



November, 2021

Leadership Message

It is so hard to believe that it is already November! Our students are continuing to learn, grow and make us proud! There are a number of things happening in November that are important for you to be aware of.

Forgotten Lunch, Breakfast Program, Nutrition Nook

We are very fortunate to be able to continue our Forgotten Lunch Program. This program is funded by a very generous community donor. The purpose is to ensure all students are able to access a lunch should they NEED one. Mrs. Wierenga organizes and leads this program.

Nutrition Nook

We also have a nutrition nook that contains healthy snack options for students. This is open to all students who would like to have one of the healthy options in the nook.

Breakfast Program & Inclass Fruit Bowls

New to Forest Green this year, funded by the Breakfast Club of Canada, is a Breakfast Program. This program will offer a healthy 'Grab and Go' breakfast for those students who need it. We are also going to be putting Fruit Bowls back in classrooms with washed Apples, Bananas and Oranges as well as granola bars. This program will begin the week after we return from fall break.

We know that a hungry student is not a learning student, and we believe it is essential that our students have what they need so they can learn. We will NEVER turn a student away who requires more nutrition. We will however be keeping track of students who access the Forgotten Lunch as well as the Breakfast Program and at the end of each week, parents of students who have accessed either of these programs more than twice in the week will receive an email. The purpose of the email is just to let you know so that you are aware.

Key Dates this Month

- November 4th - Picture Retake Day
- November 5th - Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony - A link for parents to join will be sent out the morning of
- November 8th-15th - FALL BREAK - No students attend
- November 16th - School Council (6:30pm) & Fundraising Society Meetings (5:15pm)

Please continue to complete the [daily screening checklist](#) each day and to follow the advice of AHS should your child have symptoms. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school with any questions or concerns that you may have at either 780-963-7366 or forestgreen@psd.ca.



Take care,
Nealle

Literacy – Words Their Way at FG

You may have noticed or your child may have told you that spelling looks quite different this year. To ensure our pedagogy is rooted in strong research, our school has moved from a traditional spelling approach, where students are expected to memorize a random list of words toward a Word Study approach.

Word study is a **developmental, student-centred approach** to teaching phonics, vocabulary that is integrated with reading and writing instruction. Based on several decades of research, word study engages students in hands-on, active categorization and study of how words work - how sound, pattern, or meaning are represented in their daily reading and writing. The goal of word study extends beyond the retention of specific words by teaching students to transfer those spellings to other words that share similar pronunciations or meanings.

The Words Their Way approach ensures students are being instructed beyond the individual words to understand the big ideas and how knowledge can be transferred to other words. In class students are examining groups of words and spelling features for similarities and differences. They do this through word sorting, word hunts, speed sorts and writing sorts. This program emphasizes the active manipulation and examination of words so connections can be made across reading, writing and spelling.

This approach is taught in small groups based on assessment and common instructional needs. Student progress in this program is monitored in their daily literacy work as well as on non-graded spelling inventories given 2-4 times per year. Your child may still receive spelling check-ins to see if they are grasping the spelling features in their current sorts, however it is the transfer of the learning from the Word Study lessons into a student's other work that determines how well the student has achieved.

Here is a quick comparison of Traditional Spelling and Developmental Spelling Approaches:

	Traditional Spelling	Developmental Spelling
Purpose & Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Emphasizes rote memorization of individual words, rules & exceptions-Assumes that pre-existing knowledge is consistent across age and/or grade level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Focuses not only on individual words, but also on the big ideas and how knowledge can be generalized into words-Assumes that students have varied and pre-existing word knowledge based on experience and development, not age
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Considers spelling as all or nothing words are right or wrong-Used to determine grade-level spelling proficiency exclusively-Used in comparison to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Considers partial credit for correct spelling features-Used to<ul style="list-style-type: none">● determine a developmental stage or instructional level● analyze spelling features (what students know, use but confuse, and what is absent in spelling)● form small groups



	grade-level spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine a starting point for instruction • monitor progress
Instructional Methods & Routines	<p>-Uses rote-memory exercises and drills to memorize words; activities encourage visual and repetition to learn individual words</p> <p>-Taught as a separate spelling program with no connection to reading, writing, or vocabulary</p> <p>-Taught in whole group based on grade level curriculum</p> <p>-Uses a common spelling list based on a grade level by theme, grade level or single spelling features</p>	<p>-Emphasizes the examination of groups of words and spelling features for similarities and differences</p> <p>-Uses word sorting and related activities such as word hunts, speed sorts, and writing sorts</p> <p>-Emphasizes the active manipulation and examination of words in order to form generalizations</p> <p>-Integrates into a literacy program; connections are made across reading, writing and spelling</p> <p>-Taught in small groups based on assessment and common instructional needs</p> <p>-Uses different sets of words according to students' pre-existing knowledge</p>
Grading & Monitoring of Progress	<p>-Assigns grades based on weekly assessments</p> <p>-Emphasize correct spelling through memorization, grading and correction</p>	<p>-Assigns grades based on completion of word study work and ongoing development</p> <p>-Uses progress monitoring as demonstrated on nongrade qualitative spelling inventories given 2-4 times per year.</p>

General Information

Reporting COVID Cases

AHS is not fully equipped to contact tracing, PSD will continue to take on the responsibility of notifying the class when there is a positive case WHEN given permission from the parent/guardian of the COVID positive student. We have received many questions about what to do when you receive these emails. The answer is just to watch your child closely for symptoms, remind them to keep their mask on as well as to keep distanced and to wash their hands.

