

Dixonville School News

September 2021

WELCOME BACK



Dixonville School Vision Statement

To be the first choice in education for our communities students and families

Dixonville School Mission Statement

We foster a safe, caring, and student- centered learning environment where students flourish and develop independence



Special dates

September 28th-
Terry Fox run.

September 29th-
Orange Shirt Day at
Dixonville School

September 30th-
No school (National
Day for Truth and
Reconciliation.

October 4- school
Picture day

October 8- No
school

October 11th- No
School (Thanks
giving)

October 25th- PD
day No school for
students

October 29th-
Halloween Festival

Dixonville School
provides regular
updates and notices
on Facebook!

"LIKE" AND
FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK



Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to Dixonville School for the 2021-2022 school year. I hope you had a great summer and are all ready for a wonderful school year! My name is Britain Olischefski and I am honoured to serve the community of Dixonville as Principal for the upcoming year!

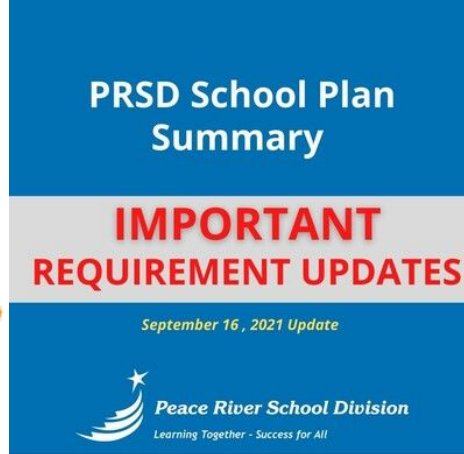
A little background about me - I live with my wife, Kelli, and three children - Charlie (5), Griffin (3) and Violet (18 months) in my wife's hometown of Manning, AB. We moved north from Edmonton in 2017. I have taught at Grimshaw Public School for the past four years. Some of my hobbies include sports, reading and camping. This will be my tenth year working in the teaching profession, but my first year as an administrator. I believe in fostering a love of learning, challenging students academically and helping all students pursue their goals and dreams in order to reach their full potential.

Our Dixonville School teaching and learning team look forward to a superb year of learning and success for all students. There are many familiar faces back at Dixonville School (Mrs. Kathy Woods, Mrs. Cayley Russell, Ms. Cassie Proskurniak, Mrs. Christina Bullen), along with a few new ones (Mr. Britain Olischefski, Mrs. Britney Buchinski, Ms. Signy Pasichnuk, Mrs. Trish Russell) that will support students to discover their talents, skills and unique abilities. We value the importance of providing a safe, caring and student-centered learning environment where students flourish and develop independence.

There will be a lot of exciting things happening at Dixonville School this year. Starting later in September we will take part in Terry Fox Run and Orange Shirt Day activities. We hope to continue with a number of clubs that Dixonville School (Girl Guides) has done in the past and add a few new ones as well (Sports Club). Please reach out if you'd like to volunteer your time for any of these activities!

The start of the school year is always exciting because it's a fresh start for everyone- full of new learning experiences, new opportunities and new challenges. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into the school and community. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you and wish you an excellent start to the school year.





As per the Alberta Government's announcement on September 15, 2021 regarding newly mandated restrictions, **this document has been updated with new information outlined in bold.**

The Peace River School Division (PRSD) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, and we thank our students, parents, staff and school communities for their patience and support as we start the new school year. Continuing learning will require everyone in the PRSD to continue to be nimble in contributing to the safety and success of our school communities.

All parents are required to screen their child for symptoms each day prior to their child attending school by using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). Staff, parents and visitors are also required to screen for symptoms before attending any PRSD school or facility by using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. If you or your child(ren) are not feeling well, please do not attend the school or PRSD facility.

Please be aware that the Peace River School Division will follow the guidance of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Alberta Education School Re-entry Plan. The plan, along with other helpful COVID-19 Response information is posted on our website at prsd.ab.ca under "COVID-19 Response."

