



PEACE HIGH HERALD

Experience the Success!

Peace River School Division #10

September 2014

Issue 1



Senior Boys Volley Ball Team

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Principals Message

P.1

With a new year come new beginnings. This is definitely true this year at Peace High with High School Redesign. We began this year introducing our Success teachers and Success blocks, where students were all assigned to a teacher similar to a homeroom. These groups included students in all grades, and they will stay the same all year. The Success teacher has a copy of each student's schedule, and checks in with the students in order to make sure that they are doing ok.

The Success blocks are 55 minutes every day, in the morning between A and B block on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and then in the afternoon between C and D blocks on Tuesday and Thursday. In these blocks students are able to have some choice in what they are in need of working on or getting help.

Teachers are offering things such as scheduled tutorials, open work rooms, extra credit projects, meetings or also scheduling time to meet as a Professional Learning Community with other staff members. What this is providing for the students is time that is flexible as to their individual learning needs and designed to help make them more successful in all classes. This is also providing some student accountability as they have to digitally sign in each day with a Google Form, and view the schedule of availability online on a Google Doc.

It has been an exciting start, and we look forward to more positive updates throughout the year.

Mark Owens
Principal



Superintendent's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome students, staff and parents to Peace River School Division for the 2014-2015 school year.

This will be another year of great opportunity through the current transformation in Alberta's education system known as "Inspiring Education." To support this exciting transformation we have added a Technology Learning Coach and an additional Learning Coach to better support staff, increase student engagement, close gaps in learning and support varying learning styles. We have also increased office manager time in our schools to better serve our

students, staff and families.

Our continuous focus is for all classrooms to be places that students enjoy and thrive in. We are committed to research, exploration and asking our students what engages them so that we are sure to provide them with what they need to reach their full potential. We will continue to welcome technology in the classroom, offer real life learning opportunities and involve the community in order to ensure the curriculum is engaging and relevant for our students in this changing world.

Parents play an important role in education and we welcome, value and appreciate your involvement and input. We understand that parental involvement looks different based on many factors and will continue to ensure parents are informed of ways they can be involved and feel at home in our schools. We look forward to celebrating parents during PRSD's annual "Parents Matter Appreciation Week" this November.

Our staff are committed and passionate individuals that put student needs first and our schools are families that work together as a team. Whether you are a student, staff member, parent or community member, you are an important part of the Peace River School Division family.

Thank you in advance for your support and involvement. We hope that you have enjoyed the summer months and wish students, parents and staff all the best in the 2014-2015 school year.

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





Success Coach

Success Coaches are in Peace River schools!

- **Success Coaches help teachers teach students skills for good mental health.** We spend most of our time working with big groups (like a full class of kids and the teacher). This way, everyone learns and lots of problems are avoided because kids know how to handle life's tough stuff before it happens. Teachers spend the most time with the kids. That's why it's so important that teachers are our partners so they can remind kids to use the mental health skills they have learned.

KIDS

SCHOOL
STAFF

FAMILIES

- **Success Coaches help kids connect to adults.** Kids do best when they have lots of adults supporting them! Success Coaches also work with adults so they have great skills to support the kids they know.

- **Success Coaches help and encourage** kids, families, school staff, community and businesses to work together and build up skills so *everyone* can enjoy good mental health.

COMMUNITY





Pay School Fees Online!



Peace River School Division is pleased to offer you the opportunity to pay student fees electronically!

The new "School Cash Online" program provides a convenient payment option that saves time and is environmentally friendly. You can make secure online payments by credit card anytime and receive a receipt.

Safe. Simple. Secure.

Signing up only takes a few moments! Here is how it works:

1. Go to <https://prsd.schoolcashonline.com> or follow the link in the Parent Portal on our website: www.prsd.ab.ca
2. Take a few minutes to register and create an account for your child(ren).
3. Review and pay your child's fees using direct online payment.

Participating parents will be notified by email of student fees once they register on the School Cash Online website.

School Cash Online provides one-on-one telephone support at:
1-866-961-1803.





