



January 17, 2022

Hello to our Duffield Community:

I hope that you all had a relaxing break and I wish everyone the very best in 2022!

We are looking forward to a wonderful School Council meeting tomorrow evening and I have included the meet link and agenda below:

<https://meet.google.com/bxh-hyhb-jiu?hs=122&authuser=0>

📅 Agenda-School Council Meeting January 18, 2022

What is happening at Duffield School?

Kindergarten Open House: February 16, 2022

We are very excited to meet our new Kindergarten students who will join Duffield in September 2022. Please continue to monitor the school website to learn about the details of our Open House. At this point, I am anticipating a virtual event but will share specifics through messenger and also on our school website.

Staffing Updates:

We would like to welcome Ms. Hughes, who will be teaching our Grade 7 and Grade 9 Math and Science classes for the remainder of this school year. She has really become a wonderful part of the Duffield community already and we are happy to have her.

In addition, Mrs. Lande will be working in Grade 1 /2 for the remainder of the school year. The students are loving her as a teacher and we really appreciate that we were able to keep Mrs. Lande on our staff for the rest of the year!

Literacy and Numeracy Intervention:

We are very excited about the progress we are making with our Literacy Intervention in Grade 2 and Grade 3. We will continue with this intervention but will also add Grade 1 Literacy Intervention and Grade 1-2-3 Numeracy Intervention beginning January 24. A huge thank you to Ms. Nesbitt, Ms. Gyorgy, and also Ms. Spencer for taking on this really important work for our students!!

Basketball:

Parkland School Division is following the guidelines established by the province regarding extracurricular sports and therefore, we have been able to continue with basketball games, without spectators, for the time being.

Play Parkland:

We were anxiously anticipating the start of Play Parkland for our Grade 3-6 students but have had to postpone the starting because of the transportation requirements set out by the government regarding COVID restrictions. While we know that students ride buses to and from school, the government is recommending that students are not being transported in multiple cohorts to field trips or school activities while Omicron is so prevalent. I am hoping that we will see a decline in cases by the beginning of February so that we can continue with Play Parkland activities.

Covid Restrictions and Updates on Masking:

Omicron has created some new and difficult situations for the public and we are trying to be very proactive with measures set out by the Alberta government, as well as Alberta Health. Please refer to our website or to the Alberta Health website for further information regarding new COVID restrictions. One of the most significant changes is in the wearing of masks for all students Grade 4-12 and all staff. Students and staff must be wearing masks at all times with opportunities for breaks when feasible. We also strongly recommend that students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 are wearing masks whenever possible. Teachers have been using the first week of school as an opportunity to teach about the appropriate use of masks and how to ensure they are used properly.

As we settle back into our daily routines following the Winter Break, we'd like to draw your attention to some changes to the provincial health measures that will have a direct impact on schools. These changes are summarized in the Division's updated [Stay at Home Guide](#). Please keep your child home if they are ill so we can all do our part to keep our school community healthy, safe and so we can remain open.

As more of the general population becomes fully vaccinated, this will play a factor in how soon your child may return to school following a legally required isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test. Fully vaccinated individuals only need to isolate for 5 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

PLUS a new measure includes 5 days of wearing a mask at all times when around others at school. We can work with families to help facilitate this upon a student's return to class. Those partially vaccinated or not vaccinated students remain legally required to isolate for 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, before returning to school.

For all the latest including links to the latest Guidance for Schools, please visit the PSD [COVID-19 Info page](#).

We were anticipating our COVID rapid test kits and also masks for students last week. Unfortunately, there were some supply shortages and therefore, we continue to wait for the kits to arrive. I appreciate the fantastic response from families to let me know that you are interested/not interested in having test kits sent home. As soon as they arrive, we will promptly distribute them to the youngest child in your family, if you wanted the kits sent home.

Upcoming dates:

- ❖ January 31, 2022 - PD DAY for staff; Students not in attendance
- ❖ February 4, 2022 - Alberta Winter Walk Day
- ❖ February 10-11, 2022 - Teachers' Convention; Students not in attendance
- ❖ February 16, 2022 - Kindergarten Open House
- ❖ February 18, 2022 - PD DAY for staff; Students not in attendance
- ❖ February 21, 2022 - Family Day

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this message. Know that I am available for conversations at any time to discuss any concerns or celebrations you may have. I look forward to the next month with your children!!

Respectfully,

Cherie Lovsund