

EYE of the Storm

SEPTEMBER 2025



Schuler School

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Lyle's Lowdown

Dear Schuler School Families,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year at Schuler School! I hope your summer was filled with rest, family, and time enjoying the outdoors. September always brings with it a sense of excitement and possibility, and we are eager to begin another year of learning, growing, and working together. At Schuler, we are proud to be a small PK–9 school, rooted in community and guided by the Prairie Rose School Division's vision to **ignite minds, kindle hearts, and forge futures**. This year, we will continue to build on that vision by focusing on strong relationships, meaningful learning, and opportunities for students to connect both in and beyond the classroom.

Our rural setting gives us something special where we create close connections between staff, students, and families. We are a team, and every voice matters in helping our students succeed. I encourage you to stay involved, whether through school events, volunteering, cheering at sports, or simply sharing encouragement with our students.

The year ahead will be full of opportunities: academic growth, extracurricular activities, athletics, and creative projects. Most importantly, we want every student to feel safe, supported, and challenged to do their very best. Together, let's make this a year where our students are inspired to try new things, show kindness, and celebrate their learning.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. I look forward to a great year working alongside you as we continue to build on the proud traditions of Schuler School.

With gratitude and excitement,

Mr. Kennedy

Principal

Schuler School Calendar




September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Student 1 st Day SWC	3	4	5 Hats on for MH	6
7	Danny 8	9 SWC	10	11	12 Hats on for MH Speech Storm Chaser Presentation	13
14	15	16 SWC	Kevin, Susana 17	Lola, Michaela 18	David R 19 Hats on for MH Speech Pep Rally VB - Girls Tourny	20 VB - Boys Tourny
21	22 School Council AGM @ 6 PM	23 SWC	24	25	26 Hats on for MH Speech Back to School BBQ @ 12 Terry Fox Run @ 2	27
Trudy 28	Orange Shirt Day 29	Hoyt 30 NO SCHOOL SI DAY				

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September Newsletter

Prairie Rose Public Schools Calendar



Prairie Rose Public Schools 2025-2026

August 2025							September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30						

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026							March 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April 2026							May 2026							June 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

SI/PD Days No School	
Statutory Holidays	
Truth and Reconciliation No School / SI Day	
Wellness/Holiday No School	
Teachers' Convention	
First/Last Day of Classes	
Early Dismissal @ 2pm	
Semester 2 Begins	

www.myprps.com

2025-2026 Calendar

- Sept. 2..... First Day for Students
- Sept. 9.....Storm Chaser Presentation @ 9:30 AM - Parents please join us!
- Sept. 19/20..... Pep Rally/Home VB Tourny (Girls Friday, Boys Saturday)
- Sept. 22..... School Council AGM @ 6:00 PM
- Sept. 26 Welcome Back BBQ @ 12:00 PM & Terry Fox Run @ 2:00 PM
- Sept. 29..... Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 30..... Truth & Reconciliation ~ NO SCHOOL/SI DAY
- October 1..... SCHOOL FEES DUE
- October 1..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
- October 2..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
- October 8..... School Pictures (SC Photo), Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
- October 9..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
- October 10..... PD Day ~ NO SCHOOL
- October 13..... Thanksgiving Day ~ NO SCHOOL
- October 15..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
- October 16..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
- October 22..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
- October 23..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
- October 29..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
- October 30..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
- October 31..... Halloween Activities