School Council

We had our first meeting on September 17, and would look to thank Jennifer Powers for her role as Chair of this year's council, and Jennifer Beaulieu in her role as Secretary. We have our next meeting on October 22 at 6 pm. At this meeting we will be reviewing the start of High School Redesign, and also be reviewing our Accountability Survey, Diploma and Provincial Achievement results in order to get feedback for our three year school plan. We value the input that we receive from parents and the community, and would love to see you at the meeting!

After the meeting we will meet as a Parent Advisory Council, and in this meeting be talking about the upcoming Casino for the Parent's Association on December 3 and 4. One item to discuss that input is needed is where the casino money should be best spent. Previously things like transportation and equipment for our clubs, groups and teams, our vending machines, equipment or furniture needed in the school have been what the money has been spent.



Vaccine consent forms have been mailed for the Grade 9 School Immunization Program. Please complete the forms ASAP and return to Peace River Public Health via the enclosed preaddressed stamped envelope. If you do not receive a consent package, please call the Public Health Office at 780-624-7260.

School Immunizations will begin September 29th, 2014



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 at:

<http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/scholarships/Pages/default.aspx>.

The following are places families should investigate for funding of all kinds:

- Parent/Guardian places of **Employment/Employment Benefit**. Many larger corporations have scholarships for employee's children. Check with the Human Resource office or Union leadership.
- Memberships or relationships with Service clubs and Associations may provide financial support. (e.g. Legion, Masons)
- Aboriginal ancestry can provide financial funding. Families should check with Band Offices, Metis Councils. Most post-secondary institutions have an Aboriginal Liaison Officer. Please check with Ms. Crumpton for more opportunities.
 - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada <http://pse-esd.aincinac.gc.ca/abs>
 - Metis students should go to www.albertametis.com click on MNA scholarships
 - Treaty students can check out www.naaf.ca and www.ammsa.com/ammsabursary.html#anchor1444318
- Local Governments – some local villages and MD's award scholarships
- Check out the following websites for sources on funding in Alberta:
 - www.alis.gov.ab.ca and link to "Student Finance" (loans) OR "scholarships" provided through the Heritage Trust Fund
 - Information for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship is found on this site. The deadline to receive the money by September 1st is **May 1st**.
- www.scholarshipcanada.com has a list of over 31, 000 scholarships available. Create your username and search their database of scholarships.
- The federal government site, www.canlearn.ca (link to save/plan/play) offers aid to parents and students on all aspect of careers, postsecondary and funding (national and international).



League of Leadership

The LOLs are preparing for a great year including

- preparing for Peace High Spirit Week October 14 to 17,
- participating as session leaders at the Everactive Schools Symposium October 22
- welcoming our enthusiastic new members
- and working to promote positivity in our school

Some of our members are applying to earn our way to attend *We Day* in Calgary at the beginning of November. We hope that the experience, which is open to all Peace High students to apply to attend, allows us to share our ideas and to gain some new ideas to work to take action in our local and global communities and to inspire change. If you want to know more about We Day go to <http://www.weday.com/we-day-events/we-day-cities/alberta/>

We are also looking at the leadership and mentoring opportunities available to us in the upcoming year so we can decide what we want to work towards being involved in.





Project Peace

Mental Health Matters, Every Child Counts!

Another school year is here and Project PEACE is back again to provide preventative programming and capacity building to support mental health and wellness for children, families and the community. We are so happy that we have received funding for another three years so that we can continue to provide services through our connections to the schools in the Peace River area. As Project PEACE moves into the next stage of supporting mental health, our work will increasingly focus on fostering partnerships and providing universal programming to ensure that all of our youth have access to relationships, information and skills building opportunities that enhance their mental wellness.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Every Child Counts!!!** No matter how old your child is or what grade they are attending (this applies to our teens just as much as it applies to our little ones), here are some helpful ...*

...ways you can continue to help your child succeed at school...

- ✓ Have a routine and stick to it - regular times for bedtimes, homework, and regular meals are important for us all!
- ✓ Communicate regularly with your child's teachers, not just at report card times - make telephone calls, send emails, and visit the school!
- ✓ Find ways to get your child to read for pleasure at least 3 hours per week - magazines, books, comics, even shopping catalogues make great reading options!
- ✓ Encourage your child to feel connected with the school through involvement in extra-curricular activities/groups - the more we feel we belong to something, the more confident we feel about ourselves!
- ✓ Make sure your child eats a good breakfast and brings a healthy lunch every day - our bodies need regular fuelling to run properly!

