



# February 2025 Newsletter Principal's Message

I can't believe that the month of January is almost over -it feels like we just got back from the Christmas break! There is alot happening at the school in the coming weeks!

First of all, I would like to let you know about our biannual Barn Dance fundraiser. For anyone who is new to Sunnyside, this is afundraiser that we run every 2years to support our school, and it involves adinner, dance, live auction, and silent auction. In the past, the funds have been used to landscape the front of the school, build anew playground, update the basketball court, build the greenhouse, and pay for aton of extras for the school (like buses for field trips and special guests at the school). This year, the Sunnyside Barn Dance will be on Saturday, May 3rd. We would love it if every parent got involved somehow in this event -whether it is purchasing aticket, volunteering, donating, or spreading the word to potential community supporters. There is something available for everyone! In the coming weeks, there will be communications going out about how to get involved.

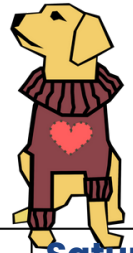
The word of the month for February is "connection." We want to continue to advocate for meaningful, face-to-face interactions. As aschool, we prioritize students being able to spend time together, learning, playing, and growing. We also want to have discussions about being intentional with technology -finding ways to use it effectively. Kaylee Low, one of our Sunnyside parents, will be doing apresentation titled, "Intentional with Tech" on February 6th from 6:30-7:30. We would love for you to join us! I think it will be an informative and interesting evening.

As I have mentioned earlier, we are piloting anew project with our report cards this year. We are replacing most of the specific comments on the report card with additional face-to-face meetings. Towards the end of February (tentatively February 27th), we will have our student-led conferences. This is agreat evening and an opportunity for you to come to the school and have your child share what they have been learning. Please plan on attending -this is an important part of your child's school experience and they love to share with you!

We are also busy putting the finishing touches on the greenhouse, getting it ready to go for March. The exterior beds are being built and will be installed in the next few weeks and we are ordering materials for the heating/cooling pond, the shelving, and grow lights. The hope is that the space will be fully functional at the beginning of March -and teachers can start utilizing it for growing and extra learning space! Once everything is in place, we will probably host agrand opening (more details to follow).

I hope you all have agreat month of February. Thank you for supporting this wonderful little school. It really is agreat place for your children to learn and grow! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mitchell Van Dyk



# February 2025

| Sunday | Monday                                                          | Tuesday                                                              | Wednesday                             | Thursday                                                        | Friday                                                                  | Saturday                                         |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                 |                                                                      |                                       |                                                                 |                                                                         | 1                                                |
| 2      | 3<br>Hot Lunch<br>Beef on a Bun<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45 | 4                                                                    | 5<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45     | 6<br>School assembly<br>8:45 am<br>Dress like your teacher day! | 7<br>Alice in Wonderland at Coaldale Prairie Winds School (11:00-12:00) | 8                                                |
| 9      | 10<br>Hot lunch lasagna<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45         | 11                                                                   | 12<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45    | 13<br>Skating at the labor club                                 | 14                                                                      | 15                                               |
| 16     | 17<br>Family day, no school for staff or students               | 18<br>No school for staff or students                                | 19<br>No school for staff or students | 20<br>Teachers convention, no school for students               | 21<br>Teachers convention, no school for students                       | 22                                               |
| 23     | 24<br>Hot lunch<br>Hot dogs<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45     | 25<br>School council meeting<br>4Pm<br>Grade 1/2 going to Pavan park | 26<br>Mini Basketball<br>3:30-4:45    | 27<br>Student led conferences (Tentative)                       | 28                                                                      | Looking ahead<br>Ski trip grade 5/6<br>March 4th |



## Help Shape the Future of Education with Palliser School Division

The Palliser School Division Board of Trustees is embarking on an exciting journey to shape the future of education for its students, staff, and communities. This year, the Board will continue developing a strategic vision that will guide the Division for the next four to five years. This thoughtful process is designed to assess the current state of the Division, realign priorities, and determine a clear, lasting impact that will benefit all stakeholders.

The Board's commitment to this vision underscores their dedication to ensuring that every Palliser student is supported in achieving their full potential. By evaluating the Division's strengths and addressing areas for improvement, the Board aims to create a unified roadmap that will guide decisions and inspire success across all schools. The process will also emphasize accountability, with clear goals and progress markers that keep the Division moving forward and celebrating milestones along the way.