November 5..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 1-4
 November 6..... Swimming Lessons Gr. 5-8
 November 6..... Remembrance Day Celebration
November 7/10..... SI Day ~ NO SCHOOL
November 11..... Remembrance Day ~ NO SCHOOL
 November 21..... Report Cards
 November 26..... Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00 – 7:00 PM)
 December 18..... Christmas Concert
 December 19..... Early Dismissal 2:00 PM
December 20 - January 4 ~ Christmas Holidays ~ NO SCHOOL
 January 5..... Back to School
 February 4..... Winter Walk Day
February 16 ~20 Family Day, Teacher’s Convention ~ NO SCHOOL
 February 25..... Pink Shirt Day
 March 6..... Hidden Valley Ski Trip
 March 13..... Report Cards
 March 18..... Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00-7:00 PM)
 March 20..... **SI Day ~ NO SCHOOL**
 April 2..... Easter Activities
April 3 - April 12 ~ Easter Vacation ~ NO SCHOOL
April 24..... SI DAY ~ NO SCHOOL
 May 8..... Muffins with Mom
 May 15..... **SI Day ~ NO SCHOOL**
 May 18..... **Victoria Day ~ NO SCHOOL**
 May 29..... Track & Field
 June 3..... Track & Field (alternate day)
 June 4..... Grade 9 Farewell (tentative)
 June 12..... Last PreK & Kindergarten Day
 June 19..... Donuts with Dad (TBD)
 June 25..... Awards Day, Report Cards, Students Last Day - Early Dismissal 2:00 PM
 June 26..... Staff Last Day

Personal Mobile Devices

PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

MINISTERIAL ORDER (#14, 2024) STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS

PRPS Core Principles

Connect

School structures and traditions ensure that every student, staff and community member is known, cared for and their contributions are celebrated.

Create

Students and PRPS staff undertake tasks that require perseverance, craftsmanship, imagination and self-discipline to foster curiosity about the world.

Communicate

Words have tremendous power and ours will be characterized by mutual respect, belonging and community building. Students and PRPS staff use communication skills to advocate for themselves, understand their communities and tackle the world's biggest challenges.

Care

Students and PRPS staff know how to care for their physical and mental health and support the well-being of others, fostering a safe school environment.

Contribute

Students and PRPS staff are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others, actively ensure all belong and celebrate their rural communities.

Challenge

Students and PRPS staff develop an internal drive and desire to overcome obstacles and maximize performance through personal responsibility, resilience and initiative.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome back to the 2024/2025 school year. We are looking forward to working together to achieve, "more than we thought possible."

This spring, the Honourable Minister Nicolaidese issued a Ministerial Order called [Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#). Prairie Rose Public Schools is committed to examining our thinking and practices to provide students with exceptional learning experiences and we have spent time researching the impact of excessive device use on student mental health, engagement and learning.

Our students deserve a distraction free environment in which they can nurture a sense of belonging and positive sense of self. New division wide procedures are being put in place to support implementation of this required legislation, starting September 3rd, 2024. We will be guided by our core values and use them to support navigating this change process.

We know that implementing these procedures will come with challenges, understanding that people have become reliant on their phones. We are committed to working through anticipated hurdles because benefits include increased learning focus, connections with peers, and wellbeing, which align with our core values.

Prior to January 1st, 2025 accompanying policies and procedures will be shared, along with additional information related to social media network restrictions. There will be opportunities to review your ideas and concerns about the procedures at school council meetings in the fall. Please discuss these upcoming changes and reach out to school or division leaders with questions or concerns.

As always we are excited to support our students in becoming their best selves and look forward to a year of "unleashing potential."

Reagan Weeks
Superintendent

Lois Bedwell
Board Chair



"(Students) can't focus during exams because they're so used to scrolling through their phone," Kears said. "They're so used to having that constant stimulation that when it comes to focus, they really struggle."

"There is no doubt that smartphone use has become pervasive in our society. In a 2018 Pew Research Center poll, 95 per cent of teens reported having access to a smartphone. Some 66 per cent of teens reported using the internet 'almost constantly' a number that has doubled compared to the 2008-2009 survey. While another 46 per cent say they go online multiple times per day."

