

Parkdale School

Parent Package 2024 - 2025



WOLFPACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Powerful Learning Environment
Message from our Principal
Values, Mission, Vision
Staffing Plan
Introduction
Attendance/Absenteeism
Start of Day
Morning Meetings
Homework
Literacy/Numeracy
School Entry
Cell phones
Field Trips
Lunch Time
Pizza Sales / Special Lunches
Powerschool Gradebook
Smudging
Volunteers
Bell Schedule
Calendar
Kindergarten Calendar



POWERFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) is a learning organization which embraces a strength-based approach to student learning. We frame our work from an appreciative perspective which poses an overarching question, “How can we ensure that every student in WRPS can learn in a powerful learning environment?” This approach does not ignore the many learning challenges that exist; rather, we choose to focus on what is right with the world as opposed to what is wrong. We inquire into our peak experiences, and value the gifts each student and staff member brings to our schools.

Listed below is a brief explanation of the elements of our model:

- **Success for all Students** - it is our belief that students will receive a quality education in a culture that is inclusive, supports mutual respect, celebrates diversity, and honours the dignity of those we serve and for those who serve.
- **Well Being**- a priority for WRPS is to champion student and staff well being.
- **Relationships** - we know the importance of fostering effective relationships with our students, parents, and community members through thoughtful and meaningful interactions.
- **Culturally Responsive**- WRPS acknowledges and honours the diverse lived experiences, beliefs, practices, customs and rituals that reflect the diversity of our families and students
- **Medicine Wheel** - “the circle shape represents the interconnectivity of all aspects of one’s being, including the connection with the natural world” (Indigenous Corporate Teaching Inc., 2022)
- **Student Voice and Choice** - We recognize the importance of partnering with students and parents to engage in effective processes that allow our student’s voices to be heard. We provide students meaningful opportunities to make choices related to their learning experiences.
- **High-Yield Instructional Strategies** - Research based strategies that have the greatest positive effect on student achievement for all students, in all subject areas, at all grade levels (Marzano, 2001.)
- **Innovative and Creative Programming** - Innovative and creative programming creates learning opportunities that engage our students in a personalized, flexible, student-centered manner based on the needs of 21st-century students.
- **Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum** - Rigorous and relevant curriculum challenges students to integrate and apply their learning to real world situations. Students are challenged to use higher order thinking skills and to demonstrate mastery of discipline-specific concepts and skills.
- **Purposeful Assessment** - Assessment is merely the means of gathering information about student learning (Black, 2013). Purposeful assessment is using that information to inform instruction, guide student learning, and provide feedback.
- **Personalised and Flexible Learning Environments** - Our staff recognizes that all learners are unique, have distinct interests and this requires individualization in both programming and in the learning environment.

From the [WRPS 3 Year Education Plan 2024-2027](#)

A Message from our Principal

Welcome all families to the 2024/2025 school year. Parkdale School is proud to have you and your child as a member of our Wolfpack.

We have a number of new initiatives that will be implemented this year tied to our continued development of our students. In addition to the wonderful work of all our staff everyday, we will be specifically targeting Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Social Skill Development. As you will see in this package, the staff at Parkdale School have developed an intentional, deliberate and purposeful approach to help each and everyone of our students see high levels of achievement.

Integral in the success of our students, is the support from home. We say, “Every child deserves a Team” and one of the most important team members is our caregivers at home. Together we can work to foster student growth and development in each of our children. Our families can help by sending their child to school every day, helping with homework and establishing consistent routines.

We greatly appreciate everything that you do and all the hard work you put in towards raising your child. We thank you for this and look forward to an excellent school year.



Mr. Mike Daly,

Principal of Parkdale School

Values

We value wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth.

Wahkohtowin - A community of connection, learning and caring.

Mission

To collaborate in a caring learning environment that includes students, staff, families and the community while incorporating Parkdale School values to develop the next generation of learners.

Vision

Healing our community by giving students a strong background of academic and life experience to create curiosity and understanding of what they can achieve.

