



# BOARD NEWS

Central Office, 8611A-108 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V-4C5 | [www.pwpsd76.ab.ca](http://www.pwpsd76.ab.ca)

Inspiring all learners to become confident, collaborative and ethical citizens motivated with a passion to achieve a sustainable future.

## Upcoming Events

### Christmas concerts/events

December 4-21

Schedule: <http://bit.ly/PWPSD-Christmas-Events-2018>

School Christmas break – no classes: Mon., Dec. 24 - Fri., Jan. 4

Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day statutory holidays  
Tues. - Wed., Dec. 25-26 and  
Tues., Jan. 1

PWPSD offices/shops are closed on statutory holidays. During the school Christmas break, PWPSD offices/shops will be open on non-statutory holiday dates, but closed to the public.

Classes resume: Mon., Jan. 7

2019 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching and Early Childhood Ed. Excellence  
Nomination deadline: Jan. 14  
[www.pma.gc.ca](http://www.pma.gc.ca)

January Diploma Exams  
Jan. 14-16, 22-25 and 28-30  
See schedule on p. 2.

Free Diploma Exam tutorials  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Soc. Stud. 30-1/30-2: Jan. 12, PWA  
Math 30-1/30-2: Jan. 19, GPRC  
Bio 30/Chem 30: Jan. 26, GPRC  
Sci 30: Tues., Jan. 30, PWA  
Free food. No need to register.

Next Board meeting  
Thurs., Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m.  
Central Office, Grande Prairie

2019 Great Kids Award  
Many young Albertans face life challenges, yet they inspire and change the lives of others.  
Nominate them for an award by 4:00 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 31:  
<https://www.alberta.ca/great-kids-award.aspx>



PWPSD bus driver Lori Funk with students from Harry Balfour School during the annual Stuff a Bus charity event.

**The loss of 11 school bus drivers in the past year is placing a serious strain on PWPSD's spare driver list. Telephone (780) 532-7734 to apply today.**

## Spare bus driver shortage straining service: Annual Transportation Report

PWPSD Transportation Director Ted Gobin noted in his annual Transportation Report to the Board that the loss of 11 bus drivers in the past year is placing a serious strain on the PWPSD spare driver list.

Currently, three permanent spare drivers are covering a large area and spares are needed throughout the school division. Mr. Gobin said Working has been a tough area to staff, and two of the three drivers are residents of Spirit River.

The earliest student pick-up throughout the school division occurs at 7:00 a.m., with the latest drop-off happening at 5:05 p.m.

PWPSD will retire and replace eight aging school buses during 2018-2019, maintaining its regular fleet of 136 units.

The Transportation Department manages 102

routes. This year, one route was eliminated in the Whispering Ridge attendance area with the opening of the new school. Mr. Gobin recommends making the one-year Westlake Village subdivision busing pilot a permanent route as it ensures that pick-up times in the entire attendance area occur after 7:00 a.m.

The Alternate Arrangement Request Form, used by families to access busing to day care centres, will be made available after September 15, 2019 to first ensure sufficient space for all regular route riders.

A total of 106 bus passes were issued this year to serve approved students in the unfunded areas of Sexsmith and Whispering Ridge.

The department bid farewell to retirees Murray Thompson and Marie Lee, and welcomed new employees David McMillian and Kim Ponto.

## Transportation funding, new school sites top MLA meeting agenda

Political Action Committee members reported on their meeting with local MLAs Drysdale, Loewen and McCuaig-Boyd on December 7.

Board Chair McIntosh spoke at length to the MLAs on the need for equitable rural transportation funding.

Trustee Anderson shared how funding from the Alberta Nutrition Program is providing free lunches and enhanced snack programs at a number of schools.

Following Ms. McIntosh's discussion on how Alberta Education requires proof of an available serviced lot

prior to a new school announcement, MLA McCuaig-Boyd requested the names of bureaucrats that the Board has spoken with to date on the topic.

Trustee Clarke shared how the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) is positively impacting remedial reading, while Trustee Crane expanded on the student mental health component of the CIF.

Superintendent Stewart talked about the current teacher shortage and PWPSD's upcoming recruitment plan.



## Season's Greetings from PWPSD – Winning submission in Division-wide art contest featured on 2018 Christmas card



Congratulations to Grade 2 student Lheanna Basilan of Beaverlodge Elementary School, winner of the 2018 PWPSD Christmas card art contest.

The contest cycles through the four Grade divisions annually. This year, 283 Grades 1-3 students submitted entries under the theme, "The best thing about Christmas is..." PWPSD Trustees chose the winning artwork.

Lheanna's colourful scene, featuring a snowman surrounded by Christmas trees against a starlit background, earned her a swag bag and a \$100 pizza party for her class. Congratulations to Lheanna and thanks to all who participated in the contest.

