

# Copperhaven School Newsletter



## Message from Administration February 2025



It's Survey Season!

Alberta Education Provincial satisfaction surveys are conducted each year to make sure the education system continues to meet the needs of people in Alberta. These surveys help us understand what is working well in the education system, where improvement is required and how it can be improved. These surveys are conducted by telephone and online.

The purpose of the surveys is to determine satisfaction with:

- the overall quality of the education system;
- the education system meeting the needs of students and supporting our society and the economy;
- schools providing a safe, caring, and inclusive environment for students;
- the preparation of students for lifelong learning, employment, and active citizenship;
- the education system having effective working relationships with system partners;
- leadership and continuous improvement of the education system;
- knowledge, skills, abilities, and other related attributes of recent high school graduates; and
- facilities and equipment in the education system.

Participation in these surveys is voluntary. For more information please visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/education-provincial-satisfaction-surveys>

If you have suggestions on how we can improve, please call, email, or book a time to meet in person. We welcome your feedback in support of your children.

*Michelle Visscher - Principal Copperhaven School*

## Severe Weather - Attendance

As we experience our first extreme cold of 2025, please remember that, except in very special circumstances, PSD schools always remain open on school days. The final decision to send a child to school rests with parents and guardians. **Don't forget to notify the school in the regular manner for attendance purposes if you choose to keep your child at home.**

*At Copperhaven, supervision starts at 8:45 am, meaning students may enter the building at this time. There is no early access to the building available as supervisors are not in place prior to 8:45 am.*

As per [Administrative Procedure 750: Severe Weather](#): When bus service is cancelled, schools shall remain open for learning. Teaching and learning opportunities during transportation cancellation will vary depending on the number of students who are learning from home, balanced with the number of students who are able to attend school, and this may differ from class to class or grade to grade within schools across the Division.



## Labour Action Update

Parkland School Division has provided an update on Labour Action regarding Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 5543. Please see [this news article](#) for relevant information, including an FAQ for Families. PSD remains committed to reaching an agreement with CUPE Local 5543. We truly appreciate the incredible staff that support our students in schools every day in various roles from Educational Assistants, to library technicians, school office staff, as well as many staff who work in our Division Office. They contribute daily as we all work towards our Ultimate Goal of Student Success & Well-being.

If you have further questions, please contact Mrs. Visscher by email or phone call.

## Upcoming Dates

Feb 6 & 7	Teachers' Convention - No School for Students
Feb 10	Registration for 2025-26 Opens
Feb 12	Kindergarten Open House 6-7pm
Feb 13	Carnaval de Copperhaven
Feb 13	Open House at SGCHS for Grade 9 students
Feb 14	PD Day - No School for Students
Feb 17	Family Day - No School
Feb 19	Pizza Day (see ordering details further in the newsletter)
Feb 26	Pink Shirt Day
Mar 25	P/T Interviews
& 26	
Mar 28	PD Day - No School for Students
Mar 31 -	Spring Break
Apr 4	

Stay informed of key dates by subscribing to the [calendar](#) on our website.

## Kindergarten Open House

Parkland School Division schools that offer kindergarten programming, will host open houses on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, from 6-7pm. For more information, please follow [this link](#). We are looking forward to welcoming our new families to Copperhaven!

## Student Registration 2025-26 OPENS FEBRUARY 10

Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process will open **Monday, February 10, 2025**. It will follow the usual timelines opening immediately after Teachers' Convention and running through until Spring Break. **All Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2025-2026 school year.**

### Important Registration Dates

- **Monday, February 10, 2025 - Registration opens.** The New Student Registration Form for Evergreen Catholic, area private school students and new to PSD students will be added as a Quick Link on the homepage of psd.ca. Families of returning PSD students (i.e. students currently enrolled in a PSD school) complete the registration process starting in [PowerSchool](#).
- **Friday, March 28, 2025 at 4:30pm - Registration deadline.** For further information, visit our [Registration](#) page.
- **Friday, June 20, 2025 - Bus pass deadline** to make payment arrangements or pay-in-full.
- **Early July 2025 - Bus passes and route numbers** will be mailed starting at the beginning of July.

## Fish In Schools

We would like to thank Kal Tire for their generous donation in support of this school-wide program.

