



PATERSON PRESS “All the news that’s fit to print!” Jan 4-15 PARENTS

<p><u>Monday Jan. 4</u> Happy New Year! All students in at home learning Jan 4-8 No classes for grade 6 today. Gr. 7/8 students have regularly scheduled at home classes today</p>	<p><u>Tuesday Jan. 5</u> Grade 6 at Home Learning classes begin At home learning continues for all grades until Jan. 8 – Gov’t to announce the direction for learning for Jan.11 this week</p>	<p><u>Wednesday Jan. 6</u></p>	<p><u>Thursday Jan. 7</u></p>	<p><u>Friday Jan. 8</u></p>
<p><u>Monday Jan 11</u></p>	<p><u>Tuesday Jan. 12</u></p>	<p><u>Wednesday Jan 13</u></p>	<p><u>Thursday Jan. 14</u></p>	<p><u>Friday Jan. 15</u> Parent Teacher interview requests for Jan 28-29 open 8AM</p>

Have you registered for:

- PowerSchool?** <https://ps.lethsd.ab.ca/public/>
- School Cash Online?** <https://lethbridge.schoolcashionline.com/>
- Safe Arrival?** <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>

If you have not registered for **PowerSchool**, please contact our office. PowerSchool allows you to track grades, attendance and receive e-report cards. Please register! **School Cash Online** lets you pay for any fees, activities or school gear easily and hassle free. **Safe Arrival** lets you easily report a student absence through the website, toll free number (866-879-1041) or mobile app. If you have any questions or need assistance, call Leanna or Jennifer in the office at 403-329-0125. **Please update any changed contact information for your child or family with our office.** Check out our website at <http://gp.lethsd.ab.ca/> or follow us on twitter @GilbertPaterson for more information on school happenings.

Dear GPMS Families,

We wish all of you a safe, happy and restful holiday season. We know it will not be what we are hoping for and we will miss out on opportunities to share time with family and friends and other adventures. Despite all the challenges of CoVid, we wish you all the best for a safe, happy holiday with those who are close to you. Be well!

- **School Council** – The next meeting is Mon. Jan. 18th at 7 PM on ZOOM. Information on how to sign up will be sent out after Christmas. If you were part of our November meeting, you will automatically receive the invite. Watch for more information regarding the School Division Town Hall on Feb. 2nd in the New Year and on the Division website.
- **Parent /Teacher Interviews – Jan 28/29** – We will conduct our next set of interviews through Teams or with a phone call. We will have more information in the New Year regarding the sign up and procedures.
- **TERM 1 HONORS** – Congratulations to all Term 1 honors students. Our honors list will be posted on the bulletin board in the large gym showcase and honor roll letters will be passed out in the new year to all recipients when students return. Thank you to all students for your hard work!
- **Grade 7/8 Shout Out!** We are so proud of our grade 7/8 students and their commitment and participation in at home learning during the month of December. They have been nothing short of amazing. We thank parents for their support and encouragement of their students as well. The at home platform is challenging for students and teachers alike as they try to maintain the same level of instruction and connectivity that they have in person. Despite the challenges, we have seen many successes but we still hope the at home learning stint in the new year is a short one. Great job grade 7/8 students!

- **Virtual Guest Lessons** - As part of our Friday wellness moments, our grade 6 classes had two presenters connect with them via Zoom. **Alison Lux**, Alberta Mental Health consultant, has been working with our grade 6 classes on a variety of wellness strategies especially when dealing with change. Doing mindfulness strategies and acknowledging the little things we can do every day to bring some wellness into our lives. **Shawnee Big Bull**, our middle school indigenous lead teacher, has been sharing with our grade 6 students the medicine wheel and relating back to wellness. The Indigenous medicine wheel represents the alignment and continuous interaction of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual realities.
- **Dec. 15th message home to grade 6 parents – this was sent home on Tuesday regarding at home learning in January for grade 6** - As you are aware, grade 6 students will be joining grade 7/8 students in accessing at home learning for the first week after the break from Jan. 5-8th. We have been preparing prior to the break for the transition. We expect the Government will make a decision regarding the direction of future learning for all students during this first week of January. Please note that on **Monday January 4th, there will be NO at home classes for grade 6 students in all Division Middle Schools**. Teachers will be finalizing their preparations for at home learning and communicating details with students and parents. Gr. 7/8 students are expected to attend at home classes on Monday Jan. 4th as scheduled. **At home learning classes will commence on Tuesday January 5th for grade 6 students**. Grade 6 students will also receive instruction and learning materials through the Teams platform and will also have their textbooks at home. With all 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 and with our grade 7/8 students 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 class 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. **Grade 6 students will be following their regular schedule that is indicated on Power School for Math, Science, LA, Social and PE. The only exception is that they will not have Activity class; this will be time for them to contact their teachers should they have any questions.** Students will receive scheduling information from their teachers on Monday January 4th and invites to their Team meetings for Tuesday January 5th 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.

Christmas Spirit at GPMS – We have missed having our grade 7/8 students here to share the holiday spirit in person but enjoyed some spirit days with plaid shirts, red and green, Christmas sweaters and PJ's. Santa made some special visits to the classes and crashed some at home lessons. Our staff, students and families supported our community through Angel Tree gifts and holiday food hampers. Thank you to all the families for their holiday gifts and wishes for our school!

Our GPMS Holiday Christmas Tree Project was a great success as we shared 25 Christmas trees with a variety of local charities, organizations and supporters of GPMS including:

Edith Cavell Care Centre, Booster Juice, Major Don Bladen of the Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, LFS Angel Tree, YWCA/Harbour House (will be given to former residents of the shelter who have set up new homes), Lethbridge Soup Kitchen, LFS Immigration Services, U of L, York Creek Lodge, Blairmore AB, Draffin's Pharmasave (displaying the First Responder Tribute tree), City Hall, GPMS Custodial Staff, Southern Alcare Manor, Wholesale Club, Woods Homes/The Core Youth Shelter

Not only were we able to spread some Christmas cheer through the trees themselves, but our call for donations brought in funds that will go back into the community for organizations to help the less fortunate at Christmas. After the purchase of trees and supplies, we were able to donate almost \$200 each to Woods Homes and Harbour House. Thank you for your support! Check out this link to view the trees and their recipients.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9MWjTOzJas&feature=youtu.be>

WE WISH A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY TO ALL OF OUR PATERSON FAMILIES!