



October 2023 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back! It has been such a great start to the year. The first month has flown by - I can't believe that it's October already. We have been busy settling into our routines, getting to know all of our new students, and working hard to help students learn and grow. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for coming out to our Meet the Teacher night - it was great to see so many familiar (and new) faces! As many of you know, our school has grown significantly these past 2 years. We are now using the Learning Commons and Early Learning portable (in the afternoon) as classrooms to accommodate all of our growth. This is a great problem to have!

There are quite a few events happening in October that I want you to be aware of:

- 1) Our next school council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 4th at 4PM. Everyone is welcome - the more the merrier!
- 2) During the week of October 16th we are going to be celebrating Harvest Week, with our annual pumpkin/harvest festival event on Thursday, October 19th.
- 3) We will also have our Visioning evening on Thursday, October 19th at 6:30. It will last about an hour to an hour and a half. It would be great to have parent input as we talk about Sunnyside, the culture of our school, what we are doing well, and what we can improve on. I will send out an RSVP for you to fill out shortly.
- 4) On November 2nd, we are going to have parent teacher interviews. This is a great opportunity to chat about how your child is doing before report cards go home a few weeks later. Please plan on attending this important event!

We also had a great opportunity to celebrate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students were given rocks that were painted orange and drew pictures on them. We focused on things that all students should have at school as well as things that we have learned about Indigenous culture. It was a great day learning about what we can do to promote reconciliation.

The month of September also had some great events that we celebrated. We enjoyed the Terry Fox run on Friday, September 15th. The students did an amazing job. Overall, we ran 1500 laps, which is the equivalent of 300 kilometers! We also raised over \$300 for cancer research. Thanks for your support! We also had some great Wellness Fridays. If you are ever interested in volunteering, please let us know!

Lastly, and I know that I always say this, but I want to reiterate how privileged I am to be the principal of this fantastic little school. I'm so thankful for the amazing staff, students, and supportive parent community! Thank you for the amazing opportunity to help educate your children!

As always, if you ever have any questions, thoughts, ideas, or concerns, please reach out.

Mitchell Van Dyk



October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Pavan Park grade 1/2	4 Parent Council meeting 4:00 pm	5 Assembly at 8:45 - come join us!	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving No School 	10	11	12 Picture Day!	13	14
15	16 Harvest Week	17 Kindergarten Field trip to The Helen Schuler Nature Center	18	19 Pumpkin/ Harvest Festival Visioning Evening 6:30 pm	20 PD day no school for Students	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Happy Halloween 				

Music/Fine Arts

Does Music Education REALLY Matter?

YES!

Here are a few reasons why:

Music helps ease student anxiety and improve confidence and self-esteem



People have been connecting and communicating through music for thousands of years - music helps children develop social skills



Music programs can give students a place to go after school



Learning to read music and learning to read words activate the same part of the brain



Students who study music and arts learn how to think creatively and use "outside of the box" thinking to problem solve in unique ways



Sunnyside Early Learning Program

September in Early Learning

What a great start to the year!

Nature walks, outdoor classrooms, and apples!

This month in our science center we are learning about apples!

Talking about all the different colors of apples, what is inside of apples, what we can make with apples, how apples grow. And of course, we made applesauce muffins.

We read a ton of Pete the Cat books- I love my white shoes, My four groovy buttons, and Rockin In my school shoes. If you are unfamiliar with these books, take a look, they are so much fun!



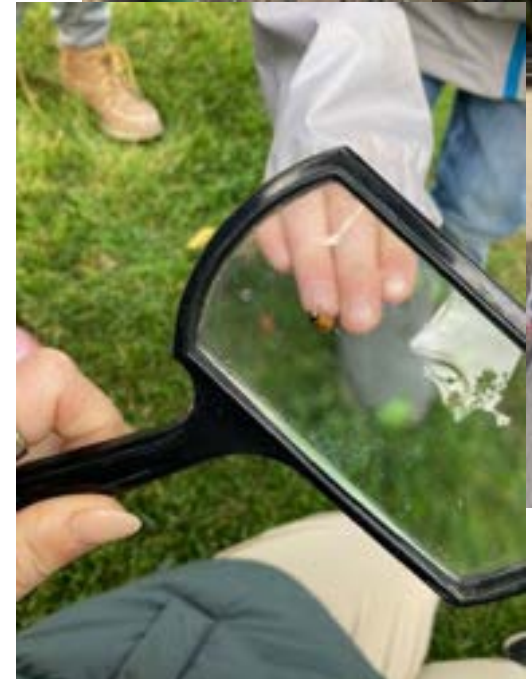
Kindergarten News

September in Kindergarten

We learned about apples, seasonal changes, and classroom routines. We explored numbers 1 and 2, as well as the letters P and U. We spent time experiencing nature and learning about the plants growing in our school yard. We worked on growing our gross motor skills with obstacle courses and other daily challenges.