Ask your child about our fish!

The fish are growing and starting to swim around the basket.



PARKLAND  
SCHOOL DIVISION



# THANK YOU!

**Counsellors, Therapists  
& Wellness Workers**

APPRECIATION WEEK

February 3-7

## Grade 9 Students and Families



SPRUCE GROVE  
COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

**OPEN  
HOUSE**



**Thursday, February 13, 2025  
6–8 p.m.**

1000 Calahoo Road, Spruce Grove

**Incoming Grade 10 students and their  
families are invited to this event.**

**MAIN PRESENTATION AT 6 P.M. IN THE GYM.**

There will be time following the main presentation  
to explore programming and tour the school.

Please note that separate presentations for  
French Immersion and Knowledge & Employability  
will begin at 5:30 p.m.



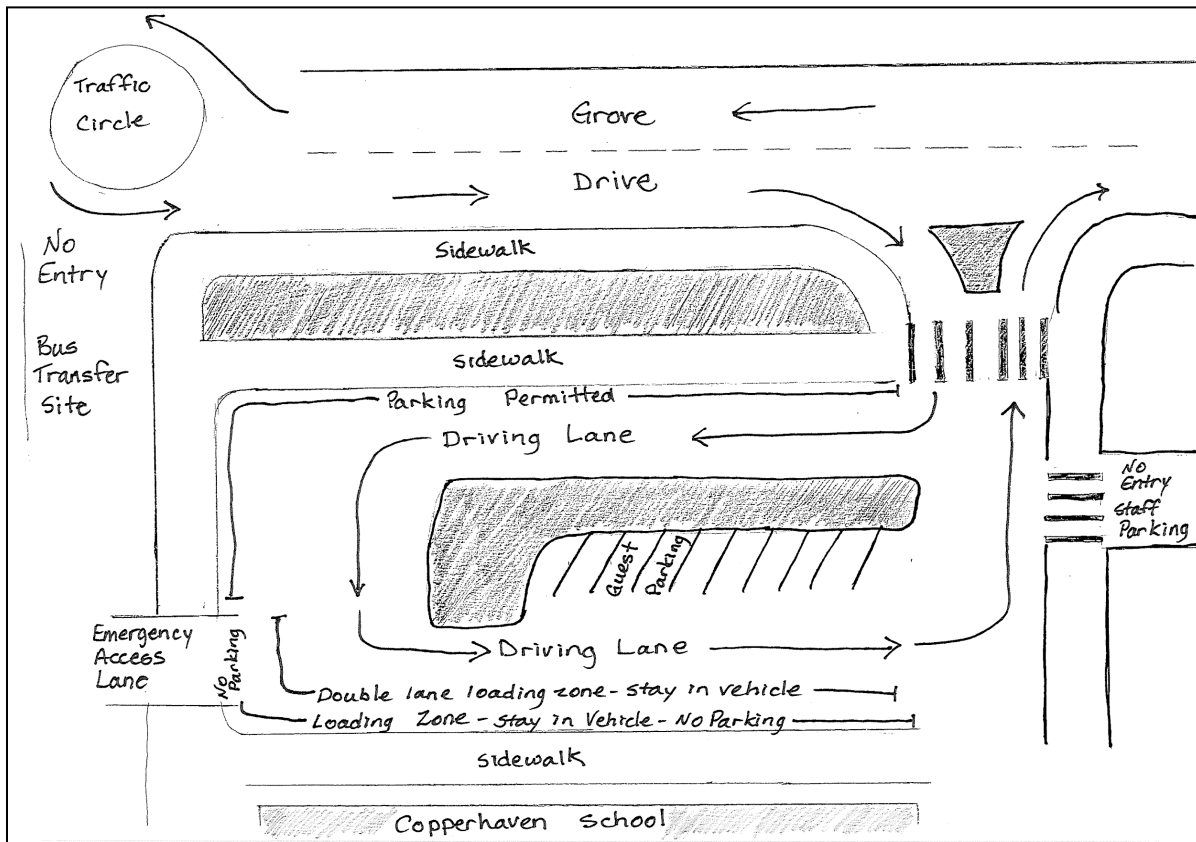
## Stronger Together Newsletter

Each month, Parkland School Division's Student Services team compiles a newsletter for parents and guardians of students. Inside you will find information, opportunities and strategies to help you and your family connect with us on your child's educational journey. In this month's issue, there is information about attendance and early education activities. For the latest addition click [here](#).