Should the nature of the pandemic change, PRSD will follow guidance from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. Alberta Education has developed contingency plans for schools to follow should things change and these plans are outlined in the [Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan](#). Please note that any changes will be communicated to parents in a timely manner. Thank you again for your support, patience and understanding.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures

- PRSD schools will continue to maintain enhanced cleaning measures.
- **Additional disinfecting and cleaning measures will be implemented if there are elevated student and staff absences.**
- PRSD will continue to work with students and staff to promote ongoing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Electrostatic disinfectant fogging machine used in every school two times per week.
- School buses are cleaned twice per day (after the morning and afternoon bus run).

Environmental Measures

- All facilities have a mechanical system that allows for air to be circulated and brings in fresh air from the outside. Fresh air is exchanged at the start of the school day and throughout the day to ensure a safe environment is maintained for students and staff.
- Mechanical systems are maintained on a regular basis, as per the manufacturers operating guidelines, to ensure they are functioning per specifications.
- To supplement our mechanical systems, it is beneficial to open classroom windows to assist in ventilation and fresh air exchange, weather permitting.

Masks

- **Masks are mandatory for all students in grades 4-12.**
- **Masks are strongly recommended for grades K-3 students.**
- **Masks are mandatory for all staff in the school.**
- **Masks are mandatory for all visitors to the school.**
- Masks are mandatory for all students and all staff while riding the school bus.
- Masks will be worn by students, staff and anyone assisting those who have developed respiratory illness symptoms while at school.
- **Masks are not mandatory for students while participating in physical activity or during outside recess time.**
- **Masks are required for all students and staff while singing.**

Cohorting

- **Class cohorting is required for all elementary schools (kindergarten to grade six).**

Physical Distancing

- **Physical distancing measures will be followed in all common areas.**

School Activities

- **Students are not required to mask or maintain two-metre physical distancing during a physical activity such as physical education.**
- **Indoor sports/performance/recreation/special interests for students are permitted with requirements for two-metre physical distancing, where possible.**
- **Large indoor gatherings are no longer permitted.**
- **There are no restrictions on outdoor activities.**

Spectator Attendance

- **To reduce the health risk of students, spectator attendance is not permitted at indoor sporting events.**

Recess

- **Schools will determine if staggered recess times are required.**
- **Masks are not required during outdoor recess time.**

Parent and visitor access to schools

- **Masks are mandatory for all visitors to the school.**
- **Parents and visitors must make prior arrangements before attending the school.**
- **All parents and visitors to the school must screen for symptoms as per the**

[Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) prior to attending the school, and must follow the school's sign-in procedures.



School facility rentals

- **The rental of school facilities is cancelled until further notice.**

Interschool busing

- Interschool busing services will continue.

Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

- The administration of Provincial Achievement Tests will resume and be mandatory per normal practice.
- The administration of Diploma Exams will resume and be mandatory as per normal practice.
- Principals will ensure the focus on instructional time returns to normal to best position students and staff for academic success in all subject areas, and to support enhanced performance on Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams (which are both mandatory this year).

Vaccination clinics in PRSD schools

- School principals will work with AHS to offer vaccination clinics in schools.
- Students aged 12 and older are eligible to receive the vaccination at school with the written consent of their parent or guardian.
- More information regarding vaccinations at schools will be provided to parents by their local school as the information is available.

Isolation and quarantine

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required by AHS to isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started, or until their symptoms have improved, whichever is longer.
- AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts, and quarantine for close contacts is no longer required.
- All Albertans, including those who may be told that they are close contact, are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they are feeling unwell.
- AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.

Virtual Education and Home Education options

- PRSD offers virtual education programming for students in grades 1-12 led by dedicated and skilled virtual education teachers, support staff and PRSD's District Principal.
- PRSD offers both teacher and parent-directed home education programming that is supported by PRSD's Home Education Coordinator and support staff..

