



March 2020

Westglen School

PAWPRINTS

Westglen will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them in a middle school setting

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

And the survey says....! Next week we will be emailing out our annual parent survey. We value your time so we have shortened the survey somewhat in hopes that we will have a higher completion rate. Our school division collects the data, organizes it by question and returns it to us and then we put the data in front of our school teams to help guide our decision making. I realize that a survey is "one more thing", but we spend a great deal of time going over the information and taking it into account as we are already planning for September 2020! Thank you in advance for your help with completing the survey when we email the link in March.

Report cards will be ready on March 26. As always, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher at any time that you have questions or need to share information. Progress reports are meant to be a conversation starter, but can't replace talking with your child's teacher(s) to celebrate his/her successes and to make a plan for areas that need a greater focus. If you are unable to attend either of our conference evenings, please contact your child's teacher(s) to set up a mutually convenient time to meet.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Joyce and Willis Amstutz for their donation to our Breakfast Program; we appreciate it!

We'd also like to thank the Didsbury Schools Band Society for their donation to our band program, in memory of Roy Stockley (Mrs. Biggin's father)

Thanks as well to ATB for collecting donations on behalf of our grade 6 field trip!

www.westglen.ca

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*"Promise me, you will always see
the good in every child"*
Mrs. Linda Pothier



ACHIEVING HIGH LEVELS OF SUCCESS IN CHINOOK'S EDGE



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

This month's newsletter theme of 'Assessment' provides a perfect opportunity to share our pride for the great accomplishments of our students and staff.

The work underway in schools across Chinook's Edge is continuing to create an upward trend in several measures. For instance, we are pleased with the high number of students who are achieving the acceptable standard on both Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams – which are 3.5% and 4.3% above provincial average respectively. We are also seeing increasing levels of excellence across our division and we know our focused priority on academic rigour is resulting in student achievement and success.

In Chinook's Edge, we measure student success in a number of other important ways, as well. For instance, upwards of 90% of our students continually assure us through survey data that they feel safe at school, which is a measure we highly value. Eighty-four percent of our students are reading at grade level, which is an increase of 6% from three years ago. As well, 81.5% of our students complete high school which is above the provincial average of 79%. These are some of the other important indications that our focused work is impacting students at every grade level. Our four division-wide goals are leading to success for our students – and for everyone who works alongside them each day in our school communities.

Kurt Sacher,
Superintendent

Working towards solutions:

Chinook's Edge staff and families can rest assured that our division is determined to institute collaborative solutions to create cost efficiencies wherever possible. Please read more in the March issue of [Trustees at work for students](#) on page 7.



Mission:

Chinook's Edge School Division will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them.

Vision:

Chinook's Edge School Division will be universally recognized as a collaborative learning community where learning is personalized for all students to achieve success as compassionate and innovative global citizens.

Your Trustee, Gord Kerr, is always available and happy to hear from you. Visit the Board section of our division website at www.cesd73.ca for his contact information.

Superintendent Kurt Sacher can be contacted directly from the Board section as well.

SCHOOL NEWS

BAND NOTES

This month, our grade 7 and grade 8 bands will be participating in the Olds Kiwanis Music Festival. Performances are open to the public and are free of charge. Grade 7 Performance -Tuesday, March 17th at 1:30 pm Grade 8 Performance - Wednesday, March 18th at 11:00 am. As with concerts,students are to be dressed in all black concert clothes and all students in the band program are expected to participate. Performances will take place at the TransCanada Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building in Olds. We will be traveling to Olds via buses that will depart and return to Westglen. If you can help transport instruments, please email hbiggin@cesd73.ca. Permission forms and a detailed itinerary will be emailed next week.

BADMINTON NEWS

Badminton will be starting in March! Grade 8s practice Mondays and Wednesdays and Grade 7s will practice Tuesdays and Thursdays. Practices run after school until 5:00. The first practice for grade 8 is March 2nd and grade 7 is March 5th.

GRADE 5 CHOCOLATE SALES

Grade five students will be selling World's Finest Chocolate to raise money for camp. Chocolates will arrive March 13th and will be sold until April 21st.

Watch for more information from your child's homeroom teacher!