View a larger version of the winning artwork at <http://bit.ly/PWPSD-2018-Art-Contest>.

## Alberta Summer Games says thanks



Games President Lionel Robins (c) presented a gift to Superintendent Bob Stewart (l) and Chair Dana McIntosh (r), for the Board's support of the 2018 AB Summer Games.

## School travel plans reviewed

The Board provided approval for the following school international trips. Approval for all travel is pending compliance with [Policy HGCG – Off-Site Activities](#).

- **Peace Wapiti Academy:** Final approval to travel to NYC in April 2019.
- **Helen E. Taylor School:** Approval in principle for travel to Italy, Germany and Switzerland in April 2020.

## Committee and meeting reports

The Policy Review Committee met on Dec. 3 to finalize work on the draft [Policy GBEB: Use of Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs that Cause Impairment](#). The Board approved the policy as presented.

Trustee McIntosh reported on the Teacher Board Liaison Committee meeting held Nov. 29.

Trustees completed the four-question ASBA 2018 FGM "Questions about Board Autonomy" survey.

For more good news, see the News & Announcements section at [www.pwpsd76.ab.ca](http://www.pwpsd76.ab.ca).

## IT Department improving service

In his annual report to the Board, PWPSD Information Technology (IT) Coordinator Darcy Bromling noted that while the move of PWPSD servers to Terago has been working well, more cost effective options have arrived on the market since the project began in 2014.

The new phone system installation is offering stability and significant cost savings and the new IT Help Desk is better meeting staff needs.

Approximately 50 per cent of schools still use SMART board technology, with others using televisions for audio/visual needs. SMART does offer interactive touch screen televisions, but as is often the case with new technology, the cost and size aren't currently feasible.

Students and teachers have transitioned to Gmail. Google Chromebooks continue to be the device of choice, with more than 4,500 playing a key role in education at PWPSD schools – an increase of 1,000 units over last year.

Internet activity sits at 300 Mb/s per year, up 50 per cent over last year. While SuperNet is effective, it lags behind the needs of larger schools. Penson, Elmworth and LaGlance Schools have been added to another service and are now able to reach 100 Mb/s of bandwidth.

The IT Department also manages cellphones, telephones, computers, laptops, fax machines, copiers, printers, email, websites, LAN, servers, the student database, user support, anti-virus software and spam filtering, digital signage, furnace software and wiring, firewalls, software deployment and support, media installs, security cameras, and door card systems.

## Continued support for NW Zone One Act Play Festival

The Board will continue its annual \$250 contribution to the Northwest Zone One Act Play Festival, as outlined in *Administrative Procedure JOBA-APM - Annual Contributions*.

### Diploma Exams Schedule: January 2019

Diploma exams **must** be administered according to the scheduled dates and times.

All diploma exams, <b>except</b> those that are <b>asterisked</b> , remain secured after administration.		
Monday, January 14	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	English Language Arts 30–1 Part A* English Language Arts 30–2 Part A*
Tuesday, January 15	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. 9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Social Studies 30–1 Part(ie) A* Social Studies 30–2 Part(ie) A*
Wednesday, January 16	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Français 30–1 Partie A French Language Arts 30–1 Part A*
Tuesday, January 22	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Français 30–1 Partie B French Language Arts 30–1 Part B
Wednesday, January 23	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Mathematics 30–1 Mathematics 30–2
Thursday, January 24	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	English Language Arts 30–1 Part B English Language Arts 30–2 Part B
Friday, January 25	9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	Social Studies 30–1 Part(ie) B Social Studies 30–2 Part(ie) B
Monday, January 28	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Biology 30
Tuesday, January 29	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Chemistry 30
Wednesday, January 30	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Physics 30 Science 30**

\*\* sciences 30 in French is administered in January, June and August 2019

All students are provided with up to double the official time as noted above, if they require it.

Principals may decide to start the administration of the diploma exams early when more than one diploma exam is scheduled on one day. Students writing morning diploma exams cannot be dismissed until 10:00 A.M. and students writing afternoon diploma exams cannot be dismissed until 2:00 P.M. Please note that the order of the diploma exams that are scheduled on the same day cannot be changed.

## School fee revisions

The following school fee revisions were submitted to Alberta Education for approval.

### Peace Wapiti Academy:

- A \$400 fee for a trip to Jasper or Edmonton, created by the new Fine Arts Club that formed on Sept. 15.

### Harry Balfour School:

- Jr. High band trip: Increased from \$250 to \$450.
- Elementary band trip: Reduced from \$405 to \$250.
- Grade 6 camping trip: Increased from \$230 to \$325.

## PWPSD BOARD NEWS

A report on news from Peace Wapiti Public School Division, published following each Board Meeting.

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