

October Newsletter



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the new school year!



It's hard to believe that September has already passed. Leaves are turning, the morning air is crisp, and children at Isabel Campbell are digging into some very exciting learning projects!

September is an exciting time where we welcome new families and classmates and work together to build our school community. We spend time reviewing our expectations, routines, and challenging students embody our tenants of Innovation, Collaboration, Perseverance and Success. Our students have quickly transitioned back into

school mode, and we are very proud of their efforts. Our Division and School Student Code of Conduct can be found [HERE](#)

As we enter October, we have many things to be thankful for – our families are on the top of the list. We look forward to partnering with you to help your child grow academically, socially, and emotionally this school year. I am thankful to have returned to Isabel Campbell in the role of Principal. I look forward to our journey ahead of us!

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 4** Guardian Assembly
Grades 5-8: 8:50am
Grades K-4: 10:20am
- October 10** School Council AGM 6pm
- October 11** Theme Day
Superhero Day
- October 14** No School
Thanksgiving Day
- October 15/16** School Pictures
- October 22/23** PTC and Book Fair
Book your appointment
- October 24** Family Halloween Dance
6pm-8pm
- October 25** No School PL Day
- October 31** Halloween Parade

Please meet our Vice Principals!

Mrs. Kathy Nijenhuis- this is Mrs. Nijenhuis' third year at Isabel Campbell she continues to focus on Grades 5-8. A big thank you to Mrs. Nijenhuis for spearheading our successful Hot Dogs with Top Dogs event which is the beginning of a relationship between our grade 8s and our kindergarteners.

Mrs. Kim Caron- Mrs. Caron has joined our school this year. Mrs. Caron will focus primarily on our K-4 students. Mrs. Caron has been busy learning about our school and getting to know our students. We are so excited to have her join our Guardian Team.



Kim Caron
Vice Principal



Kathy Nijenhuis
Vice Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming soon!

This year, we are having Parent Teacher Conferences in October, before our first report card in December. This gives parents and teachers the opportunity to connect and discuss the progress of your child early in the school year. Come on in to discuss how best to support your child.

How to book: A link will be shared from your child's homeroom teacher and through School Messenger on Monday, October 7th.

When: October 22nd and 23rd from 4-7pm

We look forward to seeing you then!



**Isabel Campbell
is a safe, caring
and respectful
environment that
supports the
social emotional
learning needs of
all.**



**INNOVATION,
COLLABORATION,
PERSEVERANCE,
SUCCESS.**

Learning Spotlight @ ICPS

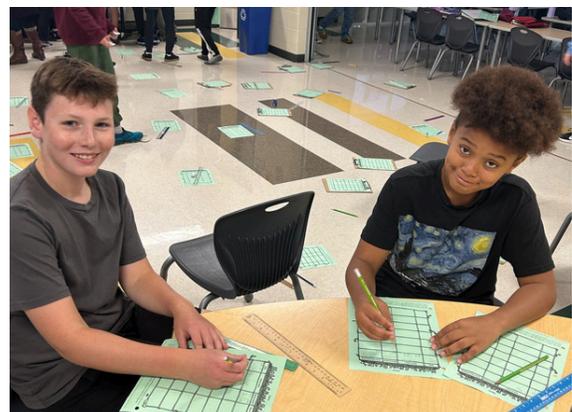
Mrs. Sha Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we have been working very hard on learning new routines, the expectations of the school and making new friends. We have been successful with our learning and play centres. Mrs. Sha's students have been using the fine motor stations to practice their fine motor skills



Mrs. Lopushinsky Grade 7

Students in science 7 are learning about plants! We are using the skills we've learned in our Scientific Method lessons to conduct an experiment using kidney beans as our control and then choosing to compare growth with either a blank bean, yellow pea, or chick pea! After they germinate, we will study their roots by putting them into clear CD cased so we can watch the structures develop each day



TERRY FOX RUN

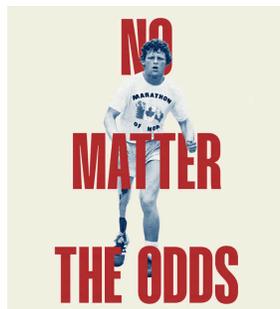
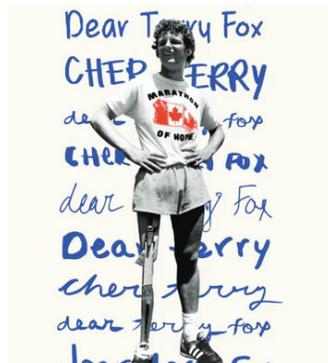
September 19, 2024

With the support of school council, and a challenge from Mr. Pepper, Isabel Campbell students and staff had a successful Terry Fox run once again! Over \$11,000 was raised for Cancer Research! We had students run/walk a 5km loop while our youngest students completed a shorter distance. Great job everyone!

