



IRIC

IRON RIDGE INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS

EAGLE NEWS

September 2021

SEPTEMBER DATES

September 10 - Welcome
School Assembly for Students

September 10 - Picture Day

September 17 - No School -
Teacher Collaboration Day

September 23 -
Portfolio/Pizza Day

September 24 - Terry Fox Run
and Toonies for Terry

September - 28 - School
Council 1:30-2:30

Sept. 29 - Orange Shirt Day

Sept 30 - National Day of
Truth and Reconciliation

PIRIS COUNCIL

Executive Council Members

President - Serena Rohrer

Vice President - Jen MacNeil

Treasurer - Kristin Hallwood

Bingo/Casino Chair - Krysta
Jestings

Secretary - Jacinda Horvath

Board Members - Amberlee
Magookin and Carolyn
Horman

SCHOOL COUNCIL

All meetings will be from
1:30-2:30.

September 28

November 30

January 25

March 22

May 31

We are asking for one parent
representative from each
classroom to contribute to
parent council.

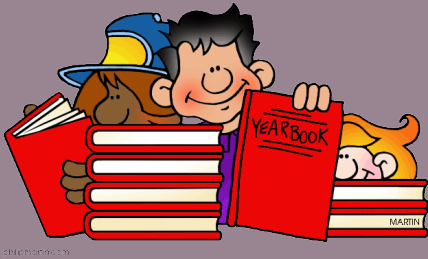
Curricular Links

Parents can access from the Alberta Government My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource. This site provides an excellent overview of grade specific curriculum and additional resources to enhance its teaching. Alberta Education determines what students need to learn in provincial curriculum and teachers use their professional judgment to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum.

Library

Our library is open and students will be checking out books , again.

We will be offering our bookfair in October during parent conferences.



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER



Students will need to be prepared for Alberta Weather each day. Students are expected to go outside on breaks and often during PE. Thank you for helping your child be prepared.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

All school fees are due and can be paid through the parent portal or at the school office.

Lock Fee - \$10.00

Each student is issued a lock at the beginning of grade 4. The student owns the lock and will take the lock with them when they leave IRIC. This cost will only be charged in grade 4 or for replacements of lost locks. It is expected that the students purchase the lock through the school. This allows the office to be able to open lockers should the need arise. If a lock is faulty and stops working we will exchange the lock for a new one, free of charge.

PBL Supply Fee - \$30.00

Each student will be participating in two Project Based Learning (PBL) experiences. This fee is for project work related to Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) outcomes for grade 4-6. Money collected may be used to bring in speakers or experts for the project launch or the culmination of the project to further enhance learning and programming. In the past, costs that have been incurred for these types of projects have included: poster boards, rolls of tape, manila tag, art supplies, materials for the holiday markets, presentations from "Zed" Science, etc.

Technology Fee - \$25.00

This fee covers the cost of online learning tools and subscriptions, apps and/or enhancements, software. Subscriptions to learning software, such as Reflex Math, can be accessed at home allowing parents to further support their students learning and development. The fee also covers repairs and maintenance on school owned resources such as grade team ipads, cover/protectors, power bars, extension cords, SD cards and other consumable items.

Cultural Supplemental Fee - \$6.00

This fee covers cultural events; Artisan in Residence, Author visit, guest speakers, enrichment programs, special presenters, etc. coming to IRIC throughout the school year.

PARKING REMINDER

Parent Parking is located on the South side of the school. Please use this parking lot when dropping off or picking up your child. Please do not park in the North Parking lot as that is designated for Staff Only.

PIRIS and School Council

How can Parents be involved in the IRIC school community? We are asking that you join PIRIS or the School Council. We will need at least one parent representative from each classroom to be a member of the School Council. We need many volunteers to contribute their time to fund raising events that PIRIS organizes, to make them successful.

PIRIS

Parents of Iron Ridge Intermediate Society (PIRIS) is a fundraising society at Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus. The money raised through this group of passionate parents makes possible multiple programs and items that enhance students' learning at the school. We need your help throughout the year for bingos, casinos, hot lunch and other fundraising events. We are asking families to commit 1 hour each month. Imagine the possibilities if we work together. Contact: pirisiric@gmail.com

School Council

School councils are structured groups of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students and community representatives who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. They provide a means for members of the school community to consult with and provide advice to the principal and the school board. We are asking members of the school council to commit to 1 hour every other month. Meetings are scheduled in the afternoons during the school week. Contact: lacey.elliott@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Alberta Society of Artists



IRIC is pleased to host FIELDS OF VISION at our school from Oct. 7 - Nov. 3. It promises to be an amazing exhibit. Our students and community are fortunate to have this opportunity here in Blackfalds.

