

# Copperhaven School Newsletter



## Message from Administration April 2025



It was wonderful to see so many families at the Community Dance on March 27th hosted by The Boundary Ridge Association (Fundraising Association). This yearly event continues to be possible because of amazing volunteers and we thank all those who organized before the event and gave of their time so that evening could be enjoyed by so many. Funds raised through the event go towards enhancing outdoor play spaces at Copperhaven School.

If you would like to be part of the incredible group of community members who support our school, please contact The Boundary Ridge Association by email [theboundaryridge@gmail.com](mailto:theboundaryridge@gmail.com) or on Facebook/Instagram under The Boundary Ridge Association and [@theboundaryridgeassociation](https://www.instagram.com/theboundaryridgeassociation) respectively.

During the months of May and June, students in grades 6 and 9 will be writing Provincial Achievement exams. The schedule for these exams is listed further in this newsletter. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are two ways you can support your child to do their best.

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*

## Upcoming Dates

Apr 7	Summer School Registration Begins
Apr 16	Education Planning Day
Apr 17	CTF Term 3 Ends
Apr 17	Staff vs Students Basketball Games (Blocks 7/8)
Apr 18	Good Friday - No School
Apr 21	Easter Monday - No School
Apr 22 & 23	Class Pictures
Apr 23 & 24	P/T Interviews - virtual only 4:30 - 6pm
Apr 29 & 30	Parkland School Division Visual Arts Celebration - location TBA
May 1	Choir Spring Concert
May 6	Pizza Day - organized by TBRA
May 30	Learn-a-thon - organized by TBRA

## Technology Use Reminder

The Government of Alberta promotes the improvement of learning outcomes by supporting a distraction-free learning environment that promotes children's and students' well-being and limits opportunities for conflict and targeted mean behaviour (bullying).

In Parkland School Division, the use and access to technology during the school day is outlined by [AP 670: Personal Mobile Devices](#). With awareness of this procedure and in alignment with the [Ministerial Order \(#014/2024\)](#), Copperhaven staff have developed guidelines specific to our school.

A reminder to students and families that mobile devices include cell phones and any internet/network accessible wearable technology (ex. smart watches, smart headphones or similar devices). Smart watches are not permitted in classrooms and should be stored in student lockers during instructional time or left at home.

For more information please see the [Copperhaven School Code of Conduct](#).

## Summer School Grades 1-7

Parkland School Division is excited to announce a summer school opportunity for students registered in Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. Location for Summer School has yet to be determined. It will either be in Spruce Grove or Stony Plain.

Registration for summer school is open April 7 and closes in early June. Summer School runs June 30 to July 11 (excluding July 1st & weekends) and offers academic mornings combined with active [My Path programming](#) for the afternoons.

For more information, please visit the [Connections for Learning website](#).

## Provincial Achievement Test Schedule

As you may know, students in Grades 6 and 9 across Alberta write Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. With the introduction of a new curriculum in **Science** for Grade 6, this subject will *not have* a PAT in June 2025.

Additional information can be found in the [Grade 6 Parent Guide](#) or the [Grade 9 Parent Guide](#).

### MAY 2025

DATE	TEST	TIME
Wed, May 28	Gr 6 English Language Arts Part A	9 - 11 AM
Thurs, May 29	Gr 9 English Language Arts Part A Gr 9 K&E English Language Arts Part A	9 - 11 AM 9 - 10:20 AM

### JUNE 2025

Thurs, June 12	Gr 6 English Language Arts Part B Gr 9 English Language Arts Part B Gr 9 English Language Arts K&E Part B	9 - 10 AM 9 - 10:15 AM 9 - 10:15 AM
Fri, June 13	Gr 6 Math Part A Gr 9 Math Part A	9 - 9:20 AM 9 - 9:30 AM
Tues, June 17	Gr 6 Math Part B Gr 9 Math Part B Gr 9 K&E Math Part B	9 - 10:10 AM 9 - 10:20 AM 9 - 10:20 AM
Wed, June 18	Gr 6 Social Studies Gr 9 Social Studies Gr 9 K&E Social Studies	9 - 10 AM 9 - 10:20 AM 9 - 10:15 AM
Thurs, June 19	Gr 9 Science Gr 9 K&E Science	9 - 10:15 AM 9 - 10:15 AM

## Save the Date

Several year-end dates are important to note as we enter the last portion of the 2024-25 school year.

