



Welcome to
Fox Creek School
February 2021



Parent Newsletter

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! We probably want to forget what 2020 brought us, but on some reflection, there were some good things too. We need to continue to build on those positives as we wait through the last of this Pandemic. Our school was very fortunate not to have many positive cases because you did your part to keep your child(ren) home when they were not well. Please continue to follow the COVID symptom checklist every day. Thank you.

If I owned a crystal ball and could predict the future, I would be able to let you know what the next six months would bring us. Unfortunately, I don't own a crystal ball, but one thing is predictable, and that is nothing is for sure. All we can do is take one step at a time, and as a school, we will continue to take it one day at a time.

Grade 9 to 12 teachers have finished up Semester 1 courses. Final marks will be available February 1st through PowerSchool. There will be no school on January 29th. The new semester will start on February 1st.

Mr. Baxter

Principal Fox Creek School

Email List:

If you would like to be added to our email list and receive an electronic version of our newsletter, please contact Mrs. Thackeray at the office or pamela.thackeray@ngps.ca



Dates to mark your calendar

Feb. 4 & 5
Teachers' Convention
No School

Feb. 15
Family Day
No School

Feb. 24
PINK Shirt Day

Box 88, Fox Creek, Alberta T0H 1P0 Ph. (780) 622-3742 Fax: (780) 622-3482 Email: foxcreek@ngps.ca

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Mr. Ian Baxter, Principal

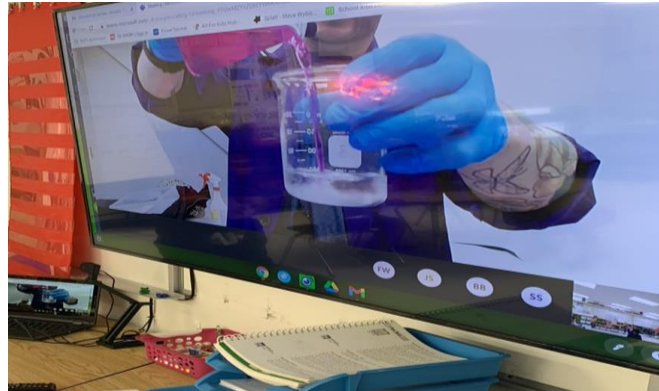
Elementary News

Elementary students had a virtual field trip with TELUS World of Science.

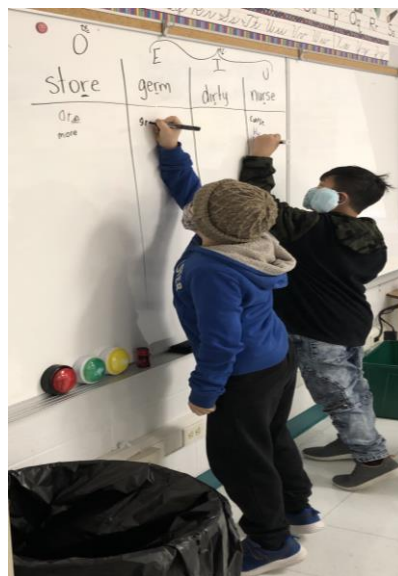
The grade 3s loved the TELUS World of Science digital class on Rocks and Minerals.



Mrs. Hibbs 's Grade 1 class participated in different activities for their senses. Their favorite activity was watching a liquid change from clear to pink then back to clear!



Miss. Slocum's Grade 3 class are working hard on their math and L.A. skills!



4White Enters a Competition

In November, 4 White entered a competition hosted by ERA. If you don't know what ERA stands for, I will explain that to you. ERA stands for Electronic Recycling Association. Now that you know what ERA stands for, I bet you're wondering why we entered, well, I will explain that to you too. Our classroom, 4White, was studying the Science Unit Waste in our World and our teacher, Mrs. White, decided that to help her students' education, she would put them in a competition all about making posters about what we were learning about. The winner would receive a new laptop! The winner of the competition was Hudson Thackeray. We learned so much about waste in our world and we are so happy we entered the competition in the first place!