Kindergarten



It has been a great start to kindergarten! We have done a lot of learning and exploring in our first few weeks. Over the course of the month, we are focusing on learning the classroom routines and getting to know one another. Students are challenged to partake in class activities independently and with friends. We will be discussing what it means to be a good listener and a good friend. We have begun the Animated Literacy program by discussing the letters P, U, and O. Students are learning to connect letters to sounds as well as blending the sounds together to make words.

In math, our focus this month is on exploring the math manipulatives in the classroom as well as sorting and patterning. We will be exploring and describing patterns found in our environment as well as those we have created.



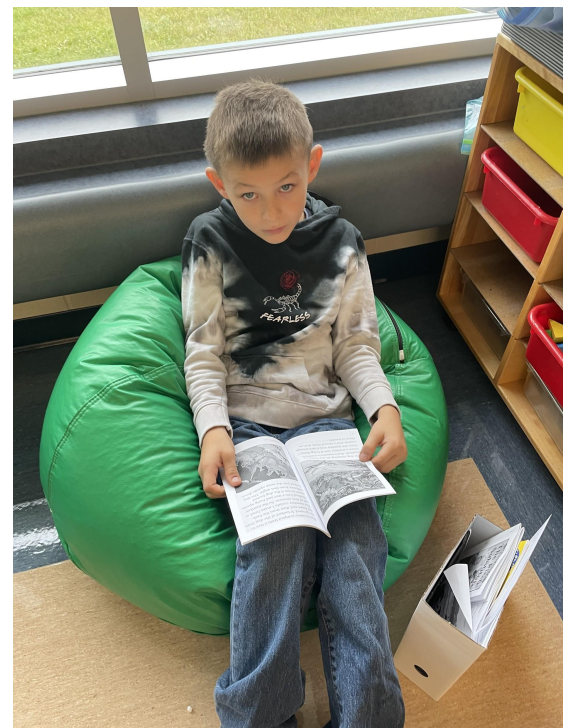
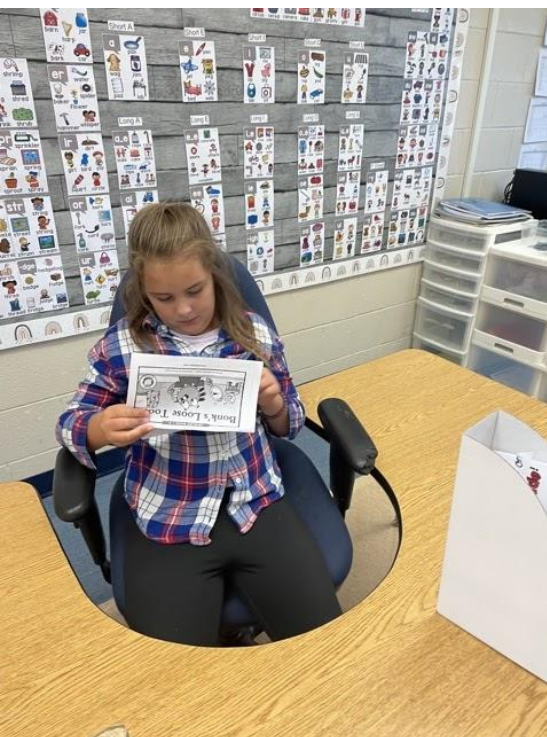
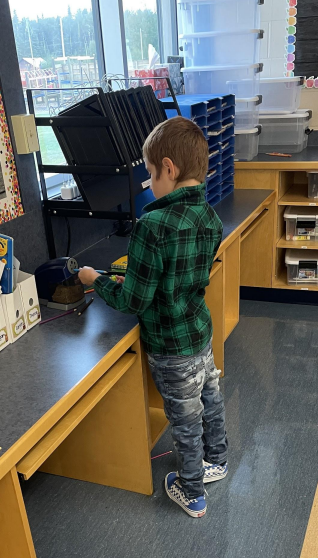


1/2/3



We have been hard at work in the 1/2/3 room, establishing our routines for the year and kicking off each of our units. Science currently is the highlight as we are learning about boats and buoyancy which means we get to play in water and make a mess! We have been working on our independence in Language Arts and have started our small groups for reading and writing. In Math we are focusing on learning our numbers to 20, 100 and 1000! Through a variety of hands on activities and games. In Social Studies this year we will be learning about our community as well as a variety of communities across Canada.