COMMUNITY NEWS

DIDSBURY MINOR SOCCER

Want more info on Didsbury Minor Soccer? Check out www.didsburysoccer.ca



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 (Day 4)	3 (Day 5) Deadline to sign up for the ski trip	4 (Day 1)	5 (Day 2) Grade 7 field trip to see Robb Nash (Calgary)	6 Collaborative Day - no school for students	7
8	9 (Day 3)	10 (Day 4)	11 (Day 5)	12 (Day 1) Extreme Pita hot lunch (pre-order by March 4th online)	13 (Day 2)	14
15	16 (Day 3)	17 (Day 4) Grade 7 Kiwanis Music Festival (pm) 	18 (Day 5) Grade 8 Kiwanis Music Festival (am)	19 (Day 1)	20 Organizational Day - no school for students	21
22	23 (Day 2)	24 (Day 3) Call now to book your Parent-Teacher Conference on April 2nd or 8th	25 (Day 4)	26 (Day 5) Term 2 Report Cards are available in PowerSchool at noon today	27 (Day 1) Mrs. Is Ski Trip to Nakiska & Winter Activity Day at Westglen	28
29	30 (Day 2)	31 (Day 3)			Upcoming: April 2 & 8 - Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00	

Didsbury FunTeam Basketball



Students! Come join us for community basketball

WHERE? At the Westglen school gym, Didsbury

WHO & WHEN? Grades 2-7

Tues March 17, 24 & 31

Tues April 7 & 21 (not 14)

Wed April 29

Wed May 6, 13, 20 & 27

TIMES? Grades 2-4 5:30-6:30pm

Grades 5-7 6:45-8:00pm

COST? \$25 + \$10 FunTeam Alberta Liability Insurance

(unless you've paid already through DFT hockey this 2019/2020 season)

Registration/fee collection will be at Westglen School, Didsbury on

Fri Feb 28, 2020 from 5-7pm.

(We only accept cash and cheques)

For more information find us on Facebook as

Didsbury Funteam Basketball or email zoe72sam@shaw.ca

Places are limited!

Talking to Kids About *Fake News*



WE HAVE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND REFERENCES ONLINE

<http://edtechframework.com/support/talking-to-kids/>





Chinook's Edge Trustees

at work for students

Where Students
Come First

March 2020

Chinook's Edge School Division is governed by committed, locally elected Trustees who are responsible to **govern** all business aspects of the division, to **advocate** for the highest quality learning environments for over 11,000 students, and to **promote** the value of public education. **Connect with your Trustee** [HERE](#)

While we won't know specific dollar values until the budget is announced, information provided by the Minister of Education on February 18 helps us understand how the new funding model will work. In the days following the February 27th budget announcement, Superintendent Kurt Sacher will be sharing details of how Chinook's Edge will move forward, as he did with the fall budget.

Working towards solutions

Meanwhile, Chinook's Edge staff and families can rest assured that at budget time and at all times, our division is determined to institute cost efficiencies. Among several examples of this is our leadership role in providing solutions in technology. Chinook's Edge has been instrumental in establishing a system where seven school divisions share in the purchase of 2.7 gigabytes of bandwidth, which allows for a high degree of flexibility without impacting individual division budgets.

Our strength in establishing innovative collaborations creates efficiencies for us, and also for school divisions beyond our borders. We are proud to be leaders in learning!

Engaged in Education: Connie Huelsman

Connie Huelsman, an elected official with both Chinook's Edge and the County of Red Deer, began her time with the division as the school secretary at Olds High in the early 1990s.

She transferred to Division Office just after the amalgamation that formed Chinook's Edge, and worked in an admin support role in the Superintendent's office. Although she missed her school days and returned to Westglen School for a few years, her experience working as a secretary to the Board and the Superintendent planted a seed. She saw an opportunity to make a difference at the Board level and ran as a Trustee in 2004. She has served on the Chinook's Edge Board ever since.

"I've been pleased with our work as a Board of Trustees and believe our students are well served. I feel like I've been a strong voice for both our support staff and professional staff. I have been told that they 'know I have their back,' because I'm very familiar with the goings on in schools. I've been there!"

Some of Connie's proudest achievements on behalf of students and families are examples of board and community collaborations and thinking outside the box. These included the Filipenko track at Bowden Grandview School and the Industrial Arts shop at Spruce View School-both of which are in the ward she represents. She served as ASBA Zone Chair for two terms, taking issues forward on the provincial level, and is happy to be an advocate for K-12.

"My daughter graduated from Bowden Grandview and had such a good experience that she decided to become a teacher herself! She is currently teaching at Bowden," said Connie. "I am so proud of Chinook's Edge and how highly this division is respected across the province. I've worked with many wonderful people who have taught me so much. I couldn't be happier that my grandkids are now starting at Bowden Grandview and learning alongside such great teachers and staff!"



Trustee Huelsman shares her love for reading with her grandsons, who are part of the Bowden Grandview School community



Joe-Anne
Knispel Matejka



Sherry Cooper



Colleen Butler



Holly Bilton



Connie Huelsman



Allan Tarnoczi



Trudy James



Gordon Kerr



Melissa Copley