To ensure that the strategic plan reflects the diverse needs of the Palliser community, the Board is inviting input from parents, caregivers, current students, graduates, staff, business leaders, and community partners. Engagement opportunities will include both in-person focus groups and online surveys, ensuring accessibility for all who wish to contribute.

The public engagement sessions have been scheduled across three locations with staggered times to provide greater scheduling flexibility and accommodate various needs.

- **February 12, 6:00 PM –9:00 PM** : Vulcan
- **February 13, 1:00 PM –4:00 PM** : Coalhurst
- **February 13, 6:00 PM –9:00 PM** : Coaldale

[Sign up for in-person collaboration sessions](#)

Seating is limited; invitations will be sent on February 4th, 2025

In addition to these in-person sessions, online surveys will be shared soon to gather even broader feedback. The Board encourages everyone in the community to participate and help shape the strategic direction of the Division.

[Complete our community survey here](#)

The Board thanks all participants for their important role in shaping the future of education in Palliser School Division.

SUNNYSIDE  
school council  
presents

# INTENTIONAL *with* TECH

A research-based exploration of ideas for healthier tech habits & meaningful connection within our families.



Speaker:  
**Kaylee Low**

NIDHW Certification in  
Tech Addiction & Digital Health

All parents invited to attend:

**Thursday, February 6**  
**6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

Sunnyside School  
93075 Range Rd 21-2, Lethbridge County  
Q & A to follow

**LEARN ABOUT:**

- Effects of excessive screen time on the developing brain.
- Potential risks & solutions to navigate social media & video game addiction.
- Combat screen time by strengthening the parent-child relationship.

# Making Connections

The word of the month for January has been 'Responsibility'. This month, classes were challenged to showcase their abilities to be responsible in a task that required multiple different responsibilities depending on their role in the task. Whether it was stepping into a leadership role with communication or a listening role that focused on details of the task.

It is evident that our students take pride in their responsibilities here at Sunnyside. And are eager to continue to practice and show growth in their responsibilities as they venture through the grades.

Stay Tuned: February is all about being unplugged and getting connected to those around us.



## Community Resources:

A reminder that the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) in Coaldale offers a range of supports and programs for youth and adults. <https://fcss.ca/>

## Learning Commons News

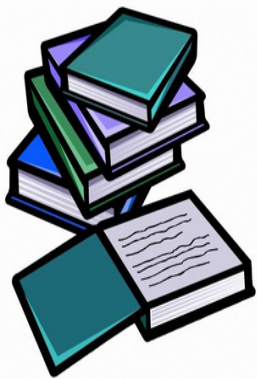
Thank you to everyone for supporting the book fair and purchasing items from the Scholastic flyers. We sold \$2864 which gave us \$800 in free books for the Learning Commons. The monthly flyer rewards go directly to your child's classroom teacher to use to enhance their classroom library.

Congratulations to the winners of the book fair draw...Winnie Davis and Mrs.Klassen !

Another thank you goes out to everyone that has been donating books, games, puzzles and various craft/building materials to the Learning Commons. Those items are greatly appreciated by all the students.

Book Exchange Days:

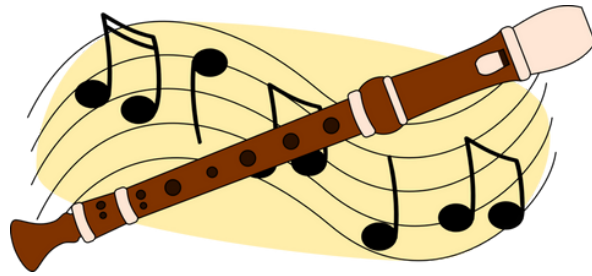
K/1/2- Tuesdays, 3/4- Wednesdays, 5/6-Thursdays



Happy reading!

Mrs. Hancock

# Music/Fine Arts



This year again, I would like to play recorders with students in grades 3-6. If your child has one from last year, please bring it to school as soon as possible, labelled with your child's name. If your child does not have a recorder, I am happy to purchase recorders in bulk for cost savings, and then students will have it to keep at the end of the unit. Please keep an eye out for the option to purchase on School Cash Online. Recorders will cost \$5 each Plus transactional fee. Orders are due no later than February 14, so we can start the unit after February break. Thanks!

# Sunnyside Early Learning Program

This month we had a great time learning about Possums. Did you know they only live for 2 years, they will play dead when scared, and they keep their young in their pouch like kangaroos. We focused on hibernation and migration.