June 25	Family Picnic and Kindergarten Celebration (more details shared closer to the date)
June 26	Final Report Cards Live in Powerschool
June 26	Last Day of School for Students
June 26	Pancake Breakfast - Whole School
June 26	Grade 9 Farewell (more details shared closer to the date)
June 27	PD Day - No Students Attend

## Powerschool Reporting and Parent/Teacher Interviews

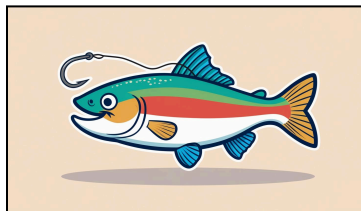
As part of our commitment to ongoing student reporting, we would like to remind you to check your student's PowerSchool account. Currently, you will find updated marks for reading, writing, and math with attached comments. As the Spring Parent/Teacher interviews were delayed, we want to ensure families are well-informed of student progress. If you have any questions we encourage you to connect with your child's teacher(s).

You can access Powerschool either through the Powerschool App or by clicking [here](#). Additional information regarding Powerschool may be found [here](#).

We will be providing some limited spots for Parent Teacher interviews in a virtual format on April 23rd and April 24th. These interviews will be scheduled via the homeroom teacher as needed. Please watch for an email from your child's teacher for sign up information beginning on April 14th, 2025.

## JR High Aquatics CTF

The JH Aquatics CTF class would like to thank [Hooked Up Fishing and Archery](#) for their generous donation of fishing supplies. Students will be using these supplies to learn how to tie a variety of fishing knots.



## 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. Each month we will provide you with information about mental health and ways we can work together to support your family. In this month's issue, we talk about the season of renewal. For the latest addition click [here](#).

## PSD Choral Celebration

The PSD Choral Celebration was another great success this year!

The event, which happened on Monday, March 17, 2025, saw students from across the division singing in choral ensembles. You can watch the full livestream here: [2025 PDS Choral Celebration Livestream](#)

*The Copperhaven Choir can be seen at the 35:50 time marker.*

## Athletics

### Badminton

Badminton teams have now been selected and the season is underway! Thank you to our dedicated coaches!

#### Coaches:

- Miss Tronsgard
- Mrs. Couch
- Mr. Fearon (Student Teacher)

#### Track and Field

In May and June, students in grades 4-6 and 7-9 will participate in school based and divisional track meets. Information will be shared directly with these grade levels via classroom teachers.

