



PEACE HIGH HERALD

EXPERIENCE THE SUCCESS!

Peace River School Division #10

March - April 2019

Issue 6



Storytelling at Springfield

This issue

Administration P.1 - P.4

Information/Events P.5 - P.7

Athletics P.8



Principals Message

P.1

We would like to thank all of the students and parents that filled out the annual Accountability Survey. The results from this survey allow us to get a good look at what is needed to improve in our school community. Your input matters to us, and we are appreciative of the feedback that we receive, both positive and critical. These results will be posted in our Three Year Education Plan in November of this coming school year on our school website.

One of the common concerns and topics of conversation lately is Vaping. Throughout the last couple of years we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of personal vaping devices. We attempting to provide more information to parents and students about the risks of vaping and our division schools have had discussions about how we can support the information and resources available to our school communities. The use of personal vaping devices are treated the same as smoking cigarettes in schools. We ask that no students use any of these devices on school property, including in the school parking lot. Through education and discussion I am sure that we can have a good understanding of the reasons for these devices to not be permitted on our school property.

For more information about the risks of vaping , please go to the Government of Canada website at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping/risks.html>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school and we would be happy to have a conversation.

Thank you

Mark Owens
Principal



Superintendent's Message

School Improvement in Peace River School Division Schools

On behalf of Peace River School Division, I am happy to share survey data from our students, parents and staff that reveal high levels of satisfaction in our school division in the area of school improvement.

The October 2018 Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Report (APR) data shows that 87.5% of our students, staff and parents feel

that our schools have improved.

Specifically, when students were asked if they are proud of their school and if they would recommend their school to a friend, 84 percent of students agreed. 81.4 percent of our parents and 93.8 percent of our staff agree that their school has improved in the past three years. I am also pleased to share that PRSD's score in the area of school improvement exceeds provincial averages and has been given the highest possible rating of "very high", "improved significantly" and "excellent".

The APR is provided by Alberta Education and serves as a "report card" for the division. It contains test results, completion and transitional data and results from student, parent and staff surveys.

As I am sure you can appreciate, the definition of school improvement is unique to every person. For some, school improvement means increased academic success, students being provided with a wide variety of options, satisfaction with staffing, technology in the classroom, increased wellness and positive school culture programs, changes to timetables, physical upgrading to schools and athletic equipment.

School improvement encompasses many aspects of a child's educational experience and creates a ripple effect. This ripple effect is clearly noted as we have also experienced increases in several measures such as Safe and Caring, Program of Studies, Drop Out Rate, Diploma: Acceptable, Diploma: Excellence, Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate, Transition Rate (6yr), Education Quality, Work Preparation, Citizenship and Parental Involvement. [You can view the one page summary of PRSD's report here.](#) We celebrate these great results with you and thank you for your partnership in education. It truly does take a community to raise a child and we appreciate your contributions that are clearly helping with continuous improvement in our schools – thank you.

Paul Bennett
Superintendent of Schools
Peace River School Division No. 10



Spotlight on Safety – Sun Safety

Summer time means sunshine and warm weather! In the midst of enjoying our time outdoors it is important to keep safety at the forefront of our planning. Heat-related illness can happen easily, especially when participating in physical activities during hot weather. The best defense is prevention. Avoid sunburn by covering up, using sunscreen and dressing in lightweight, light-colored clothing. Hydration is important – be sure to drink plenty of water and take frequent rest breaks. Ensure that young children are well supervised and have opportunity to recharge. With our long summer days it is easy to get caught up in outside time!

Please visit <http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/heat-related-emergencies--staying-cool-and-hydrated-in-canadian-summers> for more detailed information regarding sun safety.

PRSD Safety Advisory Committee

School Council



Peace High hosted the last Joint School Council meeting of the year on Tuesday, April 16. At this meeting, we had an update from Trustee Crystal Owens on Peace River School Division business and Health Promotion Facilitator Tammy Novak on current healthy initiatives that the school division and Alberta Health are working on. Currently there is a focus on Staff Wellness, and many programs and services are being offered to staff members of PRSD to make sure that they are focused on their own personal wellness. By doing this, staff members are able to work in a positive and caring environment while helping to educate our youth.

