

Volume 1

Issue 1

September 2021



Tales & TIDBITS

ROSS FORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK!

The staff of Ross Ford Elementary School would like to welcome back students and families who were with us last year, and new students and their families who are joining us for the first time. We are happy to have you with us this year.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Johanson in grade 2 and Mrs. Croft in our 3/4 Split classroom, and congratulations to Mrs. P for "graduating" to grade 1! We are very pleased to have all of our wonderful educators join us!

We would like to take this

opportunity to thank families for being patient and understanding as we start this new year and learn to adapt to changes and more new realities. There are a lot of questions that we are finding answers for and we will update everyone as we clarify how everything will roll this year with things like volunteering, Fun Lunches, milk sales, and so much more

We look forward to another great year of learning and growth.

Principal:

Mr. Brent Runnett

Vice-Principal:

Mrs. Tabitha Everett-Powell

Ross Ford Elementary School

2016 - 23 St.

P.O. Bag 250

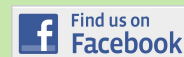
Didsbury, AB

T0M 0W0

Ph: 403-335-3234

Fax: 403-335-4930

www.rossford.ca



DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, September 21:

Picture Day:

PreK, K2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2

Wednesday, September 22:

Picture Day:

K1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3/4, 4.1, 4.2

Thursday, September 30:

Orange Shirt Day

"No School" Days:

Monday, September 6 - Labour Day

Friday, September 24

Kindergarten Fridays:

September 3 - K1 (Staggered)

September 10 - K2 (Staggered)

September 17 - K1

Absences

If your student will be absent for any reason, please call the office at 403-335-3234 or email

rossfordattendance@cesd73.ca to advise. There is an answering machine for phone messages after hours.

A Message from the Board of Trustees

Believing in every student

After a summer of long-awaited visits and activities, we are coming together with a sense of optimism for the year that awaits us. Although we still face challenges, we're able to look beyond and see the clearer pathway that is opening to us. We are all so very excited to welcome our students and staff back to school!

Our Central Office

team, administrators and many other staff have worked hard to take care of many details around safety protocols so that our students can enter into this school year full of enthusiasm. Safety is our top priority. Our schools are prepared and our staff are going out of their way to deliver a world of opportunity to our students. We look forward to engaging every student in meaningful learning, so they can

achieve higher levels of success throughout their lifetime. On behalf of the entire Board and Central Office Leadership Team, we wish everyone a tremendous year in Chinook's Edge, *where students come first!*

Holly Bilton, Chair
Board of Trustees



Chinook's Edge Trustees:

Joe-Anne Knispel-Matejka(Ward 1 – Sylvan Lake)

Sherry Cooper(Ward 2 – Penhold / Poplar Ridge)

Colleen Butler(Ward 3 – Delburne / Elnora)

Holly Bilton(Ward 4 – Innisfail)

Connie Huelsman(Ward 5 – Bowden / Spruce View)

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Trudy James(Ward 7 – Olds / Reed Ranch)

Gordon Kerr(Ward 8 – Didsbury)

Melissa Copley(Ward 9 – Carstairs / Cremona)

For Trustee updates and to read the latest **Board eNews**, please visit [our website](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Our student supervision begins at 8:20 (when our doors open) so please arrange to have your students dropped off after this time.

Thank you.



School Schedule

· 8:20 doors open

Students must enter through their own boot room door.

· 8:30 classes begin

Any students who arrive after 8:35 MUST check in at the office. Also, any students arriving after this time must enter through the front doors.

· 10:15-10:30 Recess

· 12:00 Lunch

· 12:15-12:45 Recess

· 2:15-2:30 Recess

· 3:15 Dismissal

Parent Handbook

Please be aware that our parent handbook is available on the Ross Ford website.

This is a great resource for our new families and those of you who have been with us for a while who wish to refresh your memories with this important information.

BEGINNINGS

A Message from our Principal

First and foremost, welcome to our new students and families and welcome back to our returning students and their families. I hope you have had a safe and enjoyable summer. We are so pleased to be back at school with the students. I also want to welcome Mrs. Johanson and welcome back Mrs. Croft for this school year.

As well, I want to assure you and your family that we all are working hard to make sure we remain as safe as

possible for your child and to provide the best possible educational experience for you and your child. We do hope you keep in good communication with our staff this year as we continue to work through the potential challenges we may face ahead. Together, I am confident we will have a wonderful year.

I also want to acknowledge the news that Mrs. Strautman retired at the end of last year. Typically, we would have been able to say a proper good-bye

at our last assembly and show our appreciation for the wonderful work Mrs. Strautman has committed to many of your children over the years; however, that wasn't possible. Please note, we will miss her dearly and I hope you will join me in wishing Mrs. Strautman well in her next steps (and welcome her back from time to time when she returns to sub with us, on occasion).