A big thank you to our parent volunteers, Trader Ridge CO-OP for the cookies, Skyline Well Testing for donating pizza parties to the top fundraising classes (1 Penton & 802), and community law enforcement for helping with our cross walks.

Ecole Montrose raised approximately \$20,000! On Monday, September 23rd, Isabel Campbell staff donned the Montrose Jerseys to conclude this years challenge.

Thank you to everyone who donated! Together we make a difference!



Indigenous Connections

Truth and Reconciliation Day- September 30

September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools

We had an assembly on September 27 in honour of this day to demonstrate Isabel Campbell's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Reconciliation Tree

We are working hard to create our Reconciliation Tree. Each Isabel Campbell student will create an orange leaf with a word or sentence stating what Reconciliation Means to them. Watch our social media and webpage for pictures.



Niyanankisikaw

Mrs. Smith coordinates with our Indigenous Liaison to share a lesson with a group of students. This month's focus was on Truth and Reconciliation. Our Grade 1's also learned about the 7 Sacred Teachings.

7 Sacred Teachings



Respect is the gift from the Buffalo. In all life, respect is the first and foremost. Respect oneself and respect will be bestowed.

School Council

Highlights

We are always seeking new individuals to become a member of our School Council. Being a member is one way to gain a better understanding of the leadership and direction of the school and be a part of the process for providing input into the variety of programs we offer students.

If you want to get involved with a great group of caring individuals, we welcome all parents and legal guardians, and would love to see you join us!

At our September meeting we discussed student numbers, new staff, Terry Fox run, Halloween dance and Munch-a-Lunch. Minutes can be found on our webpage:

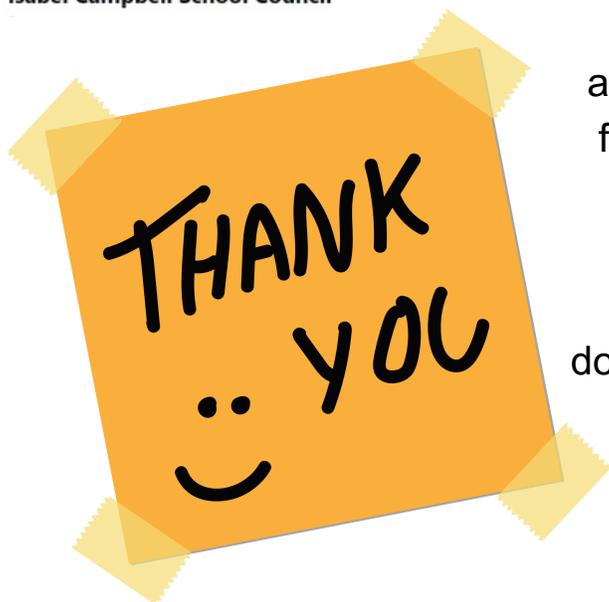
<https://isabelcampbell.gppsd.ab.ca/our-parents-students/get-involved/school-council-meetings-and-contact-info>

Next Meeting: AGM October 10th at 6pm. Child minding is available.

Our school council is a collective association of parents, legal guardians, teachers and our school principal who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning.



Isabel Campbell School Council



A big thank you to our School Council for arranging the cookies and pizza party prizes for our Terry Fox Run and for all the parent volunteers who made the Run possible!

Thank you to Trader Ridge CO-OP for donating the cookies and Skyline Well Testing for donating the pizza!!!!



Reminders

Munch-a-lunch

A big thank you to our School Council Parents who are working together to build our Munch-a-Lunch program for this year. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Parking

Parents, please remember to use the visitor parking and street parking only.

Animals on School Grounds

While we love your furry friends as much as you do, please remember that City Bylaw dictates that dogs are not permitted on school grounds. If you are picking up or dropping off your children, please consider leaving your dog at home, or waiting off school grounds away from school crowds.

Learn more about the bylaw here:
<https://cityofgp.com/node/85>

Cell Phones

Student cell phones are required to be powered off and left in cubbies or lockers for the duration of the school day, this includes recess and lunch times. If parents are needing to get a hold of their child during the day please phone our main office at 780-532-7247 where Mrs. Garland and Mrs. Senkow will be happy to help you



Teaching and Learning Outcome

Our classroom instruction supports the diverse learning needs of all students in reading, writing and numeracy.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

LET'S MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

Research shows that students in any grade, including Kindergarten, have difficulty catching up if they miss too much school. We are here to support your child's success. Click to [read more](#).

CONNECT WITH US! SCHOOLMESSENGER

As part of the Grande Prairie Public School Division, our school is using SchoolMessenger to improve communication with you, our parents and guardians. **Keep up to date on our school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.**

SchoolMessenger is limited to legal parents or guardians and delivers emails, text messages and phone calls directly to your email and phone number associated with your PowerSchool account. Once your account is created, set your preferences for general communication,



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Receive phone calls, emails and/or text messages regarding school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.