STAFFING PLAN

Educational Assistants

- Mrs. Barb Mercer
- Mrs. Tracy Normandeau
- Mrs. Cathy Fiveland
- Mrs. Shauna Angus
- Mrs. Vicki Weimer
- Mr. Liam Hill
- Ms. Chloe Dion
- Mrs. Alanda Warford

Custodians

- Mr. Darrell Feldberg
- Mr. Kenneth Bie

Teachers

- ECS - Mrs. Danielle Romaine
- Grade 1 - Mrs. Lexie Lynn
- Grade 2 - Ms. Shilo Bargholz
- Grade 3 - Mr. Ben Lau
- Grade 4 - Ms. Christine Hauck
- Grade 5 - Mrs. Suzanne Quinton
- Grade 6 - Ms. Paris Engram
- Grade 7/8 - Mrs. Dawn Craik, and Mrs. Hannah Boyd
- Literacy Teacher - Mrs. Hannah Boyd
- Physical Education - Mr. Scott White

Student Support Services

- FSL - Mrs. Leslie Cropper
- ISW - Ms. Rochelle Minde
- MHCW - Ms. Natalie Peek

Office Staff

- Mrs. Deanna Didriksen - Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Madison Baker - Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Erin Quinn - Vice-Principal & Inclusion Coach
- Mr. Mike Daly - Principal

INTRODUCTION

Education in Alberta is defined, administered, and governed by the Education Act. This document states visions, principles and values that form the foundation of the education system in Alberta. Some of these include:

- Education is the foundation of a democratic and civil society;
- Education inspires students to discover and pursue their aspirations and interests and cultivates a love of learning and the desire to be lifelong learners;
- The role of education is to develop engaged thinkers who think critically and creatively and ethical citizens who demonstrate respect, teamwork and democratic ideals and who work with an entrepreneurial spirit to face challenges with resilience, adaptability, risk-taking and bold decision-making;
- Students are entitled to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self;
- Education is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration, engagement and empowerment of all partners in the education system to ensure that all students achieve their potential

Parkdale School has developed a number of intentional initiatives to ensure our students achieve their fullest potential according to these foundational principles. These have been broken down into grade-specific objectives in [Our Learning Success Story](#), however, to engage our Parents and Families, we have created this Parent Package to specifically describe changes you can expect at Parkdale for the 2024/2025 school year.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENTEEISM

For students to get the most out of school, they need to be in attendance every day. For the 2022/23 school year, Parkdale students, on average, missed 10 days per month. This trend worsened for the 2023/24 school year, with students missing 12 days per month on average. Ultimately, this means that some students are missing up to half the days per year of school. Over two years, some students have *missed an entire year of school*. For teaching at any level to be effective and for students to see the successes necessary for later in life, they need to be in school more often.

To address this concern, Parkdale school will have an Academic Engagement Program designed to work with those students and families to improve school attendance. This will take the form of data collection to monitor and identify students whose attendance is beginning (or has in the past) to become a concern. This will spearhead the communication with families to understand the specific barriers to regular school attendance. This may take the form of phone calls, emails, texts, or even scheduled home visits to establish productive dialogue and relationships.

The AEP will be a part of the school team assignments including the Family/School Liaison and the Indigenous Support Worker. The program will also engage with community agencies (Family Resource Network, McMann Center, Mental Health, BGC, and others) to create a network of supports. This will assist with the mental and emotional well-being of students that express difficulties in coming to school. Students may be experiencing anxiety, depression, or some other mental difficulty that impacts their ability to enter the school building.

To bridge the gap between attendance and non-attendance, the AEP will work with individual students and their families to create unique learning opportunities to engage students in learning while not in school. This may be paper packages delivered to the students' door or online tutoring sessions. These will be designed to provide the student some form of academic material to work on, while the barriers to their physical school attendance are being addressed. As students are able to enter the building, they will be able to meet with the AEP individuals in a mentorship role. This will build on the relationship established between the AEP and the student through the home visits and online meetings, allowing the student an easier transition to their regular classroom.

The AEP will ultimately be responsible for increasing the regular school attendance of those students that are currently missing out on opportunities to improve their academic understandings.

Attendance Matters

1 or 2 days a week does not seem like much but....

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling that is...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 school years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 school years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 school years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/She is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is....	Over 13 years of schooling that is...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	1.5 weeks per year	Nearly .5 of a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour and 40 minutes per week	2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

If your child is absent, we ask that you telephone the office (prior to 9:00 am). If the school does not receive notice that your child is away, the school will be contacting your home to notify you of their absence.

When students are late in the morning and/or the afternoon they must report to the office. A student will be marked absent if they arrive **after 10:30 am** in the morning and **after 2:00 pm** in the afternoon. If your child is leaving **prior to 3:10 pm** they must be signed out at the office. It is important to give as much notice as possible for end of the day changes as the office is very busy at the end of the day. This also helps us with accurate bus lists.

START OF DAY

School doors open at 8:20 each school day. There will be school supervisors outside, in the gym, and in the library for our students. They are welcome to enter the school, play in the gym, read a book in the library, or play a boardgame. Students will also be able to participate in homework assistance with Teachers every morning during this time. Teachers will be available in the Library to assist students with academic work.