Keep practicing fine motor skills at home. Thank you for all your support and encouragement. It was a great first month. Remember to check ClassDojo for our Classroom newsletter and updates.





Grade 1/2 News - Mrs. Slusar

What an amazing start to the year we have had in the month of September. Our word of the month was “courage”. The students have demonstrated courage in various ways whether it was talking during our sharing circle or attempting new outdoor experiences like painting, exploring, playing with new friends, running in the Terry Fox run or building forts with tires. Our school routine is gradually being established and all of our core subjects are underway. The students' book bins are filling up with exciting reads and we have spent much of the month reviewing letters and sounds. The last week of the month the students participated in Truth and Reconciliation activities. We look forward to going on our first outdoor learning excursion to Pavan Park on October 3rd with the other Grade 1-2 class. We are always looking for parent volunteers. We'd love to have you join us on October 3rd or any of the other monthly visits to the park. Please notify me if you are able to help out.

We hope you enjoy a few pictures from some of the events this month!



Grade 1/2 News – Mrs. Klassen

What a fantastic start to the year we have had! I am amazed at the joy, kindness, and enthusiasm for learning that I see everyday with these students...I know we are in for an amazing year ahead!

We are busy reading books, reviewing letter sounds, and building foundational routines to help us grow as readers and writers each and every day! We are also counting collections, adding and subtracting smaller numbers, and building number sense in math. We've only just begun, but it's already so much fun!

As you all know we are outside a lot in grade 1/2, including first thing in the morning. With the cooler weather approaching, it is so important that your child wear warm clothes and layers. Mini-gloves, closed shoes, warm jackets, hats are all great...and it will be snow-pant season soon!



Pavan Park: We are excited to continue our monthly trips to Pavan Park. Please let us know if you can join as a volunteer!



♥ Dolls made by Makena, Kylie, and Liv for Orange Shirt Day ♥

♥ "We are grateful for the animals and land around us" ♥ Kolten & Connor ♥

News from Grade 3/4J

Wow! September came and went in the blink of an eye! What a busy first month of school!!! Things are going well as we settle in and get used to our schedules and routines. Here's a brief outline of some of the things we've been up to this past month.



- ❖ **Math:** Numbers, numbers, numbers!!! Grade 3s are exploring and working with numbers to 1000 while Grade 4s work with numbers to 10,000. We've got so many things on the go (games, tasks, number talks, mystery numbers, whiteboard practice, base ten blocks, etc.) as we explore place value, standard form, expanded form, word form, basic addition and subtraction facts, etc. The pace is about to pick up as we try to master 2-, 3-, and 4-digit addition and subtraction!!
- ❖ **LA:** Nonfiction is our focus this term. In reading, we are exploring a variety of non-fiction texts. While exploring we are looking to identify text features and improve our retelling skills. As a class we have started reading the *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* series. We are currently on book 2 and can't wait to see what happens to Katie next! In writing, students are working hard to write nonfiction paragraphs. An important part of our writing includes word work which involves taking a closer look at topics such as phonics, vocabulary, spelling, conventions, and grammar.
- ❖ **Science:** Our first unit of the year is entitled "Matter". In it we are asking the question "How can materials change?" So far students have investigated topics including raw materials vs processed materials, physical and chemical changes, as well as how materials used depend on the environment including a look at how Indigenous groups used materials in the past.
- ❖ **Social:** In Social this year we will be looking at Peru, Tunisia, Ukraine and India. We are looking at quality of life, culture, landforms, etc. as well as learning some basic mapping skills.
- ❖ **Art:** The first element of art we are looking at is colour. We have looked at the colour wheel and used warm and cool colours to create our first projects. See some of our creations below!



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at jan.henderson@pallisersd.ab.ca. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Jan Henderson



Mrs. Hudey--Grade 3/4 October 2023

Welcome back! We have had a fabulous month of learning!
We have been busy making new friends and enjoying the beautiful fall weather!



Here's what we are working on:

Language Arts-

Reading: Our reading bins are full! We are enjoying a variety of new chapter books and an assortment of graphic novels. We are enjoying a class read aloud and practicing new comprehension strategies daily. Our class challenge is to read 20 minutes at home every night! We have lots of great books in our classroom library and students are also able to sign books out of the Learning Commons.