"According to research by Canadian charity Nature Canada, kids in Grades 7-8 spend up to seven hours per day on screens. Additionally, research from Western University found that screen time is now only slightly below the shocking 33 hours per day that six-year-old to 10-year-old kids spent on screens during COVID lockdowns." **

"Kids who spend hours on their phones scrolling through social media are showing more aggression, depression and anxiety, say Canadian researchers." **

PRPS

The Use of Personal Mobile Devices in Canadian Schools (CTPP 2024)

MYPRPS.COM

Prairie Rose Public Schools Personal Mobile Device Procedures

We ignite minds by creating cultures of academic excellence, kindle hearts by prioritizing wellbeing, connection and service, and forge futures by cultivating curiosity, wonder and possibility.

To support learning in Prairie Rose School Division we have developed the following procedures for the use of personal mobile devices. Please refer to the [Ministerial Order \(#14, 2024\)](#) for legislative information.

Personal Mobile Device Definition

"Personal mobile device" means any device that can communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet, laptop or smart watch

Personal Mobile Device Procedure

1. During class time personal devices are powered down and in your bag, in your locker, or the space provided by your teacher and not on your person
2. Headphones and ear buds are not in use during instructional time
3. No personal devices can be used in washrooms or change rooms
4. Teachers will indicate if there are specific learning situations which support personal devices and/or ear buds or headphones
5. Schools may allow students in grades 7 through 12 to access their personal devices during breaks and/or lunch

How can I access my child if I need to contact them?

In the event of an emergency you can contact your child through the school office. Every classroom has a phone and the office can connect with the classroom so you can communicate with your child. They are also able to access their phones on break and at lunch for non-emergent messages. Not immediately replying to direct messages will be an adjustment for everyone.

What will happen if my child is struggling with the new guidelines?

Staff members will reach out to parents/guardians to work collaboratively to help your child understand the new guidelines. School administration will support if they continue to struggle. Consequences will align with each schools practices for non-compliance and may result in a restriction on having a personal device at school.

Why are these procedures being implemented?

Alberta Education undertook a survey between April 16th and May 3rd, 2024. Following this engagement process with Albertans, details of which can be found on the [Cellphone use in Schools, Alberta Education page](#), Ministerial Order (#14/2014) [Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#) was established.

What if a student has a medical condition that is supported through the use of a personal mobile device?

An example of a student using a personal mobile device to support a medical condition would be an app to monitor/measure blood sugar levels if diagnosed with diabetes. In such a circumstance exceptions to use will be made to procedures through connecting with the school principal to ensure the students needs are met in the school environment.

Technology Charges

Keyboard repairs	\$20.00
Monitor replacement (used) when available	\$30.00
Monitor replacement (New)	\$75.00
Used body parts, e.g. broken case or hinges (when available)	\$25.00
USB-C power adapters mean the Chromebook needs to be replaced. See below pricing	
Prorated on a 34-month life expectancy starting September of the year they were assigned. However many months were left times \$8.00	\$8:00
Power Adapters of all makes and styles. Used and new.	\$15.00

Schuler School Staff



Principal ~ Mr. Lyle Kennedy
 PreK/Kindergarten ~ Nicole Wittig
 Grades 1/2 ~ Danika Farion
 Grades 3/4 ~ Allison Jones
 Grades 5/6 ~ Rob Chapdelaine
 Grades 7/8/9 ~ Jeremy Molzan

EA's ~ Elise Bender, Paige McLean, Lisa Newby, Eva Rempel
 Administrative Assistant/Librarian ~ Janice Herman
 Custodian ~ Murray Assman

New Bell Times

Please note we have some new bell times. Please see our updated schedule below. We hope the end of the day adjustment is helpful for those picking up their kids for sports and appointments.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:45-9:00					
Period 1 9:00 - 9:30					
Period 2 9:30 - 10:10					
RECESS					
Period 3 10:20 - 11:05					
Period 4 11:00 - 11:45					
11:45-12:00 P.E. 11:00-12:00 Play			LUNCH		
Period 5 12:15 - 12:55					
Period 6 12:55 - 1:35					
RECESS					
Period 7 1:00 - 2:30					
Period 8 2:30 - 3:00 3:00 PM BELL					

NEW *****PEANUT ALLERGY*****

We have a new student with a peanut allergy this year. What that means for all of us is that we need to make sure there is no food sharing between kids and no items containing peanuts/peanut butter is given out. Other students are fine to bring items containing peanuts, and no extra sanitizing is required. Items that say 'may contain peanuts' are fine.



