École Springfield Elementary News

January 2026

Important Dates to Remember:

Jan 5th-

Back to school Gr 1-4 only

(Kindergarten Planning Day)

Jan 6th-

Back to school for Kindergarten

Jan 16th-

Neon Day

Jan 30th-

PD Day-

No Students

Just a few staff members enjoying a funny story...

ATTENTION!

Dress for the weather…

Just a reminder that with the cold weather, students need to be dressed appropriately in a winter jacket, ski pants, snow boots, toque and mitts.

Also, please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their locker at school…just in case.

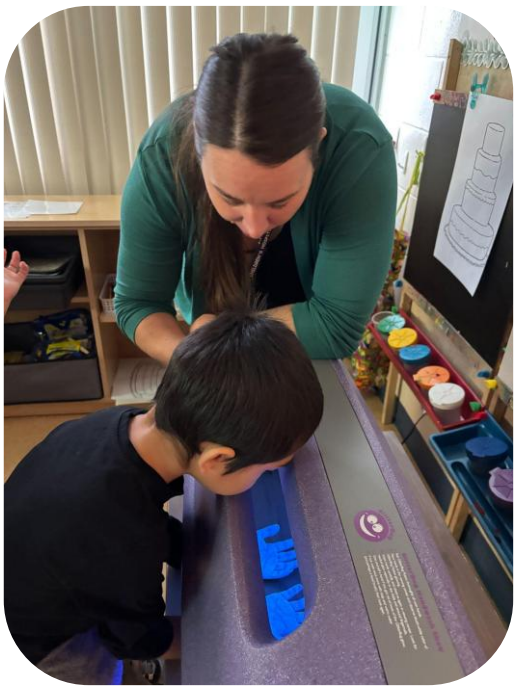
With **cold and flu season** upon us, I'd just like to remind you all that we have a 24 hour policy when it comes to **fever and vomiting**. Please keep your children home until they have gone 24 hours symptom free.

Students with colds are welcome to come to school as long as their mucus is clear and their coughing is not disruptive. If in doubt, please call the school.

Please be aware, your child will be marked as LATE if they arrive anytime after 8:50am

Springfield is a proud member of the PRSD Family

Thank you to the Anglican Church for the generous donation of mittens and toques this year.



Fun happenings around the school

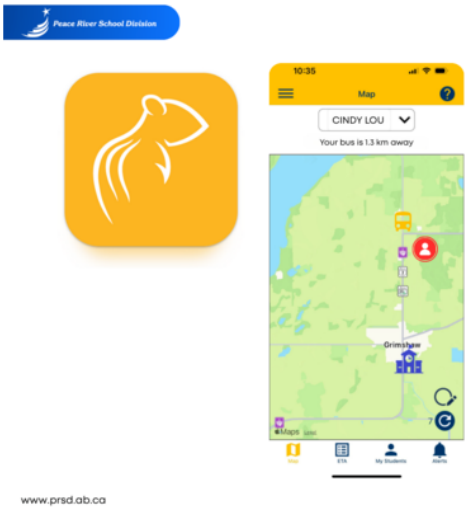
A huge thank you to Angela Leadlay, Public Health Promotion Facilitator with Primary Care Alberta, for visiting our school this week and teaching our three kindergarten classes all about handwashing and germs!

The students loved learning how to properly wash their hands — and seeing the “fake” germs glow under her special UV light was a big hit!

We appreciate the time, energy, and enthusiasm Angela brought to this important lesson. Our little learners are now even more motivated to keep those hands clean and healthy!

Thank you, Angela!

Chipmunk: A Bus Tracking App for Parents



Today, we are excited to announce the launch of the Chipmunk School Bus Tracker App for parents.

To provide parents with additional peace of mind regarding their child's safety while riding the school bus, the new bus card system is paired with a dedicated parent app called Chipmunk, which provides real-time information and enhanced communication regarding your child's bus ride to and from school. Please read through the included FAQs regarding Chipmunk and setting up your parent account.

This information is also available on the PRSD website here: https://www.prsd.ab.ca/our-division/transportation/attendance

FAQs

Do I have to download the Chipmunk app?

No. The use of the Chipmunk app is completely voluntary. You can still find information about all bus cancelations and delays on the PRSD BusPlanner website: prsd.mybusplanner.ca

What is the purpose of the BusPlanner Chipmunk app?

The primary purpose of the app is to give parents real-time visibility into their child's bus location and estimated arrival times, enhancing convenience and reducing uncertainty.

What key safety and communication features does the app offer?

The app is designed to keep you informed and connected:

- **Live Bus Location:** You can view the bus's location on a live map while it is on its route.
- **Accurate ETAs**: The app uses GPS to provide estimated arrival times (ETAs) for all your children in one easy-to-read summary screen.
- **Late Bus Alerts**: Receive instant, color-coded notifications right to your phone if the bus is running behind schedule.

How does the app work with the student bus card?

The app displays the address and time your child scans on and off the bus. This confirmation provides peace of mind that your child boarded and exited the bus at the correct stop.

How do I set up the BusPlanner Chipmunk app?

Setting up the app is a secure and simple process.

Step 1: Check that you have registered your email for an account with BusPlanner. Visit https://prsd.mybusplanner.ca/ and click "Log In" > "Parent Portal." From here you can either confirm your account by logging in to your existing account, or create a new account using the email address you used on your child's registration form. ***Please Note:*** If you needed to create a new BusPlanner account, it may take up to 24 hours for your account to become active.

Step 2: Once your registered BusPlanner account is active, download the Chipmunk app (available on Android and iOS). You can then connect to your student(s) account by entering the Quick Code "PRSD."

Step 3: After the app has authenticated the Quick Code, you will be asked to sign in using your BusPlanner login credentials. ***Please note:*** Only email addresses registered through the PRSD's Transportation department will be able to access information in the Chipmunk app. If you are having trouble logging in, please make sure you are using the same email address you provided to Transportation on your bus registration form.

Is my child's privacy protected in the app?

Yes, privacy is a priority. The app works securely with our routing database and GPS data to calculate ETAs. The system itself does not store personal data on the bus card. The Chipmunk app only displays the bus location while it is on a route and the secure scan events for safety purposes.

Additionally, the app is not a continuous live feed of the bus route, rather it is set to update every 60 seconds and only displays route information specific to the individual user. This means users cannot access any information about other riders on their student's bus route, and accounts are limited to email addresses registered with the PRSD Transportation department.

Who should I contact if I have concerns?

Please call the PRSD Transportation office at 780-624-3006.

Principal's Message

By the time you read this, I hope I can officially say Happy New Year and all the best in 2026! January is a time to start fresh and watch the magic happen after the first months of learning!

This time of year is also a time of extreme weather swings. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately when they leave the house in the morning. Hats, mitts, winter coats and snow pants are a must even when you drop off and pick up. **A reminder also that we do go outside every day when the weather is above the -25 degree mark.** We do have some extra winter gear for those who are in need, however, our supply can be low, and we may not necessarily have sizes to accommodate everyone who comes to the office.

January is also that time of the year when we start thinking ahead to the Alberta Education Assurance Survey which will be administered to the grade four students, grade four parents and all teachers at École Springfield Elementary. These surveys help gather information on the quality of education provided by school authorities and schools. The results of these surveys is an integral piece of data as we develop our school and division Education Plans. We truly value the input we receive from our grade four parents every year and ask you to please take the time to complete the survey as honestly as you can. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school for any clarifications. Grade Four families, please keep your eyes open for the surveys through the mail. I will also mention this in our February Newsletter.

Audrey Senft
Principal,
École Springfield Elementary School

Best Wishes to you & yours
for a safe &
happy holiday season
From
École Springfield Staff

Springfield's Project Peace Success Coach

Hello and Happy New Year Springfield Caregivers,

I am hoping that you and your families enjoyed
the winter break. January hosts many fun and exciting activities with Mini-options happening and weather permitting more outdoor recesses and field trips that required postponing from December.

SEL Programming continues in all classrooms weekly with 4 new programs being explored by many of the students. Classroom participation in activities and conversation is at an all time high.

Kudos to all teachers and caregivers for supporting the ones that you teach/love and promoting positive mental health.

Stay safe, warm and connected this month.

Success Coach
Shannon Sutherland
780-624-2143 ext. 14151

First Nations, Metis, Inuit

FIRST NATION, METIS, INUIT
PEACE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 10

Tansi,

Happy New Year to our Springfield students & Families!! We hope you are enjoying your Christmas break with your family & friends. We hope you got some rest, family fun times, outdoor time & feeling refreshed when returning back in January!!

Mini options will be taking place in the first month of January. Culture Club is one of the mini options. Students will get to experience Metis dot art, beaded lanyards, art creations and many more!

Winter Solstice

Dec 21st is not only the shortest day of the year and the official start of winter. It's a tradition that goes back centuries. Many First nations take this time of year to slow down and acknowledge the new season.Winter Solstice is typically celebrated with ceremonies and community gatherings.Enjoying foods harvested over the course of the year is also a big part of many solstice celebrations.

Indigenous Support Coach
Vannah Anderson

Springfield is a proud member of the PRSD Family

School Council- Next meeting January 21st 6:30pm (babysitting provided)

Thank you to the North Peace Navigators and Peace Sign & Graphics for sponsoring some Free Student Game Tickets!