## Parking Lot

Thank you for your patience at drop-off and pick up times. We ask that you are mindful of the traffic flow and drop off lanes as outlined in the map below. Please note that the front of the school provides one loading zone lane and one drop off lane. Drivers MUST remain in vehicles in the drop off lane and loading zone. We recognize everyone's time is valuable, and our guidelines and supervisors are present to ensure student safety is first priority.

**Please note that there is no parking at any time on Grove Drive and No Parent Parking/Drop Off in the Staff Parking Lot.**



## Athletics

### Basketball

#### February Update:

- Currently our teams are all at or just below 0.500
- Regular season end for Jr teams the week of Feb. 10th with playoffs beginning the week of Feb. 17th
- Regular season ends for Sr Boys the week of Feb. 17th and playoffs begin the week of Feb. 24th



#### Coaches:

- Miss Tronsgard Sr. Boys
- Mrs. Evans Jr. Girls
- Mr. Presseau Jr. Boys

For more information please contact Mr. Presseau [rich.presseau@psd.ca](mailto:rich.presseau@psd.ca)

## Carnival

On **February 13, 2025** from approximately **9:10am - 3:30pm**, the students in Kindergarten to Grade 9 at Copperhaven School will be participating in the French winter festival "Carnaval".

Carnaval at Copperhaven is a tip of the hat to two French Canadian traditions: Quebec City's winter carnival which takes place in February and "la cabane à sucre" or the sugaring off festivals which take place in March and celebrate the harvesting of sap from maple trees and turning it into syrup, taffy, sugar and maple butter.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will begin their activities at approximately 9:10am and run until 12:10pm. The majority of these activities will be taking place outside so we ask that your child be dressed appropriately for the weather including: ski-pants, winter jacket, mittens/gloves, hat, scarf and winter boots. You may also want to ensure that your child is wearing warm clothes underneath their outside wear to make sure that they are super warm. In the afternoon there will be classes as usual.

Students in Grade 5 to Grade 9 will begin their activities at approximately 1:00pm and run until approximately 3:20pm. These activities will also be taking place outside so we ask that your child be dressed appropriately for the weather including: ski-pants, winter jacket, mittens/gloves, hat, scarf and winter boots. You may also want to ensure that your child is wearing warm clothes underneath their outside wear to make sure that they are super warm. In the morning there will be classes as usual.

Each student will have an opportunity to participate in Cabane à Sucre by the Canadian Maple Shack. Cabane à Sucre is the tradition of rolling boiled maple syrup onto the snow so that it becomes taffy. Canadian Maple Shack is a company who offers a variety of programming related to the French Canadian

culture and have been hired to assist us with this. The cost for Canadian Maple Shack is included in your child's cultural event fees. If you have not paid this fee as part of your school fees, please login into PowerSchool to do so.

### School Council Update

#### School Council Executive 2024-25

Chair - Sheila Monteith  
Vice Chair - Amy Campbell  
Secretary - Kim Ross  
Fundraising Liaison - Pam Clendinning  
Communications Director - Vacant  
*If you would like to learn more about the communication position, please reach out [copperhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:copperhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca).*

#### Upcoming Meetings:

February 18, 2025  
March 18, 2025  
April 15, 2025  
May 20, 2025  
*All meetings begin at 6:30pm in the Library*

Remember to show your staff your appreciation: <https://bit.ly/copperhavenstaff>

School Council is so excited to announce, with TBRA, the Spring Fling in March. Watch our social media feeds for more information on ticket sales and volunteer opportunities!

We are also pleased to support, with TBRA and a generous donor the Fish In Schools program. Mr. Schiltroth has the lead on this, and has been sharing photos of the tank and eggs daily with the school - we hope to share some on our social media soon.

Please join us for our next meeting in February, where we will be discussing upcoming school events and council priorities. We meet at 6:30pm February 18, 2025.