SWC ~ Family School Liaison Worker

Who Is Our Student Wellness Counsellor?

My name is Teresa Kleinknecht, and I'm pleased to continue as the Student Wellness Counsellor, previously known as the Family School Liaison Worker at Schuler School. I am in the community every week on Tuesdays.

My main role is to provide confidential, individual counselling to any student and/or their families that need support. Additionally, I provide targeted small group sessions as needed. I help to strengthen the development of a student's educational, social, emotional and behavioral experiences, and assist families in accessing information about outreach and resources available.

You can make an appointment in the following ways:

1. A referral can come through parents, staff members, or the student themselves
2. Contact by email (Preferred) teresakleinknecht@prrd8.ca
3. Contact by phone @403-594-2778 during school hours

Let's work together to make this school year a healthy, positive, and successful one!

Hats on for Mental Health

For those of you new to our school, every Friday the students can bring either a toonie or loonie for mental health and they can then wear their hat all day in school. At the end of the year we donate the money to a local Mental Health organization. Last year we donated \$200.

We will continue with this program every Friday. When Friday falls on a day off, they can wear it on Thursday.

We look forward to continuing with this program and the positive awareness it brings.



Student Absences

In an effort to streamline the process for reporting student absences, we have an online form where parents can excuse their child's absence. A confirmation of the absence will be emailed to parents once the form is submitted.



There are **two ways** for parents to access the online reporting feature:

1. The school website under the Useful Links found at the top right corner waffle menu (the waffle menu is the nine dots - look for Report an Absence)
2. By adding the link to the home screen of a cell phone. Using the Safari browser on an Apple phone, or the Google browser on an Android, copy the following link (https://prrdweb.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JMwNismWPfUIUQ). At the bottom of the phone screen there will be a box with an arrow pointing upward. Click on that option and scroll down until you see "Add to Home Screen". Click Add. A new icon will be added to your phone screen. To report an absence, click this button and complete the form.

School Presentation

We are so excited to have Chris Chittick joining us on Friday, September 12 at 9:30 AM with his exciting new Storm Chasing Presentation!! Please read his blurb below:



This is a completely revamped experience from past years, with fresh videos, updated information, and stunning new photos.

My name is Chris Chittick, and I am a professional storm chaser who has appeared on shows like *Tornado Hunters* (Netflix, Hulu, CMT, Dtour) and *Storm Chasers* (Discovery Channel, Netflix) for over five years. In my presentation, I share the science behind severe weather, focusing on the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* of surviving nature's most extreme events. It's a highly educational, motivational, and interactive experience that students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 will find engaging. I also touch on the importance of mental wellness and not letting fear hold you back, especially when it comes to storms.

We would love to have parents join us for this facinating presentation!!!

Swimming Lessons

We have our swimming lessons for Grade 1-8 booked and coming soon. I will be sending the forms out as soon as I get more organized! The lessons will run from 1:00-2:05 PM. Once again we will require some parent helpers as there must be **one adult in the water for every 3 children UNDER 8 years of age**. We will reach out as the time gets closer.

See dates below:

Grade 1-4

Wednesdays

October 1,8,15,22,29

November 5

Grade 5-8

Thursdays

October 2,9,16,23,30

November 6

School Pictures - Wednesday, October 8th

Pictures are by SC Photo in Medicine Hat.

Sports Update



Volleyball

We will begin volleyball practice next week and are excited to have both a girls and boys team playing in the Medicine Hat Junior High "B leagues" this year. We will be also be hosting our annual tournaments this year. The girls tournament will be Friday, September 19th in the afternoon and evening and the boys will be Saturday, September 20th.