By: Ellison Moen





Grade 7 Plasma cutting





Welcome Fox Creek School's New Vice-Principal



Fox Creek School is pleased to announce Mrs. Ronica DeCiccio will move into the Assistant Principal position at Fox Creek School beginning February 1, 2021. Ronica has been part of Fox Creek School for some time now. Ronica taught elementary for numerous years before she took time to be home with her two boys. For the past two years Ronica has been the Elementary Inclusive Education Facilitator. In all her roles she quickly established herself as a valuable asset to the school community. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, where she majored in Elementary Education and minored in Science, and is enrolled in a Master's of Education in Educational Leadership - online through Gonzaga University. Ronica excelled in her programs, distinguishing herself through excellent academic performance and graduated with Honors of Distinction with her Bachelor of Education.

Throughout the candidate search, Fox Creek School was looking for a leader who is highly effective at improving teaching and learning while being focused on growth of students and staff. We also value a leader who easily connects with parents, students and staff, and someone who is a keen listener and problem solver. Throughout the interview process, Ronica demonstrated energy and passion to help Fox Creek School continue its pursuit of being a great school for all students.

Ronica states: "I am very proud to call Fox Creek home, where I have been an active member of the community for over 20 years. I am excited to embark on this leadership journey within Fox Creek School! I look forward to strengthening my relationships with the dedicated and caring staff, students and families, working towards a common goal of continuous learning and student success."

Ronica brings many strengths to the Fox Creek School Leadership team. She has a warm presence and extraordinary life experience. Her background in Literacy and Numeracy, Special Education, and Leadership, with an emphasis on restorative justice practices and social emotional support, aligns well with the direction of our school. We are looking forward to her joining our Leadership team and helping us achieve our School Improvement goals.

Ian Baxter
Principal Fox Creek School

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Paying for school items just got easier! SchoolCashOnline is the easy and safe way to manage your school expenses and view your payment history online. Save yourself the trip to the school and sign up today! ngps.schoolcashionline.com

To Run or not to run

1 Who makes the decision and how?

Rhett Czaban
Director of Transportation

Weather

Highway Satellite Cameras

Bus Driver Cheyway

-40
Temperature readings
Environment Canada
511 Alberta

Scouting the Roads

2 Are the buses running?

4 How do we let you know?

3 The decision is made between

06:00

am

06:30

am

5 It's your decision!

Send to School

Keep Home

It is always your decision whether or not to send your child to school when weather conditions are extreme.

6 Dress warmly!

Don't forget to dress warmly. See you at school!



EXAM BANK

Practice tests for all grade levels are available on this site.

1. Log onto alberta.exambank.com
2. On the left hand side choose a grade level
3. Choose which exam you want to write and click on the start exam button
4. username: foxcreek
password: school



NEW OPPORTUNITY



RAP Positions

**Instrumentation/Electrical
Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
Parts Technician (Whitecourt)**

Whitecourt, Fox Creek, Valleyview

**Pembina Pipeline Corporation – Conventional Business Unit
(3 positions available)**

Starting Date: July 2, 2021

Hours: Based on availability

Wage: \$16.85

Requirements:

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Grade Completed: Grade 9

HCS 3000 Completed

Driver's License required

Safety Tickets preferred: First Aid and H2S Alive

Resume, Cover Letter - **noting which position(s) you are interested in and completed Off-Campus Education Application Form**

Please speak with your Off-Campus Coordinator or school administration to apply

Deadline to Apply: April 30, 2021



COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten to Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, child care or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

Screening Questions

1. Has the child: (Choose any/all possible exposures)

Table with 3 columns: Question, YES, NO. Rows include: Traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days? Had close contact with a case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days? Summary of instructions for YES/NO answers.

2. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:

Table with 3 columns: Symptom, YES, NO. Rows include: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath, Loss of sense of smell or taste. Summary of instructions for YES/NO answers.



3. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:

	YES	NO
Chills Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather		
Sore throat/painful swallowing Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux		
Runny nose/congestion Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather		
Feeling unwell/fatigued Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury		
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome		
Unexplained loss of appetite Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as anxiety or medication		
Muscle/joint aches Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as arthritis or injury		
Headache Not related to other known causes or conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines		
Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)		
<p>If the child answered “YES” to ONE symptom in question 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary. If the symptom does not improve or worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended. <p>If the child answered “YES” to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home. Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started. <p>If the child answered “NO” to all questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child may attend school, child care and/or other activities. 		

Please note: If your child is experiencing any symptoms from the lists above, do not bring them to visit a continuing care or acute care facility for 10 days from when symptoms started/until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer), unless they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better.