We also hope to have warm breakfast (toast, Eggo Waffles, oatmeal, etc) offered to our students during this time. Hope Mission has graciously offered to assist with providing food for our students. They are working hard to have this available as soon as possible. We will announce on our school website when this is ready. It will be open to all of our students and parents.

SCHOOL ENTRY

Students in Grades K-4 will be entering and leaving the school through the south school doors.

Students in Grades 5-8 will be entering and leaving the school through the north school doors.

They will be able to place their outside shoes on racks or carry them to their lockers.



MORNING MEETINGS

Every morning, from 8:40-9:00am, every student at Parkdale will be engaged in a Morning Meeting with their classmates. Morning meetings are designed to:

- Set the tone for respectful and engaged learning in a climate of trust
- Build and enhance communication among students and between students and teachers
- Merge academic, social, and emotional learning
- Motivate students by addressing the human need to feel a sense of significance and belonging, and to have fun

Morning meetings will consist of four essential components: Greeting, Sharing, Group Activity, and Morning Message. These activities are specifically designed to provide opportunities for students to practice the skills of greeting, listening and responding, group problem solving and communication while building a sense of community through respect and trust.

HOMEWORK

Students at Parkdale will be building resilience, independence, responsibility and improve their academic performance through the completion of a small amount of homework. This will be created by the classroom teacher to be completed by each student on Day 1s in Quarter 1, then adding on Day 2s in Quarter 2 and so on over the course of the year.

Homework will consist of 5-10 minutes of previously taught age-appropriate material that the student fully understands and is capable of completing on their own. Students will be taught a Homework Plan by their teacher that outlines the materials they will need, how to find a space at home, and the procedures for organizing themselves. Students will develop a checklist to assist them with their homework. Checklists will include items such as:

- Putting appropriate materials into their backpacks
- Laying their materials out on a table at home
- Reading the directions
- Have a parent or other adult look over the work
- Place the materials back into their backpacks

Homework will be supported by school staff so that it becomes the responsibility of the

student. Parents and families can assist with homework by asking their child to get out their work and start. Once the child completes their work, parents can review the materials to ensure they were done correctly and the child understands.

LITERACY/NUMERACY

Parkdale School is committed to ensuring all learners achieve academic, emotional, and social successes. These characteristics enable our students to have the resilience, motivation and ability to rise to any future challenges as they move towards High School Graduation.

For all students to attain these successes, Parkdale School is implementing a specific, targeted and intentional approach to student learning. Deliberate Tier 2 supports will be implemented to benefit student Literacy (reading and writing) and Numeracy. Supports will be based on the Alberta Government’s Implementing a Continuum of Supports and Services. The six principles of this approach are shown below:



CELL PHONES

Students that choose to bring a cell phone to school will keep these devices in their lockers during instruction. If students that are unsuccessful in this, or that would prefer a safer location, cell phones can be brought to the front office for safe storage.

FIELD TRIPS

Permission forms and associated fees for all field trips will be posted online at [Powerschool](#).

For the first quarter of the school year (September 3 - November 6), paper copies of permission forms and cash payments will be available. After November 6th, only online forms and payments will be accepted.

LUNCH TIME

Parkdale School is a closed campus. Students are expected to stay on school grounds at all times.

For the 2024/2025 school year, Parkdale students will have a 25 minute lunch eating time and a 25 minute recess break.

Students in Grades K-4 will have their lunch from 12:04-12:29, then will have a recess break from 12:29-12:54.

Students in Grades 5-8 will have a recess break from 12:04-12:29, then will have their lunch from 12:29-12:54.

PIZZA SALES/SPECIAL LUNCHESES

Parkdale students will be able to purchase a slice of pizza on Thursdays throughout the school year. Pizza comes in pepperoni, hawaiian, or cheese. Pizza sales will begin on October 3rd.

Parents and Families will be encouraged to purchase Pizza Cards online at [Powerschool](#). For the first quarter of the school year (September 3 - November 6), Parkdale school will accept cash for the purchase of pizza. Thereafter, only pizza cards will be accepted.

POWERSCHOOL GRADEBOOK

Teachers will be using PowerSchool to record marks and comments. This is the main source for accurate information regarding your child's achievement in school. Teachers will provide a description of each assignment. There may also be individual comments on how a child may continue to grow in an area.

If you have any questions, you can contact your child's teacher directly through Powerschool. The school office can also be contacted if you are experiencing difficulties setting up an account or logging on.