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AROUND THE SCHOOL

Fun Lunch Update

At this time we will not be doing Fun Lunch or milk sales. We will keep you updated on what that will look like this year.

Swimming Lesson Update

Swimming lessons are back to regular scheduled programming for this year! Watch for information on when your child will be attending lessons.

Nut & Peanut Aware

As we have students in the building with anaphylactic nut and peanut allergies, we ask parents for their cooperation and request you do not send products or foods that may contain nuts or peanuts in your child's lunch or snacks. The risk to our students is critical and, therefore, we ask for all students to observe this precaution.

Criminal Record Checks

As it looks like we will be able to plan field trips for the spring, if you are interested in being a parent volunteer for these trips, we do require a recent criminal record check. It gets very busy for the local RCMP detachment in the spring, so please plan ahead!

INTRODUCING MRS. DAYMIKO, FSWW



I am so thrilled to be joining the Ross Ford team this year! It is my role to support students and families through any of life's obstacles which may be getting in the way of academic success. Often this includes making connections with wonderful community resources or meeting 1-1. We know it is hard to focus on school work when other stressors are present. If your child is struggling socially or emotionally I would love to talk.

I grew up near Carstairs and went on to complete a Diploma in Child and Youth Care Counseling from Mount Royal University, followed by my Bachelor Degree in Social Work from the

University of Calgary. I started with the school division in 2010 in Sundre, followed by Horizon School and Olds Career High respectively. Each school has helped me grow professionally and personally, I am so thankful for the time I spent there.

My husband and I live in Didsbury with our two young children and have no plans to leave. We love this community and being surrounded by wonderful neighbours, friends and family. I am so thankful to be working in my own town and am excited to connect with the Ross Ford School Family.

Chantal DayMiko
Family School Wellness

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div></div>						
5 	6 <div>LABOR DAY </div>	7	8 <div> Day 1</div>	9 <div>Day 2</div>	10 K2 (staggered full day) <div>Day 3</div>	11 
12 	13 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 3</div>	14 9:00 - Gr. 3/4 Swim Lessons 9:40 - Gr. 4.1 Swim Lessons 10:20 - Gr. 4.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 4</div>	15 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 5</div>	16 9:00 - Gr. 3/4 Swim Lessons 9:40 - Gr. 4.1 Swim Lessons 10:20 - Gr. 4.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 1</div>	17 Kinder Friday - K1 <div>Day 2</div>	18
19	20 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 3</div>	21 9:00 - Gr. 3/4 Swim Lessons 9:40 - Gr. 4.1 Swim Lessons 10:20 - Gr. 4.2 Swim Lessons <div>Picture Day</div> <div>PreK, K2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2</div> <div>Day 4</div>	22 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>Picture Day</div> <div>K1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3/4 4.1, 4.2</div> <div>Day 5</div>	23 9:00 - Gr. 3/4 Swim Lessons 9:40 - Gr. 4.1 Swim Lessons 10:20 - Gr. 4.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 1</div>	24  No School	25 
26 	27 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 2</div>	28 9:00 - Gr. 3/4 Swim Lessons 9:40 - Gr. 4.1 Swim Lessons 10:20 - Gr. 4.2 Swim Lessons <div>Day 3</div>	29 9:10 - Gr. 3.1 Swim Lessons 9:50 - Gr. 3.2 Swim Lessons <div>1:30 - Terry Fox Run</div> <div>Day 4</div>	30 <div>Orange Shirt Day</div> <div>Day 5</div>		



Ross Ford 2021-22 Calendar

Student Attendance Traditional Calendar

AUGUST 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Aug 27 Focused PD Day
Aug 30/31 School Organizational Days

SEPTEMBER 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sept 1 Students First Day of School
Sept 6 Labour Day
Sept 24 Focused PD Day

OCTOBER 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Oct 8 Non Instructional Day
Oct 11 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 22 Collaborative Day

NOVEMBER 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 11-12 Fall Break
Nov 26 Non Instructional Day

DECEMBER 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dec 10 Collaborative Day
Dec 20-31 Christmas Break

JANUARY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jan 3 Students Return
Jan 14 Non Instructional Day
Jan 31 Collaborative Day

FEBRUARY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Feb 11 Collaborative Day (HS Common Collab)
Feb 21 Family Day
Feb 21-25 Winter Break
Feb 24-25 Teachers' Convention

MARCH 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mar 4 School Organizational Day
Mar 25 Non Instructional Day

APRIL 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Apr 15 Good Friday
Apr 18 Easter Monday
Apr 18-22 Spring Break

MAY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 6 Collaborative Day
May 20 Focused PD Day (TPGP Day)
May 23 Victoria Day

JUNE 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Jun 3 Non Instructional Day
Jun 28 Students Last Day
Jun 29 School Organizational Day

LEGEND	
	School Planning Day
	Focused P.D. Day
	Holiday
	Non-Instructional Day
	Teachers' Convention
	Significant Start and End Dates
	Breaks
	Collaborative Days - No school for students. One Focused PD Day will be designated as the TPGP