Student Demographic Form

Alberta Education requires an annual Student Registration or Demographic Update Form, for every student, signed by the Parent or Legal Guardian to verify that the student qualifies for Provincial or National Education funding. The Demographic Update form serves as an annual registration form for all returning WCPS K-12 students.

Please log into your Parent Portal and complete the demographic forms for all of your children attending Wolf Creek schools **prior to September 15, 2021**. The forms can be found in the School Engage tab of your portal.

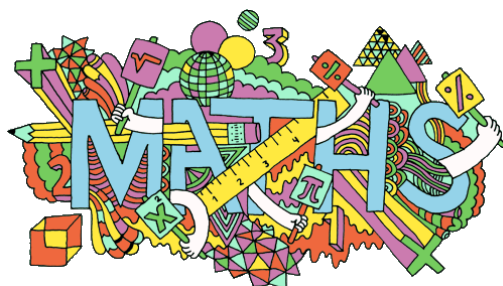


On Sept. 24, we are asking each student to bring in a TOONIE FOR TERRY to honour Terry's legacy and inspire cancer survivors (and researchers) with the support of students and families across the country. We are joining forces with 255 schools in the Alberta region who consistently fundraise an average of \$1/student.



Our school is going to be having a school wide Math-A-Thon in November. The Math-A-Thon will run from November 15-26. The purpose of this Math-A-Thon is to raise awareness of the importance of numeracy skills, motivate and excite our students about math, and to raise funds for our school in the areas of literacy, technology, school spirit events, and student incentive programs like lunch with the Principal, popcorn movies, certificates and swimming rewards. Detailed pledge packages will be sent home in early November.

We are currently planning for the prizes and incentives that will be used to help motivate and reward students for their efforts to secure pledges. All participating students will be eligible for the random draws and school wide incentive celebrations. In addition, we would like to present certificates to students and prizes for those achieving extraordinary results. **If you are able to help us with prizes and support this annual event**, please contact Della Lastiwka at 403-885-6100.



Parents of Iron Ridge Intermediate Society

P.I.R.I.S

SEPT. 2021



WELCOME
BACK

Your 2021/22 PIRIS
Executive Board Members:

President: Serena Rohrer

Vice President: Jen MacNeil

Treasurer: Kristin Hallwood

Bingo/Casino Chair: Krysta Jestings

Secretary: Jacinda Horvath

Board Members: Amberlee Magookin
& Carolyn Horman

P.I.R.I.S. is a volunteer based fundraising body of IRIC, who has been approved through the AGLC to raise funds by working bingos and casinos; we also hold several fundraisers throughout the year, in order to supply our school, students and staff with the EXTRAS that are not included in the school budget!



Some of the items we've purchased for our students!



Volunteer with us and receive a gift card from PIRIS & a delicious meal at the bingo hall!!



Sept. 11 @ 4:30

Oct. 10 @ 4:30

Nov. 20 @ 4:30

Email pirisiric@gmail.com
to volunteer!

HOT LUNCHES
are back!!

Stay tuned for dates & which fantastic
restaurants are teaming up with us!

Join our **Facebook** page to keep up to date on
events and volunteer opportunities!



Parents of Iron Ridge
Intermediate Society
(P.I.R.I.S.)

Thank you from Your P.I.R.I.S Board of Directors



Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus

Our Mission:
Empowering all Learners to be Extraordinary

IRON RIDGE INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS
101 Cottonwood Drive
BLACKFALDS, AB. T4M 0M4
PHONE: 403-885-6100 FAX: 403-782-8744

September 1, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

RE: Chromebook Parent Purchase Plan

I am writing this letter to provide you with information regarding technology devices as we move ahead with planning for the 2021-22 school year at Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus. Our school is proud of the many ways that our staff and students utilize technology in order to enhance teaching and learning in our school. Everyday our school utilizes technology to:

- allow students to show their learning in a wide variety of ways,
- connect students with each other within their classroom, within the division, within the province and around the world.
- connect students and teachers with experts in various fields such as authors, writers, scientists,
- support students with a wide variety of learning styles and needs,
- and more!