[WRPS Assessment and Reporting Handbook](#)

VOLUNTEERS

School volunteers, through their donation of time and talent, contribute significantly to the successful operation of a school. Parkdale School greatly appreciates the involvement of volunteers within our school. Volunteers can help on field trips, read to students, help with student work, or assist with special functions. The Division strives to promote an environment which welcomes volunteers, provides them with meaningful involvement, and demonstrates appreciation for their efforts.

If you are interested in volunteering at Parkdale school, please contact your child's Teacher or the School Office.

- All volunteers are required to complete a Volunteer Registration Form
- Volunteers who are not current employees with the Division are required to provide a security clearance if their duties involve:
 - Working in unsupervised conditions with individual students
 - Volunteering to supervise overnight or longer field trips
 - Activities that involve working on an ongoing basis with two or more students in an unsupervised situation, i.e., coaching teams; and
 - Situations that in the judgment of the Principal warrant closer scrutiny.

There is a formal process for volunteers in schools as outlined in Administrative Procedure [490](#)

BELL SCHEDULE

Number of Instructional Days in the Calendar			179
Description	Start	End	Mins per Block
Morning Supervision	8:20 AM	8:35 AM	15.00
Transition	8:35 AM	8:40 AM	5.00
Period 1	8:40 AM	9:16 AM	36.00
Period 2	9:16 AM	9:52 AM	36.00
Morning Break	9:52 AM	10:12 AM	20.00
Transition	10:12 AM	10:16 AM	4.00
Period 3	10:16 AM	10:52 AM	36.00
Period 4	10:52 AM	11:28 AM	36.00
Period 5	11:28 AM	12:04 PM	36.00
Recess	12:04 PM	12:29 PM	25.00
Lunch	12:29 PM	12:54 PM	25.00
Transition	12:54 PM	12:56 PM	2.00
Period 6	12:56 PM	1:32 PM	36.00
Period 7	1:32 PM	2:08 PM	36.00
Period 8	2:08 PM	2:44 PM	36.00
Period 9	2:44 PM	3:20 PM	36.00
End of the Days Tasks and Supervision	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	25.00

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2024-2025 REGULAR Learning Calendar

August 2024					September 2024					October 2024					November 2024				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22
12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29
19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
26	27	28	29	30	30														

December 2024					January 2025					February 2025					March 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28
30	31				27	28	29	30	31						31				

April 2025					May 2025					June 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30				

LEGEND	
Instructional Day	
PLC Days	
Organizational Day	
Schools Closed	
Teachers Conv	

IMPORTANT DATES

August 27-30	Organizational Days
September 2	Labour Day
September 3	First day of Classes
September 30	National day for TRC
October 11	PLC Day
October 14	Thanksgiving
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12-15	November Break
December 6th	PLC Day
Dec 23 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
January 31	PLC Day
February 3	Semester 2 Starts
February 6-7	Teachers' Convention
February 17	Family Day
March 14	PLC Day
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 17	PLC Day
April 18	Good Friday
April 21	Easter Monday
May 16	PLC Day
May 19	Victoria Day
June 26	Last Day of Classes
June 27	Organizational Day

TERM DATES

Semester 1: September 3 - January 30	Semester 2: February 3 - June 26
Quarter 1: September 3 - November 6	Quarter 3: February 3 - April 16
Quarter 2: November 7 - January 30	Quarter 4: April 22 - June 26

DAYS OF SCHOOL OPERATION

Total Instructional Day	179	Instructional	Staff Only
Total Non Instructional Days	13	Semester 1	89
Total Operational Days	192	Semester 2	90
			6



2024-2025 KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL CALENDAR

2024-2025 Parkdale Kindergarten Calendar

August 2024					September 2024					October 2024					November 2024				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8
5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15
12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22
19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	
26	27	28	29	30	30														

December 2024					January 2025					February 2025					March 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3		3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28
30	31				27	28	29	30	31						31				

April 2025					May 2025					June 2025				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4			1	2		2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30				

LEGEND				
Parkdale Kindergarten Day				
PLC Days (No School)				
Organizational Day				
Schools Closed				
Teacher's Convention				
Individual Family Meetings				

IMPORTANT DATES

August 27-30	Organizational Days
September 2	Labour Day
September 3	First day of Classes
September 30	National day for TRC
October 11	PLC Day
October 14	Thanksgiving
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12-15	November Break
December 6th	PLC Day
Dec 23 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
January 31	PLC Day
February 3	Semester 2 Starts
February 6-7	Teachers' Convention
February 17	Family Day
March 14	PLC Day
March 24-28	Spring Break
April 17	PLC Day
April 18	Good Friday
April 21	Easter Monday
May 16	PLC Day
May 19	Victoria Day
June 26	Last Day of Classes
June 27	Organizational Day