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



**TO ALL OF OUR  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROFESSIONALS,**

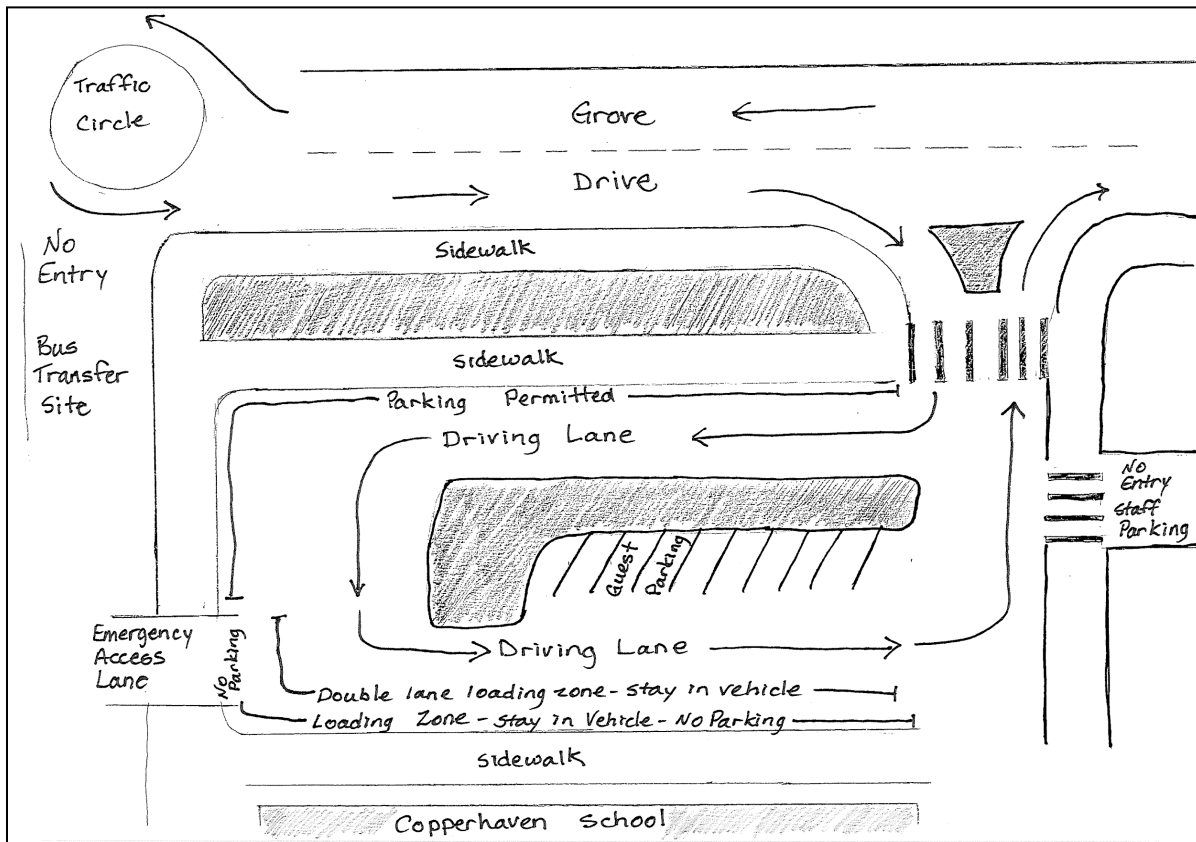
**THANK  
YOU!**

Administrative Professionals Day | April 23

## 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.**



## 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:

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

Spring has sprung! We want to thank everyone that volunteered and attended the Spring Fling dance before the break, it was a wonderful evening!

With the nice weather here and more bikes and scooters out, we wanted to take the opportunity to remind students to practice traffic and pedestrian safety. Here is a great link from AHS:  
<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/alberta/pages/pedestrian-safety-for-children.aspx>

Join us for our April meeting on April 15, we will be reviewing the Alberta School Council Association advocacy recommendations in preparation for their Annual General Meeting at the end of the month.

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

## The Boundary Ridge Association (Fundraising) Update

Happy Spring Copperhaven Families!

A big shout out to all who volunteered and took part in the Spring Fling Family Dance. Lots of work was put in behind the scenes to make this a successful event and it would not have been possible without all the parent volunteers. We raised just over \$2,600.00.

Congratulations! to our 50/50 winner Jocelyn, ticket number B-1150, she was the lucky winner taking home \$287.50.

We will be hosting a Pizza 73 Day on May 6, 2025. Ordering will be online only. Please note that all orders must be placed by April 24, 2025. Flyers will be sent home with information.

Amy, Pam, Allie, and Kim

# MUSIC NOTES

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

Both the Junior and Senior choirs gave outstanding performances at the Parkland Music Festival before Spring Break, each earning a gold standing for their exceptional singing. The adjudicator has recommended both choirs for participation in the Provincial Music Festival. This is a huge honour and speaks volumes about the talent and teamwork within both groups.

The choirs will be recording a video of their songs later this month to submit to the provincial music festival committee.

## COPPERHAVEN SPRING CONCERT – May 1



You are invited to join us for an evening of music and celebration at our Spring Concert on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Performances will feature our talented Choirs, Handbell Ringers, and Concert Band, showcasing the hard work and passion our students bring to their music.

Come and enjoy a night filled with beautiful melodies, harmonies, and joyful sounds as we celebrate the dedication and musical growth of

our Copperhaven musicians. We look forward to sharing this special evening with our families, friends, and community. See you there!

Performers need to arrive at 6:00 p.m. dressed in concert dress; music T-shirts and dark bottoms.

## COPPERHAVEN'S GOT TALENT – June 6



Get ready, Copperhaven!

On **Friday, June 6**, our school will once again shine a spotlight on the incredible talents of our students.

From **Grade 1 to 9**, anyone who wants to share their gifts—whether it's singing, dancing, magic, comedy, or anything in between—is invited to take part in this year's **Copperhaven's Got Talent showcase!**

**Sign-up** for auditions May 5 to May 15 - **Auditions** will be May 20-30. See Mr. Loge for details.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our school community to celebrate and support the unique talents of our students. Let's make it a show to remember!



## 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*

### **Benefits of Outdoor Play**

Outdoor play helps children learn skills, develop physical strength, and benefits mental well-being. Time outdoors can also provide an opportunity to make friends.

Outdoor play comes in many forms. It could involve spending time in a backyard, a local park, or more rural spaces, such as forests and national parks.

However, some people may find it more challenging to spend time outdoors with their children than others. Having access to nature is an [important aspect](#) of health equity and can reduce the risk of numerous health conditions.

#### Why is Outdoor Play Important for Children?

Outdoor play is important for children for many reasons. A [2022 study](#) states that it is associated with healthy development. A [2021 study](#) describes some of its advantages. Outdoor play is often:

- open-ended, allowing children to decide for themselves how to explore
- unstructured, giving children more possibilities for play and imagination
- less predictable than home or school, encouraging children to problem-solve
- in natural environments, involving exposure to plants, animals, and sunshine

These characteristics make outdoor play uniquely beneficial in comparison to indoor structured play. However, despite these benefits, outdoor play has [declined significantly](#) in Western countries over the past few decades.