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Mr. Ian Baxter, Principal



My Heroes of COVID-19

**“Even as we grieved, we grew. Even as we hurt, we hoped. Even as we tire, we try.”
~ Amanda Gorman**

I recently heard a radio story of a first grade teacher who was teaching her students virtually when she accidentally released gas, making a loud noise. The response of the children was priceless. I laughed so hard at their joy, innocence and delight that tears ran down my face. Soon those tears turned to ones of sadness. Listening to the purity in the precious giggles of each child, on a computer in their home, connecting with their teacher and classmates, yet physically alone, struck me as terribly heartbreaking. *These small children are my heroes.*

I know a seven year old boy who lives and breathes all things hockey. School, not so much! With ADHD he nearly climbs the walls and his single, working mama is nearly pulling out her hair! With the cancellation of his sport, this little guy is suffering through a loss so great, it is like a death to him. It was a lifeline not only for him but his exhausted mother. *The kids who have lost their sports, music, drama productions and extra curricular activities are my heroes.*

Another child I know is supposed to graduate high school in June. Such a milestone to celebrate and a year that is meant to be full of memories, relationships and excitement. It is her last year at school and possibly at home, yet is filled with many disappointments and losses. Thankfully she is focused on exams, college applications and part time jobs or she, like many graduates, would sink into an abyss of desolation. Through tears, she sobbed, “it is not fair! This is not how my last year is supposed to go!” *The graduating class of 2021 are my heroes.*

I was curious as to what others felt were the most difficult and what, if anything, has been positive about COVID. In conversing with other children, the predominant responses were: I miss my friends, I miss my cousins and grandparents, masks are annoying, I miss the freedom of sitting and playing with who I want. I miss my sports, my lessons, my practices, normal life.

An overwhelming response was: *“There is nothing good about COVID.”*

On a personal level, I felt bittersweet sorrow observing my teenager build a snowman with her brother. Watching her giggle and be silly opened the floodgates for me. You see, this child has suffered through the deepest, darkest pit of depression I have ever seen. COVID seemed to slam the door on all hope, light and comfort. She retreated so far into herself I did not know if I would ever be able to reach her. But together, with the help of professionals, family and teachers, she battled hard, pushed through and celebrated the moments when the sun shone. Watching her now, I can cautiously say there are more good days than bad. I know the depression would have still been there, but COVID certainly accentuated the symptoms ten fold. *The kids who are fighting through mental illness are my heroes.*



These stories are far from unique. COVID-19 seems to have brought a despondency and heaviness to our children unlike anything else. As parents, we cannot pull our children out of their despair by ourselves. We absolutely must **reach out to friends, family and professionals**. We must focus, point out and grasp onto the brief moments of normalcy, joy and delight like our lives depend on it. Maybe that is the secret to ours and our children's survival: **to seek out the silver lining**.

My message to the students in Northern Gateway Public Schools and beyond is this:

I am so sorry that everything is the way it is and wish I could tell you that everything will go back to the way it was before. I know it is not easy and you hate so many parts of COVID. I know your hearts are breaking and no one can stop the pain.

But I know that the adults in your life: parents, teachers, doctors, counsellors, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all so proud of you. We will continue to love you, stand by you, get you mental health help when you need it, rejoice with you in all you are succeeding at and all you are overcoming.

I am sorry that you are missing out on so much, but please do not overlook the strength and resilience that is growing inside of you. Just like precious diamonds are created by tremendous pressure, great beauty and strength is being created in you. You are learning to think and act for yourself. You are learning to question everything you read and hear.

You are learning that the **most valuable things in life are not things** but people, relationships and connection. I know this because that is what you are telling me.

As I reflect on the past 10 months, I believe that the real heroes are the children. May we all continue to savor in their resilience, adaptability and tenacity. Please, tell a young person today how very proud you are of them. Please tell them that **they are your hero**.

[For Mental Health Support go to www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/page16759.aspx](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/page16759.aspx)

Call Helpline 1-877-303-2642 or Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868

"Perhaps the butterfly is proof that you can go through a great deal of darkness yet still become something beautiful"

~Beau Taplin

This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support for schools, students, parents and caregivers to promote success in school. Tammy advocates for students and families, providing a link to the community programs. Tammy has been a registered social worker for more than 20 years and is a mother to 4 teenagers.