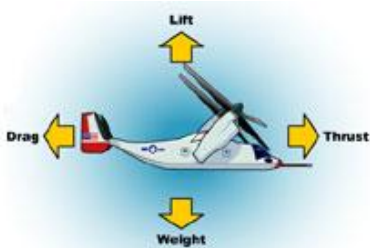




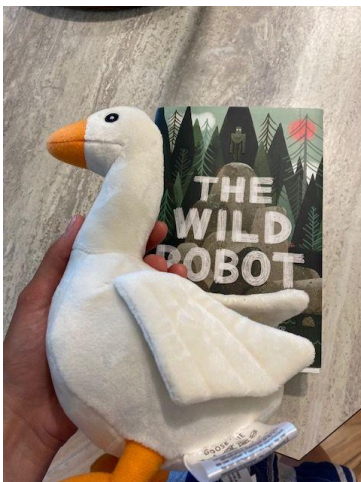
Grade 4/5/6



So far the grade 4/5/6 split class has been creating magic in the classroom. They have established great routines, as well as mastered rinsing out their recycling-- I will take that as a September win!



Science class has been very busy! Grade 4/5 are working on their Weather Watch unit, and wrapping up a slideshow presentation on weather phenomena. Grade 6 students are well into their Aerodynamics unit and are creating posters or presentations on birds, incorporating the four forces of flight.



In Language Arts we are learning strategies such as how to analyze text, as well as brainstorming and character traits, just to name a few. In our spare time I have been reading the novel *The Wild Robot*, as a read aloud. Students have been enthusiastic about this story, some are even listening to it for the second time!

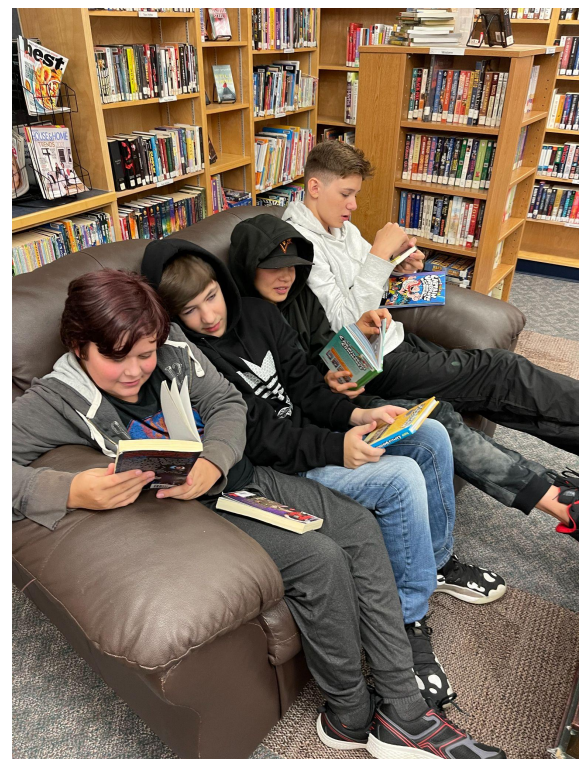
Grade 7/8/9

What a wonderful start to a fun-filled school year! The grade 7/8/9s have been working so hard in the classroom and continue to bring joy and laughter every day.



In Language Arts, the 7/8/9s have started the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. The students have been eager to learn more about the characters, and have been working on their comprehension skills to summarize major events, and use this to help predict what might happen next!