Project PEACE is one of 37 projects in a province-wide Mental Health Capacity Buildings in Schools Initiative. The Initiative is funded by AHS - Addiction and Mental Health, in partnership with Alberta Education and other partners and community agencies. For more information please contact: Linda Srevens, Project PEACE Success Coach at Peace River High School (780) 624 4221 or stevenli@prsd.ab.ca



Athletics

Welcome back to another season of Nomad Athletics!

Cross-Country

The cross-country team has been practicing for the last few weeks for their race on October 8th in High Level. They have been running before and after school as well as in success block. Some of the team also ran during our Terry Fox event on September 24th. Good luck to the team!



Football

The Pioneers Football team started the year 1 win and 3 losses. With the last win they hope to be building some confidence going into the game in Grande Prairie against the Peace Wapiti Academy Titans on Thursday. The Mighty Peace Football League consists of 8 teams this year, and the top 4 teams will play off at the end of October for the Peace Bowl, and the 5th through 8th place teams play off for the Athabasca Bowl.



Volleyball

Jr. Girls

The Jr. girls have played in two tournaments so far, at TA Norris and in Fairview at the Kodiak Classic. Our small team of 8 players have been practicing hard and have three more tournaments, Oct 3-4 in Spirit River, October 10-11 in Grande Prairie and Oct 31-Nov 1 at the Jr. Nomad Invitational here at Peace High. They will compete in zones in Sexsmith on November 28-29.



Sr. Boys & Girls

Our Sr. Boys team has had a successful tournament schedule so far, with a gold medal in Spirit River, a strong showing in Grande Prairie and some tough losses in Spruce Grove. Keep up the great effort gentlemen!

Our Sr. Girls have also had some strong tournaments, with playoff runs in each of the three tournaments so far, including an exciting

tie break match to make the playoffs in Spruce Grove.

Both teams are looking forward to a tournament in Whitecourt on Oct 3-4, a well-deserved weekend off at Thanksgiving, then tournaments in Fort. St. John for the girls and Morinville for the boys. After that, they are in Fairview, reffing at the Jr.

Nomad and Peace Classic is November 7-8th. The girls will head to La Crete the week after for zones, while the boys go to High Prairie. Both teams would like to thank their season sponsors for all of their support!



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



What's New?

The Be Your own Boss or **"BYOB" Program** will be offered by Peace River High School staff, Project PEACE staff and other partners from within social and health service agencies in the community. The program is a self-management and resiliency skills building program offered in a supportive group setting. It is set up for adolescents living with chronic health conditions, across all of the aspects that make up "health" - physical, mental and social/emotional.

The **Fourth R Plus "Healthy Relationships"** program will be incorporated into Grade 9 Health Classes through Project PEACE Success Coaches working with classroom teachers to facilitate learning. The Fourth R sessions uses interactive learning to teach skills to promote safer decision-making with peers and dating partners. The program focusses on relationship issues and pressures in early adolescence and targets health promotion through making use of youths' interest in learning about lifestyle issues.



Thank you to Peace County Coop

For supporting Peace High student nutrition and learning



Thank you to Dominos Pizza

for providing Pizza for our Knowmad and incoming students Meet and Greet

Improving learning through offering healthy breakfast and snack options is being promoted through having **Toast Program** (to be renamed soon by students) available. Project PEACE provided toasters to the school and through the sponsorship of Peace County Coop, bread and spreads are provided daily for students who may have missed having a morning meal. Peace High will also begin adding additional snack items, such as fresh fruit, for students.

The **"Know"mad mentors**, incoming Grade 9 students and new students to Peace High had a Meet and Greet lunch in September to get to know each other's faces and to find out what "Knowmad" support might look like. In October, Knowmads will begin touching base with their Grade 9 buddies and will be available to new students to Peace High. Their role is to help new students feel connected to the school and to help with questions they may have about the school, available activities, community contacts....whatever.



★ R@NDOMS! ★



Watch our [school website](#) and [Facebook pages](#) for upcoming 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.peaceriverhigh.ca/>