For the Joint meeting, we had small group discussions about a great resource available for education about Online Safety. Groups reviewed several resources surrounding online safety, and then brainstormed ideas of how to promote this education in our school communities. Check out our Facebook page for the first post about Screen Addiction. This information could help to promote good conversation about online safety for our children and ourselves.

The last School Council meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30 pm.



SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT LOANS

A very comprehensive website for the majority of Scholarships given out in our region (except for the businesses and groups that award scholarships specifically to Peace River and area residents) can be found on the peace high website homepage under Quick Links or just click [HERE](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We have been promoting the Service Learning Tour to Ecuador since September and have had very few students enroll. In conversations with students and parents the biggest deterring factor is the cost. The trip was just over \$5000.

In conversation with the EF tour guide, she suggested maybe promoting a lower cost trip might get more students involved. The new option is to the Dominican Republic. It is still a Service Learning trip (focus on environmental citizenship), but at a much cheaper price, \$3,454. If students enroll before May 12th they will receive \$100 discount!

There will be a Parent/Student meeting to get more information on May 1st at 6:30 pm at the high school.

For more information please contact Mrs. Scott-Wilkes at (780)-624-4221 or email her at wilkes@prsd.ab.ca and check out <https://www.efours.ca/tour-website/2142060JS>

MEANINGFUL. SUSTAINABLE. UNFORGETTABLE.

Trek into the central highlands of the Dominican Republic where mountainous landscapes, coffee plantations, and alpine pastures stretch as far as the eye can see. Explore the area's rich biodiversity while learning how reforestation and ecotourism efforts have significantly helped replenish the land. As you're immersed in the local culture, you'll work together with non-profits and community members to build sustainable solutions to the conservation, economic, and social challenges they face.

25

Estimated
service hours

YOUR SERVICE PROJECT THEMES

We work with local non-profits to better understand the needs of each community and then focus projects on those issues. Themes include:

- Environmental sustainability
- Youth development
- Responsible tourism



FNMI (FIRST NATION, METIS AND INUIT) NEWS

This spring, Aboriginal Studies 10 students have been meeting course outcomes by getting involved in our community. Students shared stories they had written with students at Springfield and made faceless dolls as a part of learning more about the campaign launched by the Native Women's Association to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women. Students are also being taught about the drum by an elder, Dave Matilpi, each Thursday as a part of our drumming and Hand Games practices.

Our class will be guest drummers for an all grade four Hand Games practice at Springfield as they prepare for our divisional tournament. All Peace High students who are interested in playing Hand Games are welcome to take part in our practices during success block on Thursdays. Our divisional Hand Games tournament that will be held at the Grimshaw multiplex on Friday May 3rd is also open to all interested students. There is also an opportunity to play at a regional Hand Games tournament at the High Prairie Pow Wow held on Saturday May 4th.





MERCER PULP MILL TOUR

The Chemistry 20/Chemistry 30 classes went on a tour of the Mercer pulp mill. We had a talk about careers at the mill and we were able to see the chemical and quality testing they did in the lab. A few informative tour for future careers and to connect what we do in the classroom to the workplace. **Thank you Mercer for the opportunity!**





Athletics

Badminton

The Nomads have had a very successful Badminton season at tournaments and divisionals. Zones are April 27th and provincials are May 3-4th. Good luck to all participants! Thank you to Mr. Jon White and Mlle. Robyn Simoneau for coaching this season.



Track and Field has begun! Practices are being held Monday through Thursday at the track. Please speak to Mrs. Scott-Wilkes or Mrs. Jenny Harpe for more information.



Please follow us on Twitter [@nomadathletics](https://twitter.com/nomadathletics) for updates on schedules and results!



Watch our [school website](#) and [Facebook pages](#) for information!



Our Vision: Preparing Individual Citizens for Tomorrow.

Our Mission: Peace River High School, Experience the Success!

Peace River High School

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<http://www.peacriverhigh.ca/>