to complete. It would not a large demand of your time, we just need to start finding some grants to apply for and getting companies to sponsor it. As we all know, a new year means new funds to spread out in the community from companies.

Counsellor's Corner

Hello,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in Pink Shirt Day. It was great to see so many staff and students take a stand for kindness!

The Importance of Being Independent

As children we have to rely on others. We need them to provide food, shelter, safety, and the right environment for us to grow and achieve our potential. Some of us receive more support than others. Some of us thrive better than others.

But as we get older we have to learn to make the best decisions and choices that suit us and the way we want to progress in the world. Making the wrong choices, either to please others, or because we feel that we ought, benefits no one long-term. Becoming an independent, functioning human being is the most worthwhile outcome we can hope for ourselves.

As always, if you have any questions, please call me at the school (780-942-2901) or email me at Jennifer.Geleta@sturgeon.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Geleta





Daily Arrival & Dismissal- please remember that if you are dropping off your children or they are getting to school on their own, students should not be arriving before 8:35. Our school buses start letting children off the buses at 8:35 and that is when we have supervision in place. There is no supervision before this time. We are also asking children to refrain from playing on the playground equipment when they arrive in the morning as there is no supervision. After dismissal at 3:05, only children with parental supervision should be playing on the playground. Thanks for your help in keeping our children safe.



Parking Lot Designated as Staff Parking Only

Please refrain from parking in the parking lot and instead utilize the drop off loop at the end of the parking lot to let your children out safely or park on the street. Thank you for your cooperation.

Permission Forms: All permission forms for student activities and excursions are now available to be signed electronically via the parent Powerschool portal. Please note that this has to be done on a web browser and not the app. If you need help accessing the parent portal, please call or come into the office.



Reminder: We are a nut free school.

Medications and/or Medical Treatment

To keep our students and staff safe, strict Policies and Procedures are in place regarding medication and medical treatment at school for students. Sturgeon Public Schools recognizes that the administration of medication and/or medical treatment to students is the responsibility of parents, guardians and medical practitioners.

If a student must receive medication or medical treatment prescribed by a medical practitioner during the school day or during extra-curricular activities and the student is incapable of self-administration, the parent must request in writing to the Principal that the school store medication and medical treatment equipment to enable: student self-administration where appropriate (e.g. asthma inhalers); administration of medication and medical treatment. Written instructions must be signed by the parent/guardian and the physician. Non-prescribed medication shall not be distributed to any student enrolled in a Division school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. The Sturgeon Public School Division Policies and Procedures regarding Medication and Medical Treatment to Students can be found on our division website at <https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/board/procedures/4724>.

As per Administrative Procedures II– School Board Governance and Operations, Section 255 Inclement Weather Decisions for Schools “ The lowest temperature at which students will be required to go outside shall be -25 Degrees Celsius including wind chill and as determined by the Weather Network. ” Going forward, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. Also, if you have extra hats and mittens, the school will greatly accept them to loan to those students in need. For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/board/procedures/4609>

Volunteers Welcome! If you wish to volunteer in our school, here are a couple things to know: 1. Please contact your child’s teacher to arrange a day and time to come in. 2. A criminal records check is required every three years. These are completed Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the RCMP station. Contact the school office for a letter to waive the records check fee.

Niskipîsim

Goose Moon

Pronounced: Niss-Gee-PEE-SIM



The Goose Moon is a very exciting moon! As we welcome this new moon we can celebrate that the days are getting longer and we have more time with the sun. We also notice that the plants and trees are starting to wake up, new growth begins to appear. We also hear the familiar honking sound from the sky and we welcome the geese that are returning. When we see this, we know that Spring is right around the corner. In Cree, the word for spring is "sîkwan" which is pronounced see-gwan. One of my favorite things to do during this season is to plan my garden for the coming Summer. How do you and your family like to celebrate the return of Spring? What are some ways you can connect with the land during this season?

Fun in 2B



PINK SHIRT DAY 2023





HOT LUNCH MENU



March 3 (K2)- Pork and Veggie Stir-fry with homemade teriyaki sauce, served over rice.

\$4.00/serving



March 10 (K1)- Ham, bologna and cheese sandwich with mayo and mustard. \$3.50/serving



March 17 (K1)- Two Leprechaun (green) pancakes and 2 pork breakfast sausages, syrup optional.

\$0.00 (Thank you to Redwater Lion's Club for sponsoring this free lunch)



April 14 (K1)- Famous Burger Baron Pizza (choice of pepperoni and/or cheese) \$2.50/slice



April 21- (K2)- Baba's Special Recipe Cream of Potato and Mushroom soup with a bun \$0.00
(Thank you to Redwater Lion's Club for sponsoring this free lunch)



April 28- (K1)- Homemade Spaghetti with Meatsauce \$4.00/serving



PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM ONLINE



March 2023



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	K2	3 4
			Cheese, crackers, cucumber	Veggies and dip	Yogurt tube and fruit	
					Sunglasses Day!	
5	6	7	8	9	K1	10 11
	Cereal and fruit	Yogurt, fruit, granola bar	Muffins and fruit	Popcorn and fruit	Fruit salad and granola bar	
					Wear your team color!	
12	13	14	15	16	K1	17 18
	PD DAY no classes	Cereal and fruit	Smoothie and granola bar	Cheese, crackers, cucumber	Devilled eggs and Cucumber	
					St. Patrick's Day!	
					(Wear green or your team color)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Cereal and fruit	Cheese, crackers, Fruit	Yogurt, fruit and granola bar	Muffins and fruit	In Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews	
					NO SCHOOL	
27	28	29	30	31		

Spring Break , Classes resume April 3