COVID-19 Protocols for School Start up September 2021 ...at-a-glance information for staff and parents



- The **first day of school** for students is September 1.
- Chinook's Edge is **following the [guidelines](#) from Alberta Health Services (AHS)** as it pertains to COVID-19 protocols. If the situation changes, we may revise our Chinook's Edge protocols either by school or across the division. Safety is our top priority.
- **Masking** will not be mandatory in schools and classrooms, but masks are required for all students (K-12) and staff on school buses. We support students, staff and visitors who choose to wear a mask in our schools. If an outbreak occurs we may require masking if directed by AHS.
- It continues to be important that students and staff **remain at home if they are sick**. If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. If they become sick at school, we will notify you to pick them up immediately. Please refer to this [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19. Please let your child's teacher know of any pre-existing conditions your child may have, to ensure these won't be mistaken for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Schools will continue to employ **good public health practices** to help reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory infections (including COVID-19, influenza and common colds) among students, staff and visitors. Details are available [here](#).
- AHS will be notifying parents should an outbreak situation occur at a school. Chinook's Edge will report to Alberta Health Services if any of our schools experience a **10 percent or higher absenteeism rate**.
- Chinook's Edge will expect all students and staff to follow [AHS Isolation and Quarantine requirements](#) when they receive a positive test or when they have symptoms.
- The front doors will be open at our schools, but **parents and visitors are asked to make a prior appointment** with the school office. As per our routine procedures, all visitors will be asked to use sign-in sheets.
- There are no restrictions on **school activities** or classroom cohorting; however full school assemblies will be avoided whenever possible.
- Any food brought from home for sharing must be distributed by school staff.
- Sports, music and fine arts activities will be permitted.
- Parents will be given the option of in-person or virtual Parent Teacher Interviews.
- Community use of schools is permitted.
- If schools choose to hold special events, they may adapt the format in order to limit the number of participants.
- Chinook's Edge will continue to **clean and disinfect** high touch surfaces each day, and provide hand sanitizer in multiple areas throughout each school. Buses will continue to be sanitized after each route. Carpets may be used in classrooms; however, cloth furniture is not permitted due to difficulty in sanitizing.
- Chinook's Edge **field trips** within the province of Alberta may resume effective September 9th.
- AHS will be holding voluntary **COVID-19 vaccination clinics** in our schools for students and staff. Details on this AHS vaccination program will be sent to parents. Chinook's Edge is strongly recommending that our staff get vaccinated.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to change, Chinook's Edge will remain highly vigilant of safety protocols and will review these items on a regular basis. We are working to provide optimal safety for everyone in our school communities, as we focus on engaging every student in meaningful learning. We are aware that students will be needing reassurance as we move forward, and our teachers and staff will be highly attentive to the Social Emotional Well-being of everyone in our Chinook's Edge schools.

Keeping students, educators and school communities all connected.

In the current landscape of physical distancing, access to fast, reliable connectivity has never been more essential. TELUS Internet for Good helps low-income families stay connected, empowering youth to safely learn from home.

Steps to access Internet for Good through schools in BC and AB:



Teachers identify families in need.

Families can express their need for Internet connectivity to their child's teacher or Principal.



Principals email the request to TELUS.

Principals can consolidate requests for their entire school and email **internetforgood@telus.com** from their school email address requesting Internet for Good redemption codes for identified families in need.



Families order TELUS Internet for Good.

Families in need receive a redemption code from their school and call TELUS to set up their Internet service.



What is TELUS Internet for Good for Students?

The TELUS Internet for Good program provides eligible low income families with low-cost Internet connectivity in BC and AB (where service is available):

- Internet plans for \$9.95/month (plus applicable taxes) for 24 months; regular pricing thereafter
- Speeds of up to 25 Mbps (where available) and up to 300 GB data/month
- No contract or cancellation fees
- Option to purchase a low cost refurbished computer through BC Technology for Learning Society

In light of the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis, schools in BC and AB can extend our Internet for Good offer directly to students and families in need, via their school's Principal.

How can families sign up for TELUS Internet for Good for Students?

Families in need can reach out to their child's teacher or the school Principal. Principals can email TELUS at InternetForGood@telus.com, from their school district email address, requesting Internet for Good redemption codes for the specific number of families in need at their school. Once families receive a code from their school Principal, they can call TELUS at **1-866-835-8744** to redeem the offer.

Important note: Families who have a Canada Child Benefit (CCB) statement showing their net income of less than or equal to \$31,120 can email TELUS directly at InternetforGood@telus.com with a copy of their statement and request for a program code. Other families who do not meet this criteria but are in need should discuss their situation directly with their child's teacher or principal who can request a code from TELUS on their behalf.

For more information about Internet for Good for Students, families are encouraged to contact their child's school.

 **TELUS®**
the future is friendly