Writing: In Writers Workshop we are writing creative descriptive sentences and building paragraphs. Students are brainstorming, writing, editing and sharing their work.

Science - Topic: Matter

Students are working on identifying different states and processes of matter.

Math - Students have been working with number expressions this month.

Place Value: Grade 3/4 numbers up 100,000.

Addition and subtraction number facts and problem solving.

Grade 3 up to 1000—Grade 4 up to 10,000 including decimals to hundredths.

Students have been playing games and working in collaborative groups for problem solving.

Social Studies- Map skills- Continents of the world and major water bodies

Moving on to Topic 3.1- Communities in the World

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

★ If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Sunnyside School - 403-327-9214

Email: lynnell.hudey@pallisersd.ab.ca



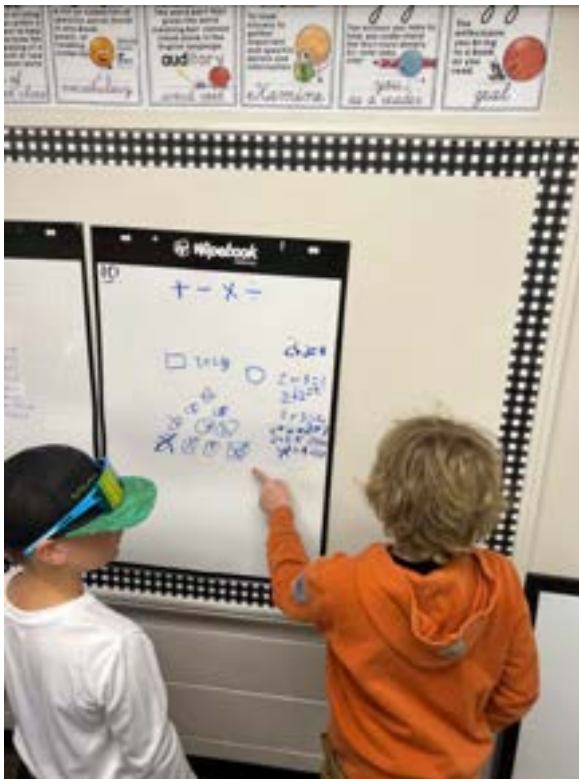




Grade 5 News – Mrs. Hass

Grade 5 has spent September settling into our cozy new classroom within the Learning Commons. We are loving all the books! We have been getting to know several new students in Grade 5 and have focused on group tasks in all subjects to build community. In Science, we are learning about Wetland Ecosystems, and have completed several experiments already. In Language Arts, we are writing personal narratives. Ask your child about their amazing story.

So far, we are “Croc”-ing Grade 5!



Grade 6 News – Mrs. Jesse

Wow! Where has the month of September gone?! It has been a busy, exciting month getting back into routine and the grade 6's have jumped right into both the academic and social aspects of school. We had two new students join our class this year and they have been welcomed in Sunnyside fashion and are fitting into our classroom as if they were always here.

In Math, we are continuing this year with lots of math challenges, math talks, and games. We are currently well into our first unit on Place Value of both whole and decimal numbers. We will likely have a cumulative review of all lessons just before Thanksgiving. I've encouraged students still struggling with these concepts to practice saying both large and small (decimal) numbers at home. We have also covered basic addition and subtraction questions.

In LA, we are just finishing up our first units in reading and writing. Both units focused on reading and writing workshop expectations and plenty of practice time. Students are already reading for 30 minutes in class with little difficulty, and have completed four writing assignments (a visual, a poem, a proper paragraph and a narrative assessment). We have started our narrative unit mini-lessons and are about half way through our first read-aloud: *The Tiger Rising*.

In Social, we have started our mapping unit. The focus this year is Canadian geography and Canadian history, so it is pertinent for students to have a basic understanding of where Canada is in the world, and all of the political boundaries in Canada. Students will have their first quiz the week before Thanksgiving and will then continue looking at important map skills, such as latitude and longitude, and map scale throughout the month of October.

In Science, we started the year with some fun engineering challenges to think like scientists, test our ideas, and work as a team. We then dived into our first topic, which is wetlands and students have completed their first research project. We will continue this topic throughout October. If the weather cooperates, we would like to do a couple field trips closer to the end of the month.

Finally, in art students have completed their first art project with Mrs. Henderson and they turned out beautifully. Here is a quick picture of their final project (we are missing a few, but they are almost done and will join the pack).