Sincerely,  
Copperhaven School Council: Sheila, Amy, Kim and Pam  
*Follow us on Social Media:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/copperhavenschoolcouncil>  
<https://www.instagram.com/copperhavenpc/>

### The Boundary Ridge Association (Fundraising) Update

We will be having a Pizza 73 day on February 19, 2025. All orders will be accepted online. Please order through <https://copperhaven.fundraiserorders.com>. We will need some additional help to make this run smoothly. Please sign up here if you are able to help out.  
<https://volunteersignup.org/LFBKL>

Save the Date!! We will be hosting a Spring Fling again this year on March 27, 2025 after school. We will also be holding an online 50/50 as well. Information to follow.  
Tyler was the winner of the winter 50/50 draw, taking home an amazing \$1245.00.



We would like to send a big thank you to Kal Tire for a donation to cover the cost of the FinS program equipment expenses. The fish eggs have already been delivered to the school and the process of growing fish has already begun.

Contact us with any questions by email @ [theboundaryridge@gmail.com](mailto:theboundaryridge@gmail.com) or on Facebook/Instagram under The Boundary Ridge Association and @theboundaryridgeassociation respectively.

### **Bite to Eat (Hot Lunch Program)**

To access the Copperhaven Hot Lunch program, please use this link: [Hot Lunches - Copperhaven School](#)



### **Counsellor's Corner** *Ms. Maidens*

#### **Should You Get Your Kid a Phone?**

By the time they're toddlers, most children are excited about phones. They know how to play games, watch videos, take pictures, and Facetime their grandparents. In idle moments they beg for – or grab for – mom or dad's phone.

But when are kids old enough – and responsible enough – to have their own phone? And what should they be able to do with it?

#### **Pressure on Parents**

By the time kids are in middle school, the pressure from kids can be intense, and parents worry that their child will feel isolated if other kids have phones and they don't. According to [Common Sense Media](#), 42 percent of kids have a phone by age 10. By age 12, it's 71 percent. By 14, it's 91 percent. Max Stossel, the founder and CEO of [Social Awakening](#), a group that promotes healthy use of technology and social media, recommends that parents hold the line on giving kids smartphones until at least eighth grade. A parent group called [Wait Until 8th](#) aims to help parents in a school community band together by taking a pledge that they won't give their kids smartphones until they're reached eighth grade. The parents who sign this pledge are put in touch with one another for support.

One strategy to avoid the risky and addictive features of smartphones, Stossel notes, is to start kids off on a phone that can't be used for social media, gaming, or surfing the web. A Gabb Phone,

for instance, can be used for calling and texting. It also has a camera, calendar, FM radio, and GPS, so it enables you to monitor where your child is. But there is no app store, picture messages or group texts.

### **Parental Controls**

Smartphones themselves also offer parents the ability to use the phone's controls to set limits. Smartphones allow you to limit not only apps kids have access to, but the types of movies and TV shows they can watch. And you can set time limits on things like gaming, entertainment, and social media, and keep tabs on what they're doing during screen time. (For details on how to set limits on smartphones, check out [this piece in Consumer Reports](#).)

The most potentially dangerous elements of this are social media and the unfiltered internet. Stossel recalls a colleague who, when speaking to groups of students, would ask for a volunteer to come up and show the class how to get around a school's firewall. Each time a student would do so easily, explaining which apps to use to reach blocked websites.

"So the kids are always going to be a step ahead of their parents," Stossel adds. "And trying to monitor everything they have access to can be a full-time job."

He recommends the parental control tool [Bark](#) which monitors a child's activity on social networks, YouTube, email and text messages. It filters for signs of harmful content, including sexual material, threats of violence, depression, suicidal ideation, and bullying. Parents get email and text alerts if there is something concerning in the child's online activity. It can also be used to limit screen time and to block individual websites.

Screen Time is another tool that allows you to set time limits on daily screen time, block out periods when screens are not to be used, and includes categories of sites and individual URLs.

### **It's Not Just About Age**

What is the right age for a cell phone? It's not so much about a particular age as it is about a kid's social awareness and understanding of what the technology means when making the decision about a phone. When you're considering whether to get a phone, and how much kids should be allowed to do on it, consider these issues:

- How often does your child lose things, especially expensive things? If you tell them something is extra important, do they take special care of it, or leave it on the bus after a few days?
- How well does your child handle money? Will they be in the middle of a game and impulsively buy more lives without considering their cost?
- Consider how easily your kid picks up on social cues. If they are slow to catch on, this deficit could be aggravated in texting and posting on social media.
- How savvy is your child about technology? Do they truly understand that future college admissions staff, employers, and colleagues could conceivably see anything they post now?