Less outdoor play [has links](#) to:

- a more sedentary lifestyle
- disconnection from the natural world
- lower ability to navigate unfamiliar environments or deal with risk

As a result, it is important that children and caregivers use opportunities for outdoor play where they can.

#### What Skills Do Children Learn Outdoors?

Children can learn many skills while playing outdoors. For example:

- **Physical abilities:** Outdoor play allows children to learn physical skills that may be difficult to practice at home. This could include jumping, climbing, cycling, skating, or team sports.

- **Autonomy:** As outdoor play [typically](#) has less structure than indoor activities, children can direct their own activities, which encourages independence and decision-making.
- **Creativity:** In less familiar environments than the home or school, children have to think creatively about playing. For example, when using new play equipment or climbing a tree, they need to think about how to use it. They may use their imagination to invent games that make use of the space.
- **Cooperation:** When playing with others, children can also learn cooperation. For example, they may have to work together to decide which games to play or how to share the space.
- **Knowledge:** Being in a natural environment can teach children more about the world.
- **Risk management:** Although caregivers want to protect their children from all risks, it is important that they learn how to navigate minor risks, as this teaches them how to handle different situations and increases confidence.

### Health Benefits of Outdoor Play

Outdoor play provides several health benefits to children, including:

#### Physical Strength and Well-Being

Outdoor play can improve children's physical strength. Physical activity can also help with [maintaining a moderate weight](#) and reduce the risk of developing weight-related health conditions, [including](#):

- type 2 diabetes
- high blood pressure
- heart disease
- Cancer

#### Mental Well-Being

Spending time outdoors [may help](#) lower stress and mental fatigue. This is because, while urban environments demand direct attention that can be tiring, being in nature can induce "soft fascination," which is a type of unfocused attention that some scientists believe can restore mental energy.

### Indoor vs. Outdoor Play

Outdoor play can be [more beneficial](#) to children than indoor play because it provides multi-sensory stimulation and requires children to be more dynamic, using their physical, cognitive, and social skills all at once.

In contrast, indoor play tends to have fewer elements, takes place in a smaller environment, and may have more rules limiting what children can or cannot do. The home is also more familiar and can stop being as challenging to children as they grow up.

A [2018 study](#) found that preschool children from five different child care centers who played outdoors were more active outdoors than indoors.

### Outdoor Play and Health Equity

Despite the benefits, outdoor play is not accessible to everyone. According to a [2021 review](#), this is due to a combination of factors, such as:

- increased urbanization
- low availability of play spaces
- poor urban planning that makes cities less walkable
- increasing appeal of device-based activities

- fear surrounding the risks of outdoor play
- low social cohesion, as this reduces caregivers' perceptions of safety in the neighborhood

These factors can affect families from many backgrounds, but inequity compounds them. Additional obstacles some families face include:

- Economic inequity: Neighborhoods with less investment may have fewer outdoor spaces and more crime, reducing how possible or safe it is for children to play outdoors. Families with lower incomes may also have less time for outdoor recreation due to working long hours or having multiple jobs.
- Pollution: Even if outdoor spaces are available, they may not be healthy places to spend time in due to pollution.
- Racism: Systemic racism adds to the deprivation of neighborhoods. Environmental racism may also expose children to high levels of pollution, and the potential for experiencing discrimination or police brutality [may cause](#) caregivers to keep children indoors.
- Sexism: A [2019 review](#) notes that previous research has found that girls play outside less than boys. Some studies have found that caregivers treat girls differently from boys when it comes to managing risk, encouraging boys to deal with problems by themselves more often. This may mean girls feel less confident playing outside without supervision. Caregivers can also restrict girls from playing outside due to fears of assault.

#### Gaining the Benefits at Home

Whether or not children have access to outdoor space, caregivers can still encourage them to get similar benefits. Some ways to do this include:

- giving children open-ended and unstructured time to play at home or in a backyard
- creating a play space that engages the senses through color, textures, or smells
- recreating activities children can do outdoors, such as races, scavenger hunts, or building forts
- playing physically active games or sports together
- allowing children to solve problems for themselves, where it is safe or appropriate
- treating girls the same way as boys
- inviting friends and schoolmates home for playdates
- limiting the use of electronic devices
- accessing outdoor play when possible, such as on trips or when visiting others

#### Summary

Outdoor play has a multitude of physical and mental health benefits for children. Spending time playing outdoors can promote creativity, independence, and problem-solving. Outdoor play can also improve strength, endurance, and mental health.

However, not everyone has access to outdoor spaces where their children can safely play. In this case, people can take several steps to encourage children to gain outdoor play benefits while spending time indoors, such as by playing physically active games.