- DOWNLOAD THE APP OR CREATE ONLINE ACCOUNT
- OPT-IN FOR SMS TEXT MESSAGES
- SET PREFERENCES FOR NOTIFICATIONS

VISIT GO.SCHOOLMESSENGER.COM



CREATE YOUR SCHOOLMESSENGER ACCOUNT

Grande Prairie Public School Division

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

- Step 1 – Download the mobile app or create your account online at go.schoolmessenger.ca
- Step 2 – Set your SchoolMessenger preferences
- Step 3 (optional): Mobile app users can opt-in for SMS Text Messages by texting “yes” to our division shortcode: 978338.

Need help? Click on the links below for detailed instructions:

- [How to Set Preferences](#)
- [How to Create Account](#)

Learn more about SchoolMessenger [here](#).



Communication and Support in the Grande Prairie Public School Division

Grande Prairie Public School Division staff are committed to supporting responsible environments that build relationships, improve teaching and learning, and supporting each other to open, honest and ethical decisions. Our schools and parents are partners in the education of our students and the purpose of this document is to provide advice for parents regarding the best way to get help for their children when it is needed.

To help support this practice the following are the most effective strategies to address concerns you may have about your child's education or about something that has happened at school. Following these steps is the best way to receive timely support from school.

Step 1- Communicate with your child's teacher

The person that can help resolve the issue quickly and appropriately is usually the person closest to the concern. AT the school, the teacher knows their students best, and wants the best for them. He/she can provide support for resolving the concern.

Strategies for working with the teacher include:

- Schedule an appointment so you can have uninterrupted time with the teacher
- Talk to the teacher about how your child feels
- Focus on the problem and not on the people involved
- Ask questions to help you understand school policies and procedures
- Follow up on the solutions discussed

Step 2- Talk to an administrator at your school

If you feel your concern has not been addressed after talking to your child's teacher, make an appointment to speak with a school administrator. You will be asked whether you have spoken first to the teacher directly. A meeting may be set up your child, the teacher and an administrator to address

your concern, as the administrator's primary goal is the success of the student.

Step 3- Contact the Director of Student Supports for GPPSD

If a resolution is not reached with school administration, contact the Director of Student Supports by telephoning the Division office. Note that the Director will ask whether you have spoken to an administrator. The Director's role is to support student success and will work with parents, the school and other educational partners if necessary to resolve concerns about a student's education.

Grande Prairie Public School Division Central Office Education Team

The GPPSD central administration team works out of The Division's Central Office. The team is comprised of staff in various departments that help to support the day to day operations of the Division.

The function of the Central Office team is to support schools in their focus on student success. Common topics include supporting students when attendance might impact achievement, supporting safe and consistent practices in Division schools and in supporting stakeholders to work with legislated documents that guide education in the province and Division.

The principle "is it good for students" shall guide the actions of all Division staff. The majority of concerns that occur during the course of the school year will be successfully addressed at the school. For those concerns that may be more complex or can not be addressed at school for any reason, our Division staff are available to help ensure every student succeeds.



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**
Every Student Succeeds

   **GPPSD2357**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and GPPSD Staff.

Welcome to all new and returning members of our school division, we're looking forward to working together again this year to help every student succeed!

Today I am introducing a new communication practice, developed in part based on feedback from last year's surveys, to improve communication and to support our goal of prioritizing the health and well-being of our students, families, and staff. This year our division is introducing a practice commonly referred to as the *Right to Disconnect*. Simply put, the right to disconnect is a way of supporting both employees and families to be disconnected from the work of school outside the regular workday.

Communication practices have changed significantly over the years, and many digital tools are used to communicate between home and school. The ease of use of these tools can create the belief that communication is a 24/7 activity. Promoting the *Right to Disconnect* mindset is intended to respect the right of staff and parents to not be obligated to send or receive messages outside the workday. Sending or receiving messages in the evening can blur the line between work and personal life, making it harder for people to separate the two.

The need for effective communication with our families remains critically important in our division and we want our families and our staff to balance their work and personal lives. While people may choose to contact schools outside regular hours, this year we're asking our staff to respond promptly during their normal work hours. I appreciate your understanding that immediate replies may not always be possible during the day, when staff are teaching or supervising students during the day.

Our new *Right to Disconnect* approach is not a policy or strict rule. Emergencies, for instance, may still require immediate responses. This letter introduces the concept and explains how and when we are asking staff to communicate, to contribute to overall well-being in our school community. The *Right to Disconnect* is just one strategy we're using to support the health and well-being of both our employees and the families we serve, because we believe that prioritizing a healthy, family-focused environment will make a positive difference in our school community.

Thank you for your support.

Alexander McDonald
Superintendent of Schools