- How well does your child do with limits to screen time? If they are constantly glued to the computer or game console, they will probably have difficulty putting down the phone as well.

### **Cell Phones and ADHD**

The constant stimulation cell phones can provide can be especially distracting for kids with ADHD. Phones are made to be as reinforcing as possible. If you're not getting an email, you're getting a social media update, or you're checking a news feed, or you're checking a sports score.

Children with ADHD find it more difficult to resist all that stimulation, and to stay tuned in to activities that are less reinforcing but more important, like homework or dinner table conversation.

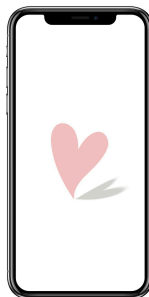
Their impulsivity could also make them more likely to post or send something they may regret later on. In a world where everything you create is recorded in cyberspace, they are at risk for making long-lasting mistakes.

#### **If You're Ready to Take the Plunge**

If you're getting your child a phone, experts recommend setting clear guidelines in a conversation before they receive the device. Here are some sample rules that parents can apply to their kids' cell phone use:

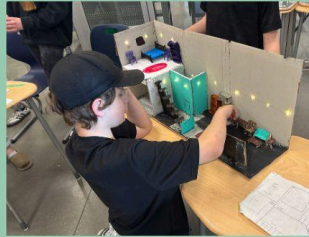
- Establish that you are to know the password to the child's phone, and that you have the right to take it away if they don't use it wisely.
- Set limits on both general screen time and phone time. This rule is especially important for kids who already have difficulty breaking away from a screen.
- Agree on limits to how much money is available to cover the data plan and any game or app expenses.
- Get them a good case, and determine what the consequences will be if the phone is lost or broken. Will it be replaced? And, if so, who will pay for it?
- Specify times of the day when using the phone is not allowed, such as late at night or during family activities.
- When your kids start using social media sites, monitor them and make them aware that you are doing so.

While you may choose to enforce different rules, make sure they are clear from the very beginning, the experts say, and establish consequences if these guidelines are not followed.

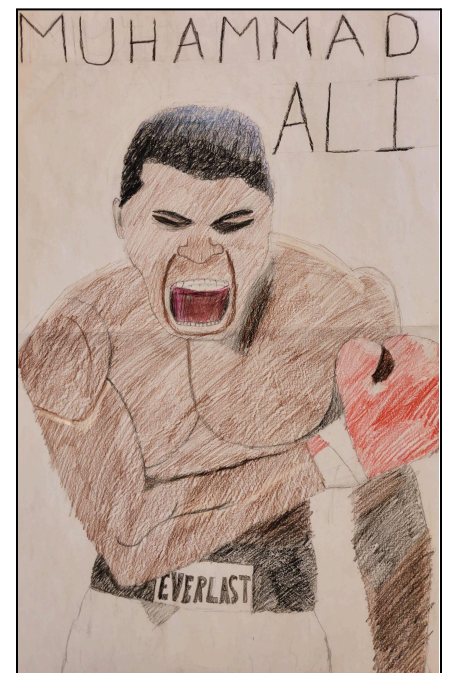


## Photo Gallery

### Tiny Homes Showcase - CTF Grade 8 and 9



*Students in grade six have read, analyzed and written their own biography on a notable Canadian or American Changemaker. They were then tasked to create a portrait of their Changemaker to hang in the classroom to teach their classmates of their incredible achievements and contributions to the world. These projects are in recognition of Black History Month.*



# Buddy Time



# Vive le *Français*

**le 6 mars - March 6th 5PM-7PM  
CENTRAL PARK  
SPRUCE GROVE**

**Celebrate French Language and Culture with us!**

**GAMES, SKATING, MUSIC, BONFIRE, BONHOMME CARNAVAL AND MORE**

**Hot Chocolate by  
Perks Coffee House**

**La tire  
Canadian Maple Shack**



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