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Springfield School
Office #
780.624.2143

January 2026 Calendar

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Back to school Gr 1–4 (No Kindergarten –Planning Day)	6 Back to school For Kindergarten	7 Hot Lunch Panago Pizza	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Hot Lunch Freson Bros– Chicken Salad Wrap (if you ordered)	15	16 	17
18	19	20	21 Hot Lunch Freson Bros– Ham & Cheese Wrap (if you ordered) School Council Meeting 6:30pm (Babysitting Provided)	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Hot Lunch Boston Pizza	29	30 PD Day– No Students	31

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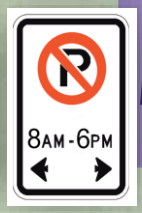
General Information

BEFORE SCHOOL: Please do not drop any students off unattended at Springfield School before 8:20a.m. Our students require adult supervision at all times and our supervisors are not available until 8:20.

Please call us at school if your child is sick or plans to be away. The phone number is **780.624.2143** and office staff are available to take your call at 8am.



We ask that you please refrain from parking in the daycare parking lot and from blocking their driveway. This will help to keep our children safe as they move between the school and daycare.

AFTER SCHOOL: Each day, until all busses have left after school, we ask that ALL students refrain from playing on the school yard equipment. This is so that we know that all students have been safely loaded onto their busses and nobody will be left behind after school.

THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF SPRINGFIELD WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE TO PLEASE ADHERE TO THE HANDICAP PARKING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. PLEASE KEEP THE PARENT LOOP OPEN FOR TRAFFIC TO MAKE ITS WAY AROUND, THIS WILL KEEP ALL OF US SAFE!

If you are viewing this newsletter on a computer or mobile device, watch for icons like the ones shown here. Click the icon and explore direct links to websites that Springfield uses and to send emails.

AFTER SCHOOL PLANS:
Please ensure that your child's daily after school plans have been secured and written in their agenda for their teacher to see first thing in the morning.

If after school changes of plans can't be avoided, please try to call before 3:00 so we can be sure messages can be delivered in a timely manner.

SCHOOLMESSENGER®

The Trusted Platform for School Community Engagement

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "**Y**" or "**Yes**" to our school's short code number, **724665**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "**Stop**".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile phone now!

Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 724665

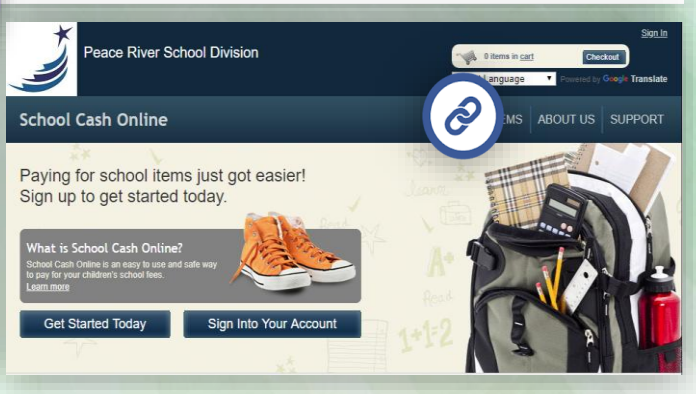
SLOW DOW, PLEASE!
A reminder to parents who are dropping students off in the mornings and picking up after school: Please slow down in the Student Drop-Off Loop - SAFETY FIRST, PLEASE-

Pay School Fees Online

Safe. Simple. Secure

Go to https://prsd.schoolcashonline.com and register.

Participating parents will be notified by email of student fees once they register on the School Cash Online website.



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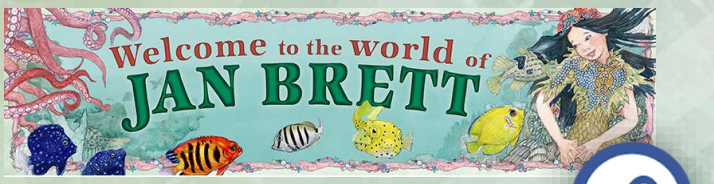
FREE RESOURCES

Storyline Online

PBS KIDS



SplashLearn

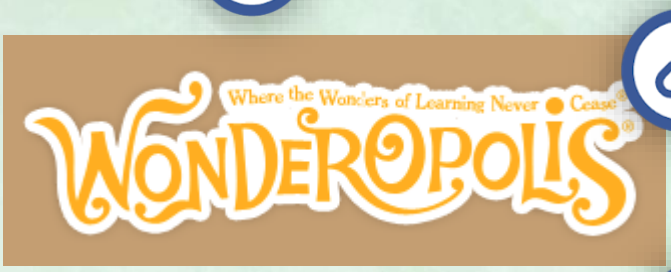
Starfall®

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KiDS

eBookKids

TV5 MONDE

FUNBRAIN



École Springfield School

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