Science class is well under way! The 7/8s have been working on the Mix and Flow of Matter unit where they got to perform some cool experiments about how matter mixes and dissolves! The grade 9s are working hard on their Matter and Chemical Change Unit. They are currently learning about



ART

Art classes kicked off the school year with International Dot Day! Inspired by Peter Reynolds' book *The Dot*, it is a celebration of bravery, creativity, and self expression, encouraging everyone to make their mark and see where it takes them!

Grades 1-3 created a tissue paper relief dot, Grades 4-6 crafted a string-stitched dot, and Grades 7-9 burnished a texture relief dot.

This month, Grades 1-3 looked at Pablo Picasso's Cubism, and painted a portrait in his style with oil pastels and watercolour paints. They are now examining Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, and creating their own version, using a fork to create movement.

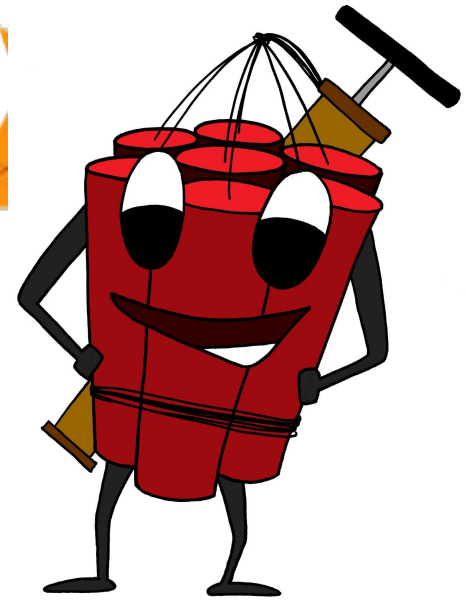
The Grade 4-6 class is studying texture, both tactile and implied. They will be starting a metal tooling project, which lends itself well to visual texture and patterns.

Grades 7-9 looked at artist Bren Bataclan and his kindness project, then were able to choose a piece of his to recreate, or create their own piece in his style.



DIXONVILLE SCHOOL DYNAMITE SHOUT OUTS!

Thank you going out to the Dixonville L.I.F.E. AG. Society for their sponsorship of our Schools hot lunch program. The Dixonville L.I.F.E. AG. Society sponsors one hot lunch each month for all of our students to enjoy!



Thank you to Nathan and Jenny Sorensen for lending us their big tents for our "meet the team night". The rain tried ruining our evening but the tents helped immensely!

Thank you going out to the Dixonville Golden Age Inn for their sponsorship of our Schools hot lunch program. The Dixonville Golden Age Inn sponsors one hot lunch each month for all of our students to enjoy!

Thank you to the two lovely ladies who have taken on our school breakfast program. Trish and Jennifer we are so thankful for you ladies and all the time you set aside for our students.

Thank you to Tracey DeMeester for sending smile cookies for our whole school to enjoy!

Dixonville school is so grateful for the outpour of parent and community support! We appreciate you all very much!

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2	3	4
5	6 No school- Labour Day	7	8	9 Meet the team night 5:00- 7:00	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 No school-PD Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Terry Fox run- Hot dog lunch provided by school	29 After school sports program- football 3:45- 5:00	30 No School- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday

Monday

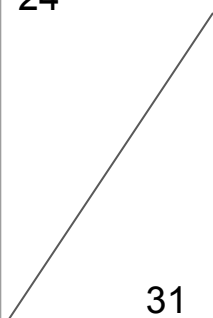
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1	2
3	4 School picture day	5	6 After school sports program- volleyball 3:45- 5:00	7 Pizza hot lunch sponsored by Dixonville LIFE AG Society	8 No school	9
10	11 No school- Thanksgiving	12	13 After school sports program- volleyball 3:45- 5:00	14 Chicken Burger hot lunch sponsored by Dixonville School	15	16
17	18	19	20 After school sports program- floor hockey 3:45- 5:00	21 Hot dog hot lunch Sponsored by Dixonville Golden Age INN	22	23
24  31	25 No School- PD DAY	26	27 After school sports program- volleyball 3:45- 5:00	28 Ham and cheese Quesadilla hot lunch	29	30