We are proud to have been promoting this kind of learning environment for our students for many years. To continue to provide a learning environment that is 21st Century **we are recommending that all students come to school with a device to support their learning.** This device can be a personal laptop or a Chromebook. To support this learning environment there are a few options:

Option 1: Your child can bring his/her own device to school that you have purchased or have previously purchased.

Option 2: Your child can participate in the Wolf Creek Parent Purchase Program and order a new device for their use. Details on the parent purchase program are attached.

Option 3: You can contact the school for more information about how we can help support you.

Our Vision: At Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus we develop compassionate leaders who realize their potential and enrich the world.

It is our goal to have all grade four, five and six students using their devices within the first few weeks of school so we would like your child to have a device ready to go for the start of the new school year.

It has been our experience that Chromebooks, when taken care of, are lasting for approximately 5 years. Students will be able to use their devices at the Jr. High when they go there as well, so taking good care of it is very important. Students with their own devices have been able to transition between online and in person learning while we have guided them through the pandemic. Having their own device has been integral to our students' success over the past year.

Attached is some information on the Wolf Creek Parent Purchase plan and some frequently asked questions. Please feel free to contact the principal, Della Lastiwka, if you need more information. Thank you for your support, we hope you see this is a worthy investment into your child's education and understand that it is our goal to provide your child with a top notch educational experience that utilizes the technologies available in today's world.

Sincerely,
Della Lastiwka
Principal (IRIC)



Chromebook Parent Purchase Program Information - Parents

Wolf Creek Public Schools is proud of the many ways that our staff and students utilize technology in order to **enhance teaching and learning in our schools**. We have a long history and a proven track record of working with our school communities in order to be able to positively leverage the potential of digital technology tools to support learning. Everyday our schools utilize technology to:

- allow students to show their learning in a wide variety of ways,
- connect students with each other within their classroom, within the division, within the province and around the world.
- connect students and teachers with experts in various fields such as authors, astronauts, scientists,
- support students with a wide variety of learning styles and needs,
- and more!

Bring Your Own Device Program

Wolf Creek Public Schools believes that students should be able to bring their own device to school with them to support their learning. We are proud to have been promoting this kind of learning support for our students since 2009. Students across our division benefit from ready access to school owned technology, but we have found over years of observation and working with our students that students feel most comfortable with, and often are able to best support their learning with, a device that they personally own.

Our parents have been very supportive of this evolution of a bring your own device approach in Wolf Creek. In many schools as parents seek to provide support for their children as they learn in today's classrooms, our teachers and administrators have been fielding parent questions around "what kind of a device should I purchase for my child"?

History and Background

Back in 2011, Wolf Creek School division piloted the first use of Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education in our schools. This pilot quickly grew as we received feedback from students, teachers, administrators, and parents around the potential for this kind of device to purposefully support student learning. In 2012, we introduced the Parent Purchase Program to our Wolf Creek Schools and this initiative has been taken advantage of by over 1000 Wolf Creek families since that time.

Through a partnership with a well known manufacturer of Chromebooks, Wolf Creek Public Schools has been able to develop an online process whereby we can pass along special pricing to our families on Chromebooks. While it may be true that our families will be able to occasionally find lower pricing on similar devices at a sale at a nearby retailer, by purchasing through our online process parents can be assured that the devices they purchase will work within Wolf Creek's network environment and be set up and delivered to their student's school by our vendor partner.

Online Purchase Process

Wolf Creek Public Schools is excited to be working with **BCom Computer**, as the reseller of Chromebooks, to continue offering the Chromebook Parent Purchase Program for our Wolf Creek families through an online Parent Purchase Program website.

In partnership with Wolf Creek, BCom Computer has built a Wolf Creek Public Schools online store specifically for our families which provides the ability to purchase a selection of Chromebooks, accessories and warranty options which have been chosen because they fit in well with our Wolf Creek context.

Families wishing to purchase a Chromebook through this program will need to visit www.b-com.ca/wolfcreek/home.php in order to create a parent shopping and payment profile.

A link to access the Parent Purchase Program website can be found on **your local school's website** under the **Quick Links** section.



Please ask your child's teacher or principal for a document with step by step instructions for how to use the Parent Purchase Program website.

Updated, April 2021

See the next page for some Frequently Asked Questions and further details.

Wolf Creek Public Schools Chromebook Parent Purchase Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Payment Options?

Our reseller, BCom Computer, has made two different options for payment available to our families wishing to purchase through the Parent Purchase Portal.