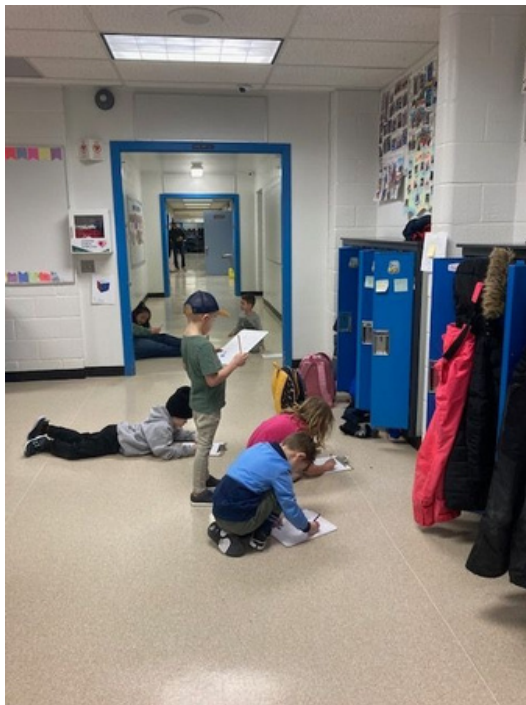




## January in Kindergarten

We had abusy month in Kindergarten! We enjoyed the beautiful weather, played basketball in gym, read so many good books and explored all the 2D/3D shapes around us. We enjoyed the school wide skating field trips and all the excitement of the new year!





# Grade 1/2 News - Mrs. Slusar

We are off to a great start to 2025! The students have been busy working on small moments stories and How To books focussing on how to give detailed instructions. They continue reading daily from their book bins using strategies that they have learned through the Secret Stories program and daily lessons. In math students have completed a unit on geometry and are practicing adding and subtracting skills. We look forward to spending more time on some of these subjects for the month of February as well. They have enjoyed two days of skating and we will be skating one more time on Feb. 13th from 9:30-10:30 at the Labor Club.

We will be having a small Valentine's Day celebration on February 14. Students are encouraged to write a Valentine card for every student in the class. They love opening the cards and reading the messages from their friends. The students will come home with a class name list shortly to help assist them with their cards.

Students will be off for the week of February 17-21 due to Family Day and Teacher's Convention.

We are scheduled for Pavan Park Feb. 25 from 9-12. Please let me know if you are interested and able to help us on this day.

Thank you for all of your support! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Mona Slusar





# Grade 1/2 News -Mrs. Klassen

January Newsletter -Grade 1/2 Mrs. Klassen

January has been full of lots of active, hands-on learning and activities! Here is a glimpse of the great work we have been up to!



We continue to enjoy the sunshine outdoors, even in January! A huge thank you to parents and grandparents who volunteer their time for our Pavan Parek outings. We made "sound maps" of the coulees as part of our Science unit.



Our Makerspace and Wellness time have been full of pom-pom making! We are always taking yarn donations too!



We are reading more and more all the time! I am so proud of the reading growth we are seeing in grade 1/2!



Exploring sound and light in Science with lots of experiments and discoveries!

## What's Happening in 3/4J

What a wonderful month to start 2025! It was lovely to see our student's faces come back smiling and eager to get right back to learning! We have some exciting adventures like skating and growing some bean plants!

**Math:** The Grade 3's turned our attention to addition and subtraction strategies, while our Grade 4's have done the same, but being able to use those same strategies with decimals.

**Reading:** We are continuing to read "The Wild Robot" and working on our comprehension skills. It has been great reviewing the strategies and students being more confident in their understanding of the book!

**Writing:** We began our Informative Article unit by choosing a topic we knew quite a lot about already. We then researched more about it and are learning how to organize it into paragraphs and article format.

**Social Studies:** We have moved onto our unit of Cultures and History of Alberta. We are starting to look at the First Nations peoples and how they've interacted with settlers to help create the Alberta we have today. We are having some amazing discussions about the different historical places we have here in Southern Alberta. If you are interested in these discussions, please let me know and we can chat more about it!

**Science:** We continue to explore how plants function best and some of their different characteristics. It was wonderful to see how connected our students are to nature and their understanding of the topic is very strong! We are also growing bean plants without any soil, but with lots of water and sunlight!

**PE:** We are learning about the different aspects of basketball, like dribbling, passing, and shooting. We want them to be comfortable with the ball and give them techniques to become more confident in the sport.



