



# PENSON SCHOOL

Box 165, Grovedale AB T0H 1X0  
Phone: 780-532-6390 Fax: 780-532-0470

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January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Dear Parents / Guardians:

To address any confusion regarding “school closure” vs “busses not running” notices, I hope this letter will clarify things for all parents and guardians.

When it is announced on the radio, website, etc that busses are NOT running, schools in Peace Wapiti remain open, including Penson School. It is your prerogative to drive your children to school when the busses are not running and then pick them up at the end of the day (3:35pm). As you might expect, when 95% of students are not in school, their day will look different than a “normal school day”. Typically, 5-10 students (in total) ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 9 attend school on bus cancellation days, so it makes little sense for teachers to proceed with planned lessons when the overwhelming majority of their students are not present to receive the instruction. Work and supervision are provided, but the day is non-instructional.

Although we have felt that communication on this issue has been clear, as it is stated in Board Policy that “schools remain open”, there has been some misunderstanding. Adults who have entered the building with their children have been told by staff that the school is open, but regular classes have been cancelled, and a description of what the day looks like, as described above, has prompted a majority of parents to choose to take their children home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the numbers listed above.

Sincerely,

Mr. Don MacAskill

*Office of the Principal*