



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kindergarten & New Student Registration is ongoing.

Register online and learn more at [www.pwpsd.ca/registration](http://www.pwpsd.ca/registration)

### Diploma Exams

April, June & August  
Info & schedules: <https://www.alberta.ca/diploma-exams-overview.aspx>

### Easter Break

Friday, April 15 & Monday, April 18 | No school - offices & shops closed

### ASCA Conference & AGM

April 22-24 | virtually

### Administrator Meetings

April 26, June 7

### Upcoming Board meetings

April 28, May 26, June 16  
10:30 a.m. | Central Office

### 3D Charity Tournaments

May 6 at 8:30 a.m.  
Soccer: CKC Field  
Ball Hockey: Adjacent parking lot to the north of CKC Field

### PATs

May 10 & 11  
June 15, 20 & 22-24

### Victoria Day

Monday, May 23 | No school, offices & shops closed

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Colours and other elements shown in this rendering may vary from the completed project.

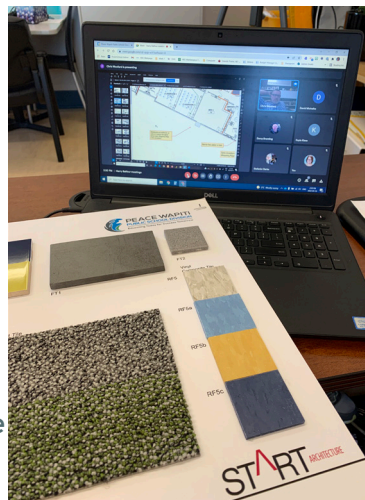
## Harry Balfour replacement school going to tender

The layout has been finalized and the colours have been chosen; the Harry Balfour replacement school, which will be located on the Five Mile Hall site east of the city of Grande Prairie, is ready for construction.

The project is anticipated to go to tender in the coming weeks; soon after the contract for a general contractor will be awarded and construction will begin.

The replacement school, that the Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange announced on November 1, 2019, will reflect elements of Whispering Ridge Community School in addition to its own style.

Staff at Harry Balfour School, and throughout the Division, have been working hard to prepare for this phase of the project, and are excited to see the drawings come to life.



## Sexsmith Sabres fill the trophy case

The Sexsmith Sabres football team has been on a role since winning the Provincial title this past fall. In February, Coach James Watson was honoured with Football Alberta's Coach of the Year award. The provincial organization called Mr. Watson a "fantastic coach and mentor", and his team could not agree more.



The players continued to represent their school during the 2022 Northwest Alberta Sport Excellence Awards in March, where 35 individuals and organizations were nominated for awards. The Sabres brought home the Team of the Year award, while Teron Anderson, the team's Running Back, was named Male Athlete of the Year.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Graduation Ceremonies

May 7, 21 & 27  
June 18, 28  
July 9

Information about individual ceremonies will be shared on our website and social media pages shortly.

## Last day of school for students

June 28

## Last day of school for staff

June 29

## PWPSD Indigenous Youth Role Models



Inti Burnham, Grade 7 student at Helen E. Taylor School, and three PWPSD alumni received Indigenous Youth Role Model awards at the 2022 Spirit Seekers Youth Conference, held at Northwestern Polytechnic in March. Inti brought home the Mental Wellness award from the junior youth category. **Shanielle Macdonald** received the Melodie Wilton Memorial Award, while **Serenity Davis** earned the Delaine Lambert-English Memorial Award. **Travis Letendre**, PWPSD alumnus who is currently working with Indigenous students at Beaverlodge Regional High School, received the Physical Wellness award in the Senior Youth category.



Congratulations to the Sexsmith Secondary School's Senior Boys' and Girls' Provincial Curling Champions! These eight curlers made history as the first high school in Alberta to ever win two Provincial Golds at the same event. Go Sabres!

# PWPSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## PWPSD staff bring home Passionate Heart Exceptional Service Awards

Three PWPSD staff were awarded Passionate Heart Exceptional Service Awards at this year's February 14 celebration. Mrs. Sheila Payeur of Clairmont Community School, Ms. Alpha-Dawn Campbell of Beaverlodge Elementary School, and Mrs. Debbie Hammel of Robert W. Zahara School received their awards for their exceptional front line service in education. Congratulations!



Left to right: Mrs. Payeur, Ms. Campbell & Mrs. Hammel

## 2020-2021 ACADEMIC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PWPSD's Board of Trustees honoured former students for their academic achievements during the past 2020-2021 school year during the February 24 Board meeting.

Each year, **Academic Awards of Excellence** in the amount of \$100 are presented to graduates with an academic average above 90 per cent. This past school year there were 19 students who achieved this undeniably difficult feat.

Peace Wapiti Academy's **Elena Ewert** was named the **Top Student in the Division** and received a \$300 award for her accomplishment.

**Top Student in School Awards**, given in the amount of \$100, went to Alexis Laurin of Eaglesham School, Marisa Jeresky of Peace Wapiti Enterprise Centre, and Levi Boychuk of Spirit River Regional Academy, for achieving the highest average, of at least 80 per cent, at their schools.



(Left to right - top row): Kyley Binns, Levi Boychuk, Jolie Burkin, Coner Cram, Kaitlyn Dawe, Jessie Derksen, Elena Ewert, Reagan Fibbes  
(Left to right - middle row): Chantel Jack, Marisa Jeresky, Maryn Johnson, Faith Johnstone, Alexis Laurin, Brandi Moody, Payton Pawluski, Sophie Ray  
(Left to right - bottom row): Dana Schlawitz, Wyatt Soucy, Emmerson Sutherland, Faith Vetsch, Averie Villiger, Madison Villiger



The Funding Manual for School Authorities provides school councils with \$500 to use for activities and projects, such as workshops, that are designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement in public education.

To view the 2022 Workshops Brochure, request a workshop, or learn more about other support services, visit the ASCA website at [albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca).

### You've got mail!



**PWPSD School Council Chairs:** Remember to check your Division-issued generic email accounts for important information. Click the webmail link (under 'Utility Links') at [www.pwpsd.ca](http://www.pwpsd.ca).

### Where is your bus?

**All buses are on time.**

The best way to stay up-to-date on your bus' status is to download the Bus Status app! The user-friendly app allows you to follow any bus route you choose. Find full instructions on how to download and use the app at [www.pwpsd.ca](http://www.pwpsd.ca).

## Multi-factor authentication required for all PWPSD users

Multi-factor authentication is an electronic safety control that requires you to provide two or more verification factors to gain access to an application like your email.

For security and insurance purposes, PWPSD has now implemented multi-factor authentication for all its email accounts. As School Council Chair, you will now have to set up multi-factor authentication and confirm your identity from time to time, using codes that you will receive by text message or phone call, before accessing your inbox.

An email will be sent to all Council Chair email accounts with instructions on this process. If you require additional support, reach out to your school administrator.



April 22, 23, 24, 2022

## School Councils Conference

Annual General Meeting  
Alberta School Councils' Association

## Registration now open for ASCA Annual Conference and AGM

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Annual Conference and AGM will be held virtually via Zoom on April 22 - 24. The 2022 event will consider **School Councils: Cultivating Compassion**, promoting the work of school council and wellbeing in the school community to benefit student success.

PWPSD supports the attendance of school council members at ASCA annual conferences by covering the registration fee for up to two school council members per school.

As members of ASCA, PWPSD School Councils should select the reduced ASCA member rate when registering online. Conference fees must be paid by credit card. Delegates may choose to cover their own registration fee and submit receipts to their school for reimbursement, or ask school staff to register them directly.

The online event will begin on Friday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m

Register online by **Friday, April 15** by visiting [albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca).

*\*Suitable for desktop, laptops, tablets, and smart phones. Participants can join from a PC, Mac, iOS, or Android device.*

## School Councils

School councils are an important forum through which members of school communities play an advisory role in school improvement planning.

A school council is a vehicle to support meaningful parental involvement in decisions that affect the school and its operations. It provides the venue for parents to reflect the wishes of the broader community for the education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal in the operations of the school.

**School Councils' Core Activities:** advise the principal and Board on educational issues that pertain to the school; establish and review school council's goals, objectives, action plans and procedures; communicate and consult with parents and the school community; meet regularly.

As the primary role is advisory, school councils are not eligible to incorporate as societies. It is not the primary intent of school councils to fundraise or lobby.

**Roles that are not taken on by a school council include:** school governance; employment issues; school management; listening to complaints.

## NEW! KinderSmart at Harry Balfour School

Harry Balfour School will begin offering KinderSmart programming this fall. New for the 2022-2023 school year, KinderSmart offers four-day Kindergarten, Monday to Thursday, and will run the full school day.

Students will enjoy two full days of Kindergarten programming and curricular outcomes with a certified teacher, and two full days of programming with an Early Childhood Services instructor.

Staff at Harry Balfour School say they are excited to offer this program to students and are looking forward to its start this fall.

KinderSmart is available to all children turning five in 2022, and will cost \$325 per month.

Families wanting to register their child in KinderSmart at Harry Balfour School, or in Kindergarten at any other PWPSD school, can do so by visiting [www.pwpsd.ca/registration](http://www.pwpsd.ca/registration).

## Mr. O'Shea: Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Shawn O'Shea, current principal of Whispering Ridge Community School, has accepted the position of **Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services**, and will begin his new role in August.

He has worked with the Division for 15 years and is excited to continue his PWPSD career in a new capacity. "I am excited to join the administrative team and I am looking forward to working with and supporting the learning communities throughout our Division."

Congratulations Mr. O'Shea!



## Eglesham to start offering Junior Kindergarten

Eglesham School, with the support of families, will begin offering Junior Kindergarten programming this upcoming school year. The entire school community is thrilled about this parent-driven initiative, and staff are excited to get started!

## GOOD NEWS

### PWA band students perform in Youth Wind Symphony of Alberta

Iva Henheffer and Liam Mahood performed as part of the Youth Wind



Symphony of Alberta, an honour band program for talented high school musicians from across the province. It provides high school aged musicians the opportunity to work with some of the finest concert band conductors, grow musically, and meet other musically vibrant instrumentalists.

Approximately 75 Albertans participated in the event, performing in front of 700 people at Red Deer Polytechnic on March 6, 2022.

### Staff attend literacy workshops



Grade 1-6 teachers had the opportunity to participate in literacy workshops hosted by PWPSD's Instructional Coaches. The workshops, which were held as part of the Province's Learning Loss Project, focused on sound production, penmanship, synthetic phonics, and writing.

**KINDERGARTEN ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
for all children turning five in 2022.  
[www.pwpsd.ca/registration](http://www.pwpsd.ca/registration)

PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

The Peace Wapiti Public School Division Update is a report on news from PWPSD, produced for the annual General School Councils' Meeting.  
\*Photos supplied by staff and Travis Brown Photography.

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