Both teams will begin league play the week of September 15-18th. We are just waiting for the league schedule and confirmation of the nights we will be playing. It looks like girls will be on

Wednesday nights and the boys will play on Tuesday nights. Again, this is the tentative schedule as we need to wait and see how many teams are in their prospective leagues. Once we have confirmation we will set up a calendar with practice days and league games. Thanks again for supporting our volleyball teams at Schuler School.

Cross Country running

Our students have the opportunity to participate in cross country this year. If your son/daughter would like to participate in this please let me know ASAP and I will get them the information. The first run scheduled would be Saturday September 27th. The zone competition would be Wednesday October 8th 2025 at Echo Dale.

Student Fees

Your child will be coming home with an envelope for school fees soon. You will also get a notification email when they are set up in School Cash. These fees are due by Monday, October 1st.

I highly encourage all parents to the link below for SchoolCash Online to pay for their school fees as well as any upcoming expenses.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fees, please call Lyle or Janice at the school.



School Cash Online

Your child will be coming home with an envelope for school fees soon. You will also get a notification email when they are set up in School Cash. These fees are due by Tuesday, October 1st.

I highly encourage all parents to the link below for SchoolCash Online to pay for their school fees as well as any upcoming expenses.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fees, please call Lisa or Janice at the school.

Housekeeping



We ask that you supply your child with the proper cutlery and condiments to eat their lunches. We do have cutlery on hand in the event you have forgotten, but prefer not to make it a habit.



Student Drop Off & Pick Up

We will be following the same protocol as the end of last year if you are picking up or dropping off your child during the school day. Our doors are locked so **PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL WHEN YOU ARRIVE.**



Hot Lunches

We will continue to offer our hot lunches online only now as we did last year. **In order to access the hot lunch YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR SCHOOLCASH ONLINE.** I cannot set this up on my end for you, YOU must do it. Please select the link below to do this and select 'REGISTER'. After this is done you will receive emails each time something is available to be purchased. If you have questions or need help feel free to give me a call.



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

Why Use SchoolCash Online? Convenient Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home Easy To Use Online shopping with various payment methods Safe Your child won't be carrying cash or checks to and from school Saves Time Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

🔗 prrdweb.schoolcashonline.com

Back to School BBQ & Terry Fox Run ~ Friday, September 26Th

The Annual Terry Fox School Run day is set for Friday, September 26th at **2:00 PM**.

All parents and community members are welcome & encouraged to join us outside the school at this time.

Pledge sheets will be coming home soon for students to raise funds. We highly encourage you to use the online pledging at <https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/> .

- select 'Give Today' in red in the top right corner
- select 'Donate to a School' from the drop down menu
- under 'School Name' type in **Schuler School**
- select 'Schuler School' then 'Donate'
- proceed to make your donation

Students can also get on board by setting up their own fundraising page under your school name using <https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/>

- select 'Menu' in the top right corner
- select 'students' from the drop down menu
- scroll down to 'Setting up your Student or Classroom Page' and follow the prompts

School Council AGM



School Council AGM - Monday, September 22 @ 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held at the school.

All parents are encouraged to attend this meeting. It's your school, come be a part of it!

- Get school updates
- Share ideas to build our school community
- Have your voice heard
- Participate in decisions that impact student learning

WHY IS THERE NO SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 30TH?

The establishment of a national federal holiday to recognize and bring awareness to the impacts of residential schools on Indigenous youth was fulfilled in response to one of the 94 calls of action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015.

On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5, An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act, and the Canada Labour Code (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation), received Royal Assent. It officially designates September 30th of each year as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This marks a new public holiday under the Canada Labour Code

Please read the Prairie Rose message to parents regarding September 30th for more information:

<https://www.myprps.com/news/truth-and-reconciliation-day-sept-30-1631724329168>



PRSD News



Janice Herman

Janice is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters