



# Penhold Panther Chronicles

## December 1st Newsletter

### **FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL**

The buzz of a school in December is truly magical. Even with the weather getting colder, kids are always excited with the extra treats, fun themed activities and the promise of a long break ahead. Our school has many special activities planned to help spread holiday cheer inside and outside of Penhold Elementary School.

We are trying something new with our newsletter this month. In an effort to make our newsletter more concise, we will limit our newsletter to one page, providing links to our website for more information on everything PES. Our newsletter will come out twice each month with the hopes that it is easier for families digest all the important information we want to share. All topics in the right hand column are linked to our website for more information. We would love to hear from families if this new format is helpful for all of your busy lives.

Safety is highly important within our school. While we don't anticipate the need to respond to emergencies, we highly value practicing our response to emergencies so that students will. On Wednesday, November 30th, we practiced to drills. 'Secure our School' and 'Lockdown' drills are practiced twice a year. A letter was previously sent out to parents explaining the process that we follow and the pre-teaching that our staff do with our students. We are happy to say that the drill was successful, our students and staff responded as we had hoped.

Finally, as we head into the Christmas season, we know many of our families will struggle especially with the high costs in food. The team at PES works with our other schools and makes hampers for all families who are presented to be in need. If you are one of those families or know of a family, please call the school or follow the link on the right for more information.

Yours in Education,  
Mrs. Giselle Meyer, Acting Principal  
Mr. Mark Crawford, Acting Vice-Principal

### **PES Skiing Days are BACK!**

#### **Families in Need**

Are you a family in need this Christmas season or know of one?

#### **Christmas Concert**

**December 15th @ 6 pm**

**Penhold Crossing Secondary School Gymnasium**

#### **Check out our Website**

**We are working hard at keeping our website the best source of information for parents.**

**Check out all of the holiday plans PES has in store including Candy Grams and our famous Turkey Dinner**

#### **Food Bank Items**

We have an epic competition going on - each class will compete to build the best structure with the items donated by their students. All food donated for our building will be used in our food hampers.

#### **Grade 5 & 6 CTF Options Round 2**

#### **Report Cards**

**As a division, we have moved to two report cards per year.**

#### **Winter is Here!**

Please check with your child to ensure they are dressed for the cold weather.

#### **Important Dates:**

- **Dec 3rd** - Carol Club performing @ Christmas in Springbrook
- **Dec 5th** - PES Awards Assembly
- **Dec 7th** - Pizza with Principal for award winners
- **Dec 15th** - Christmas Concert

## Modeling what great citizenship truly means

A message from Superintendent Kurt Sacher

I believe that positive energy is present in Chinook's Edge whenever people from our school communities gather, and this fall there has been a renewed sense of gratitude for our time together in school each day. We know the holiday season ignites an even greater sense of compassion and goodwill in our schools, as students and staff answer the call to be good global citizens. They are sharing our caring culture by ensuring the shelves are well stocked at area Food Banks, filling hundreds of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, performing seasonal concerts at seniors' homes, and gathering warm mittens for those less fortunate.

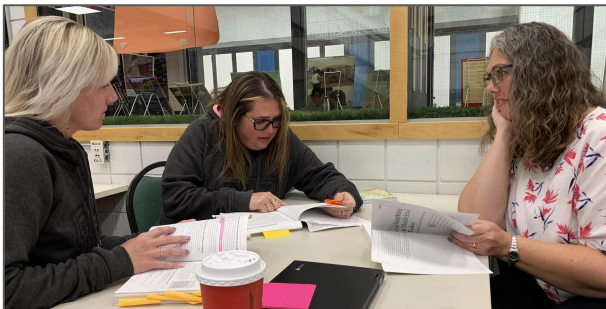
Our students model what great citizenship truly means. In Chinook's Edge, we believe citizenship involves the character of an individual and their respect for the greater societal good. At a time when lessons in the importance of being a good neighbour, a helpful friend and a respectful citizen are needed, we applaud our students and staff for the plentiful examples of their kindness.

Thank you to everyone who nurtures this generosity of spirit all year long in Chinook's Edge!

### Welcome to Kindergarten!

Beginning in January, Chinook's Edge will be accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2023-2024 school year. Children must turn five years old by December 31, 2023 to begin attending Kindergarten in the fall of 2023. **Online registration will begin on January 9, 2023.** Please visit our website for [Kindergarten information](#), including the Chinook's Edge schools that offer Pre-Kindergarten programming!

### Professional Learning Day November 25



These teachers and staff at Westglen School, as in schools throughout Chinook's Edge, have been engaged in high leverage strategies to support student progress during the division's Professional Learning Days.

Focused efforts on Professional Learning Days have improved student achievement results, and support for those having difficulty, so that high school graduation is a reality for everyone! Read more [at this link](#).

### Responding to the rise of respiratory viruses



The chief medical officer of health, Dr. Mark Joffe, has issued a statement about the increase of respiratory viruses in Alberta. As always, Chinook's Edge takes its lead in these matters from the officials at Alberta Health Services, and share their priority to keep our school communities safe. The government's full statement can be read [at this link](#).

We appreciate your attention to the preventative measures Dr. Joffe outlines. Our efforts together make a huge impact in our safe and caring schools!