# February 2025 Grade 3/4 –Mrs. Hudey



We are off to a great start in 2025! The weather has been amazing and we have enjoyed time outside playing in the snow and skating on the outdoor rink!

Here's a few things that we have been working on in class:

**MATH** -We are adding and subtracting large numbers, skip counting and starting our multiplication unit. Students have enjoyed a variety of problem solving tasks where they collaborate and solve in small groups.

**LA**- We are currently reading a variety of fiction specifically focusing on story elements of plot, setting, character development and theme. Our class is currently enjoying *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. We have had thoughtful discussions and insightful predictions about the adventures of Roz! Our reading goal this month is to read 20 minutes each night to improve accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

**SS**- We are learning about the Regions of Alberta and what makes them unique.



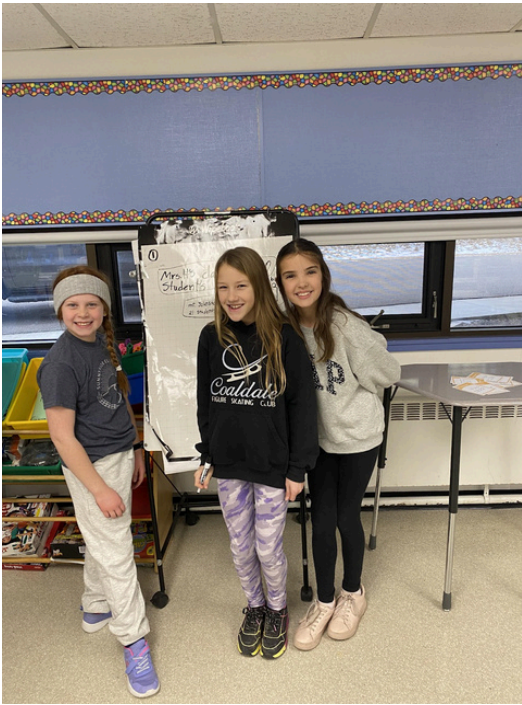
**SC**- We are wrapping up our Unit on Living Systems -

students have enjoyed learning about plants, animals and the importance of their environment.



SKATING FUN!





Math tasks! Team work!



Kindergarten Reading Buddies

Art –Hot air balloons -  
Line and color focus!





# GRADE 5 NEWS

February Newsletter

## A NOTE FROM YOUR TEACHER:

Students are working working hard in all subjects and learning a lot! In Math, we are wrapping up our unit on multiplication and long division and will begin fractions next. In Science, students are completing their Forces and Energy unit, with an Energy Expo coming to us on Thursday from Inside Education. They also enjoyed the trip to Taylor Aerodome to see small planes in real life. In LA, students completed their descriptive writing unit with a real estate brochure trying to sell a gingerbread house in a saturated market. Their word choices were FABULOUS!

## AROUND THE CLASSROOM:



## OUR LEARNING:



## January Newsletter Grade 6

Phew! I can't believe January is over! What a quick month. I have a feeling February will feel even faster. Here is a quick recap of January and what is to come in February in Grade 6.

**Math:** Students are just finishing off their number sense units, with representing numbers in various forms: fractions, ratios, decimals and percents. Students will have one last opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of these concepts in a unit test in February. Students also continue to work on all their basic operations and solving skills within each unit. Our next unit will be Algebra.

**LA:** Students are in the middle of listening to the novel *Home of the Brave* as a class. They are also involved in a small group book club, where they are reading a shared novel with a small group of peers. They spend time each day reading, discussing and writing about the key literary concepts in their novels. In writing, we are working on our third essay. They are writing a literary essay based on *The Panyee Football Club*. I am hoping to do one more essay before moving onto non-fiction in March.

**Science:** We are in the middle of our Energy unit in science. Students have been looking at external and internal forces and their impact on various items. From building catapults to timing cars traveling down ramps, students have been hands-on this term. We also have a visit from Inside Education to help us learn about the Energy sector in Alberta, and we will do some further research following our presentation.

**Social:** We have just finished our unit on Athens and will now move into looking at another example of democracy - the Iroquois Confederacy. We will spend time learning about their systems of government and the various roles in their society before comparing and contrasting the three systems of government. Students will have opportunities for some more decision-making role plays, and create some Wampum belts as well.

### Important dates coming up:

Skating - February 13th morning

Reading Week - no school February 17-21

Ski Trip - March 4th

