



## **PATERSON PRESS** "All the news that's fit to print!" Nov. 27 – PARENT UPDATE

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are sad to see our grade 7/8 students heading home prior to the holidays during a time where we all want to be together and celebrating the season. We have been working this week on preparing for our transition to at home learning for our grade 7/8 students. As stated in the November 25<sup>th</sup> communication, the grade 6 students will remain in at school learning until the Christmas break. The last day of classes prior to Christmas for all learners is Thursday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. After the break during the week of Jan 4-8<sup>th</sup>, all students will be learning from home. At this time, the Government will make a decision regarding the return to at school learning.

Please note that on **Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>**, there will be **NO at home classes for grade 7/8 students in all Division Middle Schools**. Teachers will be finalizing their preparations for at home learning and communicating details with students and parents. **At home learning classes will commence on Tues. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**All grade 6 students will attend school as regular on Monday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**. We will communicate further prior to Christmas regarding plans for grade 6 at home learning that commences Monday Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Students will receive instruction and learning materials through the Teams platform and will also have their textbooks at home. With all grade 7-12 students working from home at this time, we realize there will be challenges for some families with the number of devices available for all children in the home. We have also found success in quarantine situations by having regularly scheduled, predictable class meetings for students. As a result, we want to continue with a consistent timetable of the 4 core subjects and PE/Health that mirrors the student's current timetable and allows us to take attendance.

We have communicated to the students that if they have device conflicts that don't allow them to make a particular class meeting, they should message their teacher so that they know. If a child is marked absent, please note that it reflects they were not in the class but if this communication is made and the student engages, accesses the work and tries their best, we will work with them to assess their learning in a fair, positive manner. We want to ensure all students have a positive experience. Student work will be assessed through formative comments as well as summative grades. If you do not have any devices in the home require paper packages, please contact your child's teacher.

This weekend, be sure your child accesses Teams from home if they have not already this year. Grade 7/8 students will receive timetable information from their teachers Monday and invites to their Team meetings for Tuesday AM. As always, communication and feedback will help us meet the needs of your child. Thank you for your involvement and support. Take care and be well.

Sincerely,  
Darryl Christiansen - Principal

- **THE LOOP – December Edition** – Please see the School Division wellness newsletter attached to this email. It has many valuable community resources and services for families.

- **TERM 1 Completion** – Term 1 ended on November 20 with teachers using the week following to update grades and comments on PowerSchool. Just a reminder that there is no formal report card issued at the end of term 1. Parents are encouraged to check the ongoing, live reporting for comments and grades beginning Monday Nov. 30th. You will receive a reminder next week **If you have not registered for PowerSchool, please do so. If you require assistance, please let the office know and we will help set you up.**
- **COUNSELLING** – The Wellness Team will once again be offering ways for you to help our local families during the holiday season:
 

**Paterson Family Holiday Hampers Food Drive.** Our Team will select one family from each grade that could benefit from a Holiday Hamper filled with food to help sustain them through the holiday break. We gratefully ask students to bring in a non-perishable food donation from the list in their classrooms from November 30-December 8 and place it in the bin at their entry door. Thank you, in advance, for helping to support our Paterson school community. Grade 6 students are invited to donate at school during this time by dropping off items in the bins at their doors. For our grade 7/8 students at home, we invite any interested families to drop off food in the blue bins at our front doors during school hours.

**Angel Tree Program** - We are proud to again support Lethbridge Family Services Angel Tree program. "Angel" tags highlighting a local, anonymous child in need of a gift for the holidays are now available from Ms. Oviatt in the counselling office. Students are welcome to ask their teacher if they can see Ms. Oviatt to take a tag or have one dropped off at their class and then bring an unopened gift (with tag) back to the school to be donated. Due to COVID-19 this year, gifts will be dropped off by the students only, as we are not allowing parents or other community members in the building. If you prefer not to shop, there is an ONLINE donation option for the Angel Tree program at <https://www.lfsfamily.ca/content.php?p=88>. Your previous support with this program has been amazing!

If there are any families that are finding they need extra support with items such as food, clothing, or holiday items, please call or email our Teacher Counsellor: Christine Oviatt 403-329-0125 or [christine.oviatt@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:christine.oviatt@lethsd.ab.ca).
- **GPMS Holiday Christmas Tree Project** – Even with our Gr. 7/8 students heading home next week, we will complete as many trees as possible and share them with community groups and charities. We will share the results of this project upon completion. We thank you for donations to help defray the cost and any extra funds will go to the Lethbridge Food Bank.
- **REMINDER: No School for students on Friday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** – As per the email home this week with the letter from Dr. Gilmore, there are no classes on Friday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> due to an increase in instructional hours relating to bussing for this school year.

**December Dates – We want both at school and at home students to participate!**

- Monday Nov. 30 – Gr. 6 in school classes continue, no at home learning for Gr. 7/8 classes
- Tuesday Dec. 1 – Gr. 7/8 at home learning commences
- Nov. 30-Dec. 8 – Paterson Food Drive (see above)
- 4 – Plaid Day – wear your True North plaid styles!
- 11- Red and Green Spirit Day – show your holiday spirit!
- 15 – Christmas Sweater/T-shirt Day – we want to see your tackiest!
- 17 – PJ Day and last day of at school and at home learning
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> no classes for students or staff, holiday break commences
- Monday Jan 4 – all students resume classes at home – more info prior to the break
- Jan 4-8 – at home learning