It is important to note that we will do our best to accommodate parents who choose to keep their child home when notified of a positive case in the classroom, however we are not set up for online learning this year, so while your child is at home they will not be receiving any teaching online. We cannot accommodate at home learning that goes more than 2 weeks. If you decide you would like learning to continue from home, please contact the office and we will discuss the options that you would have through Connections for Learning.

We will continue to accommodate at home learning for students who test positive and families recommended to isolate for as long as AHS recommends.



Parent Handbook

Please click [here](#) to view our Parent Handbook for the 2021/2022 School Year

Reporting Absences

To report an absence for your child, please email forestgreen@psd.ca or call and leave a message at the school office (780-963-7366). Please include the student's name, teacher (or grade), and reason for the absence in your message.

Drop-Off & Pick-UP

Please note the following important information regarding child safety and parking at Forest Green.

1. Bus Drop-Off is at 8:15 am
2. Students who are being driven or walking should plan to be here after 8:20, but before 8:30.
3. Supervision begins at 8:15 am, please do not drop your children off before this time as there are no adults outside to supervise.
4. Students will now stay outside in their zone when they arrive at school until the first bell.

Visiting Forest Green

To comply with AHS guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask and come straight to the office. We are not permitting visitors into classrooms at this time.

Masks/COVID

All staff and students in grades 4-6 are required to wear a mask when in the hallways as well as when necessary within the classroom. Students in grades K-3 must have a mask so they can put it on in situations that require it. Please ensure you are continuing to complete the [At Home Screening checklist](#) BEFORE you send your child/children to school.

2021-2022 Bell Schedule

Please note our revised bell schedule

8:15am	Supervision Begins (Buses Arrive)
8:25am	Doors Open
8:29am	Welcome Bell
8:34 am	O'Canada & Announcements
8:39 am	Instruction Begins
10:27 - 10:42	Recess
11:54 am - 12:24 pm	Noon Recess
12:24 - 12:44pm	Lunch Break
12:44pm	Instruction Begins
3:05 pm	Dismissal
3:15pm	Supervision Ends



Calendar

Our School Calendar has changed from last year...and boy is it more user friendly than the previous calendar. As it is no longer a google calendar, all you have to do is go to the [calendar on our website](#) and click on one of:

Download to iCal **Add to Google Calendar** **Subscribe to Calendar**

Located at the top of the calendar on our website. You can then search by grade level, event or topic to find information you are looking for as needed.

School Council

It's hard to believe that we're already into November here in the forest! I hope that everyone is enjoying the (mostly) beautiful Fall we've been having!

I wanted to take up some space in the newsletter to introduce myself, and to tell you all about the School Council here at Forest Green. My name is Tammi, and I am the Chair of our School Council. My family has been at Forest Green for 9 years now, and I have been involved with volunteering almost as long. What we love best about the school is the small community feeling of it. There is truly no better school than ours! All of the staff make an effort to get to know all of the kids, whether they teach them or not, and I believe that small act really enhances our kids' experience at Forest Green.

School Council is similar. Every little bit of volunteering and advocacy helps to enhance student learning. We are really an advisory group. We work closely with staff and Administration with a common goal of enhancing the students' learning. We are invited to participate in Stakeholder Engagement sessions, as well as Ed Planning sessions, and our voices are definitely heard.

Did you know that volunteering in a school has many benefits? Research has shown that volunteering helps children achieve higher grades and do better on tests, it allows you to spend more time with your child(ren), and helps to strengthen the community feeling of our school. Plus, we absolutely love seeing new faces! All of our meetings are open to any parent or guardian of the school, and the time commitment is only once a month!

A role that we would love to add is "Classroom Parent Reps". This person would be invited to be a voice for the parents of the classroom to share things that are happening as well as to ask questions that they or other parents may have. If you are interested in becoming a Classroom Parent Rep, please email me.



We would love to see you there!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to touch base with me at forestgreen.scchair@partner.psd.ca and follow our Facebook page at Forest Green School Parent Council & Fundraising Society.

Next School Council Meeting is November 16 at 6:30pm, via Google Meets due to current health restrictions.

GMEET LINK: meet.google.com/mpz-njsa-krk

The more the merrier!

School Council & Fundraising Society

Hot Lunch

*****December Hot Lunch Orders are Due: November 20, 2021**

Order online at: forestgreen.hot [lunches.net](https://forestgreen.hotlunches.net)

Support FGS students while getting ready for Christmas with TWO holiday fundraisers!!

Kiwi Nursery Christmas Fundraiser

Runs from October 29 - November 20

Shop online at: <https://fundraising.kiwinurseries.com> and select FOREST GREEN SCHOOL

Santa's Little Helper Fundraiser

Runs from November 6 - November 29

Shop online at: <https://fundraising101.ca/fall-2021-fundraiser-5.html#!/Seller/7> AFTER NOVEMBER 6TH.

These fundraisers bring up to 45% of sales back into the school to help make sure our kids have all the extras they need for success!

Everyone's favourite feel-good holiday event... Christmas Shop is back again for 2021!

Help fill your Christmas spirit bucket by volunteering to help our kids shop for their loved ones! Stay tuned for sign-up details.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at fgsfundraising@gmail.com.

Next Fundraising Society Meeting:



Tuesday, November 16th @5:15pm
We love to see new faces!!!!

Community Support Worker News

Hi Forest Green Families. I hope that everyone has a wonderful, and safe Fall Break.

In-School Mentorship Program - We currently have 10 University of Alberta students who are volunteering at Forest Green, the In-school Mentorship Program. Our Mentors volunteer two hours each week spending time working 1:1, in classrooms, or in groups, supporting our students with literacy, numeracy and social-emotional support.

I can offer support and referral information to families about our community resources, agencies and support groups. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jenn.goulden@psd.ca.

Parent Learning Opportunities

Parent Learning Opportunities:

Each month, Parkland School Division's Learning Services team compiles a newsletter for parents and guardians of students. Inside you will find information, opportunities and strategies to help you and your family connect with us on your child's educational journey.

To find out more <https://www.psd.ca/division/news/post/strong-families-november-sessions>

Please see some amazing...(and FREE!) online learning sessions for parents and caregivers, hosted by Alberta Health Services and the Mental Health Foundation. There are a variety of session times to meet families needs - after-school/evening hours, as well as lunch and learns. For more information or to register, visit www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

Alberta Parenting for the Future - apfa Programming:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/alberta-parenting-for-the-future-association-15112757928>

City University is offering free virtual [Alberta Parenting for the Future Association Events](#) counseling sessions remotely. Sessions start at children 6+ to adults and include couples and families. Appointments can be requested by visiting their website www.cityuclinic.ca.



TriLeisure Fall hours are 6am-9pm Monday to Friday and 7am-9pm on weekends, exceptions are stat holidays <https://www.trileisure.com/>.

November Workshops ADHD Workshop Series

No Cost.

Registration links can be found on our calendar at: <http://albertaparenting.ca/>

Contact Heidi@apfa.ca for further information.

All sessions are 6:30pm-8pm via Zoom

In partnership with Parkland School Division

November 16th Emotional Regulation–Tips Tricks & Discussion

Presenter: Josee Huston, PSD Divisional Psychologist

In this constant state of change and unknown it is normal to be feeling overwhelmed. We are all carrying a lot of stress and heavy emotions. During such times, parenting and supporting our children through these emotions can be extra challenging as everyone's stress levels are heightened. When able to regulate our emotions children and adults alike are able to feel empowered and problem solve much more effectively, let's meet and discuss ways on which to achieve this in a supportive and non judgmental way.

November 17th ADHD and OT (Occupational Therapy)

Presenter: Nicole Kluthe, Woven Blessings

Our children with ADHD can be tricky to understand. Why are they hyper-focused on some activities and then don't know how to initiate and engage in others? How can they go through a park or course with ease but struggle with printing? In this webinar, we will explore strategies to help children with managing some of their sensory needs, executive functioning skills, sensory regulation and overall coordination to successfully participate in everyday activities.

November 23rd Bedtime Yoga

Facilitator: Kristi Sikorski & Heidi

6:30pm – 7:30 pm

Ages: Kindergarten to Grade 2

Bedtime Yoga for the whole family. Join us for an hour of calming, mindful movement to unwind from the day and regulate our bodies for a peaceful sleep.

Stony Plain Youth Centre

Join us each week for fun and creative activities. We always have volunteer opportunities available so stop by to see how you can get involved.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Snapchat or visit our [website](#) to stay in the loop!

The 6 week GEAR program provides youth with the opportunity to develop tangible skills and build positive relationships while working on bicycles. The program is based on a mentorship



Forest Green School

5210 45 Street
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1R5
Phone: 780-963-7366
Fax: 780-963-0341
Email: forestgreen@psd.ca

model where volunteers work alongside youth to repair bikes which have been donated by the community.

When: Wednesdays starting November 17th- December 22nd, from 5-7PM

Limited spots available. Please call 780-968-3846 or email spyc@shaw.ca to register.