1. A family can choose to use their credit card to pay for the total cost of their order all at once or;
2. A family might choose to pay the total cost of their order over 4 monthly payments.

This flexibility will hopefully allow as many Wolf Creek families as possible to access the Chromebook Parent Purchase Plan.

Costs for the devices will vary slightly during the year as it is tied to Canadian and US exchange rates. Prices will always be in Canadian funds. Detailed costs are available on the website.

What is the Warranty and the options for Warranty Upgrades?

The Chromebooks that can be purchased through the Parent Purchase Program **come with a standard manufacturer's warranty**. **Currently**, this warranty covers manufacturer's defects in the device for a period of one year. This standard warranty **does not include accidental or intentional damage** to any component of the Chromebook such as the screen, keyboard, case, touchpad, etc.

Optional Upgrades

BCom offers the following warranty upgrades as a part of the Wolf Creek Public Schools Parent Purchase Program:

1. An extension of the manufacturer's warranty from 1 year to 3 years. This extension does not cover accidental or intentional damage to the device,
2. An extension of the manufacturer's warranty to 3 years with accidental damage coverage. This coverage allows for the one time replacement of a device that has been accidentally damaged beyond repair.

These options are available through the Parent Purchase Program website at the time of purchase at various prices.

IMPORTANT: Once a device has been delivered to a student as a part of the Parent Purchase Program, it will be the responsibility of the student's family to work with BCom Computer to resolve any warranty claims, disputes, or concerns around payments. If needed, you can find contact information for BCom Computer by visiting their website at: www.b-com.ca

After purchase, how do I get my Chromebook?

Chromebooks purchased through the Wolf Creek Public Schools online purchase process can be shipped from our reseller directly to your home or mailing address of choice within Alberta. You

can also choose to directly pick up the Chromebook from our reseller's location at: BCom Computer Centre Inc. 15051 118 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5V 1H9.

Do I HAVE to Purchase a Chromebook through the Parent Purchase Website?

Absolutely not!

Wolf Creek Public Schools is a bring your own device environment and welcomes any device that a student may have that is able to support their learning appropriately by leveraging web based tools such as Google Apps for Education.

Our students' families have long asked us for our recommendations around devices that are relatively low cost but high impact in terms of supporting learning. This is how the Parent Purchase Program was born!

Our classroom teachers utilize Google Apps for Education in Wolf Creek and the Chromebook is a natural platform to be able to take advantage of the power of these collaborative tools. We have completed test and research with various Chromebook devices over the years and have selected devices that have good battery life, are generally robust enough to stand up to day to day classroom use, and have proven themselves as reliable over our considerable time using them in Wolf Creek.

We certainly welcome and support our families' choices to purchase a device to enhance their child's learning through our Parent Purchase Program or through any retailer of their choice. The Parent Purchase Program was designed as a service to our families so that there was one less decision for parents to make around "what device should we buy" and/or "where should we buy or device from"?

Additional Questions?

If you have any questions around how Chromebooks or other digital tools are being utilized in your child's school to support and enhance learning, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher or the administrators at the school.



Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus

Our Mission:
Empowering all Learners to be Extraordinary

IRON RIDGE INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS
101 Cottonwood Drive
BLACKFALDS, AB. T4M 0M4
PHONE: 403-885-6100 FAX: 403-782-8744

Dear Wolf Creek Parents/ Guardians:

I hope you have had a relaxing, safe and healthy summer break. Just like you, we are quickly getting ready for the start of another school year. Following a year of restrictions and safety measures around COVID-19, I wanted to take a moment and share some information on what returning to school looks like this year.

What I can broadly share with you is the highlights of Alberta Education's 2021-2022 School Year Plan, and some details on measures we are planning specific to Wolf Creek Public Schools to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff.

The Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan and current Alberta health requirements outline that:

- The school year will begin on a back to normal basis, with mandatory health restrictions lifted.
- Vaccines remain an effective means of protecting Albertans from COVID-19 and anyone eligible to receive a vaccine is encouraged to do so. Currently, Albertans born in 2009 and before are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory virus needs to stay home until they are well. COVID-19 testing availability for those with symptoms has been extended by the Alberta Government for six weeks to provide an additional monitoring period during the start of school. During this time, it will remain a legal requirement for those with COVID-19 to stay home for 10 days.
- AHS is no longer identifying or following up with individual close contacts and quarantine for close contacts is no longer legally mandatory. All Albertans, including those who may be told that they are a close contact, are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they are feeling unwell.
- To monitor your children daily for COVID-19 symptoms, continue to refer to the daily health assessment at: [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- Routine measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses will continue. That includes promoting and facilitating hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, maintaining ventilation and ensuring regular cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic/touch areas. More information on Alberta Health guidance can be found at: [Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools](#).
- AHS will continue to manage outbreaks of respiratory illness in school settings, similar to the management of influenza or influenza-like illness.
- Additional measures may be considered or recommended if a school experiences a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Diploma exams will resume and be mandatory in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) will resume as per normal practice in the 2021-2022 school year.
- School authorities can continue to offer extra-curricular activities, and must follow public health measures that may be in place.
- In the event of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacts the province of Alberta and its ECS to Grade 12 education system, two contingencies will be considered:
 - Scenario 1: In-school classes (near-normal with enhanced health measures)
 - Scenario 2: At-home learning (in-school classes are suspended)

Our Vision: At Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus we develop compassionate leaders
who realize their potential and enrich the world.

The full Alberta Education 2021-2022 School Year Plan is linked [HERE](#). Alberta Education's 2021-2022 Parent's Guide: Information for parents and guardians to prepare for school in September is linked [HERE](#).

What this means for Wolf Creek Public Schools is that school operations, student learning and activities will return to normal, but we remain focused on the concerns of families and vigilant in maintaining schools that are safe and healthy for all.

To that end, I can provide more information regarding our efforts in the following:

Additional health measures

In our schools, enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of schools, especially high touch areas will continue. We will continue to promote frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette. This is an important part of ensuring a healthy school environment.

This past year, face masks were mandated for all students in grades 4 to 12, and were optional for students in K-3. Although face masks are not mandated in schools this year, students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask if they desire to do so. To begin the school year, masks will be mandatory for ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF while riding the school bus, until further notice.

Cohorting will not be required, but may be recommended by Alberta Health for a short period if a school experiences a respiratory illness outbreak.

Expectation for sick students or staff

As you are aware, there is a shift in the monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Alberta. Regardless of this shift, the practice we all must follow is that anyone sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory virus stay home until they are well. Please ensure that you continue to monitor your child each day using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#). Students who have to miss class due to illness will be supported by their teacher. Please make sure you are in contact with your child's teacher if your child misses class due to illness, or for any other reason.

Notification of a confirmed case in schools

This past year, schools were directly involved with Alberta Health in contact tracing. As provincial testing for COVID-19 is shifting, schools will not be directly involved in notification in regards to a confirmed case of COVID-19. As with any health risk or illness in a school, we will continue to communicate with families around health and safety measures and provide detailed information as needed, such as in the event of an outbreak. More information on these measures can be found in the [Guidance for Respiratory Illness and Management in Schools](#) document.

Transportation

Masks will be required on the bus for all students and staff until further notice. Additionally, Wolf Creek will continue to implement enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures on school buses. This will continue to involve disinfecting school buses, including seats, after each run. Bus drivers will have seating plans for their buses, and will have the ability to change those plans throughout the year as needed.

Mental health, social and specialized supports

Diverse learners throughout Wolf Creek will continue to be supported as in previous school years. Our schools have multiple avenues of support available, that includes supports for students who require mental health and social and emotional support.

School activities

Our Vision: At Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus we develop compassionate leaders who realize their potential and enrich the world.

As of the start of the school year, school activities, such as performances, field trips, sport competitions and celebratory events such as graduation and class farewells are permitted, but may require enhanced health and safety measures. As the school year continues, these events will be subject to change pending any changes to provincial health orders and requirements.

Online learning

In Wolf Creek, an online learning program is being maintained for the 2021-2022 school year for those who may require it due to significant medical concerns.

I want to thank you all for the tremendous cooperation and understanding this past school year, and I know we can count on all of you to work with us this year. We understand and respect that there are a range of opinions, emotions and concerns over a new school year with COVID-19 still a factor in our lives. We also know that all of us have a role in ensuring a safe and healthy school year, which again includes staying home when you are sick. Please know, we will continue to monitor the situation in our schools and will work with local health officials to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

I wish you all a great school year. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@wolfcreek.ab.ca, or contact your school for school specific information regarding the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Tim De Ruyck,
Superintendent
Wolf Creek Public Schools