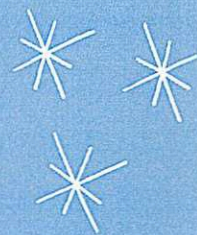




JANUARY

Newsletter



MR. DUCHSCHERER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our Ralston School families. With the ringing in of a new year comes the resolutions and excitement of the season. Ralston School is also very excited about many of the upcoming events in the future months.

Students are finishing the intramural activity of the Ralston Stanley Cup and once it is completed students will compete in their very own Ralston School Winter Olympics. All students in the school from JK through grade 9 will be divided into 6 different countries and compete in a number of fun events to earn points and eventually medals for their respective countries. Staff members will also be divided amongst the countries and coach/compete right along side the students. Competitions will all take place in the Ralston School gym and include broomball, indoor curling, bobsled race, toboggan races, biathlon and human foosball. The teams, schedule of events and instructions will be coming home very soon. The Ralston School Olympics will kick off with its own Opening Ceremony on Friday, January 30 in conjunction with the monthly assembly at 9:00. We invite all our families out to see what the Ralston School Winter Olympics are all about.

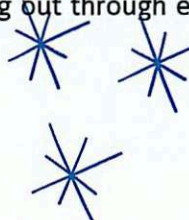


As a school we continue to work on the 5 In/5 Outs in the areas of curriculum for both Language Arts and Maths. This work sees teachers determining the 5 most important Alberta Curricular outcomes all students need coming into a grade level and leaving a grade level. This is work the entire school division is completing and is proving to be very valuable. Teachers and staff are also working on improving instruction in all classrooms through the "Big 4 Instructional Strategies," including retrieval practice, interleaving, spacing and metacognition. These 4 educational strategies are research proven to help increase academic performance in all students. This work will happen in Ralston School and PRPS over the next few years and we are excited to see where this will lead our academic performance. Watch for many updates to come in this area as the year progresses.

Coming home soon will be a fundraising opportunity around beef jerky as the final details are getting worked out. Money raised will go back to students in the building and help pay for exciting opportunities including: field trips, ski trip and fun activities for the students. Any support you can offer will be greatly appreciated. Watch for information to be coming out through email.

Yours In Education,

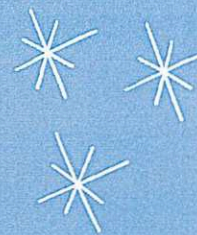
Mr. Jason Duchscherer





JANUARY

newsletter



RALSTON FARM UPDATE

The new year is off to a big start! Our students are diving deep into hands-on projects as they prepare for our upcoming Exhibition of Learning. We are excited to begin the work and finish with the showcase to families, community members, and special guests on Friday, May 29.

Here is a look at what each grade level is exploring this winter: Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten:

The Miracle of Life

Our youngest learners are exploring the Life Cycle of Chickens. This project includes:

- Incubation: Students will monitor the process of hatching chicks right in their classroom.
- The "Egg to Hen" Podcast: Look out for a student-led podcast where they share their observations and new knowledge about their feathered friends!

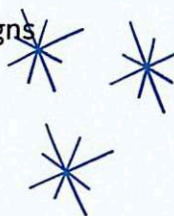


Grades 1-3: The Great Ralston Grow-Off

It's a battle of the green thumbs! Students are conducting a scientific comparison: Hydroponics vs. Grow Bags (Soil). They will track growth rates, plant health, and efficiency to see which method reigns supreme for our small farm.

Grades 4-6: Animal Experts & "Dragons' Den"

The intermediate classes are taking a deep dive into the animals arriving at the farm. Their work is two-fold:



1. Interactive QR Codes: Students are creating QR codes for each animal. When scanned, these will reveal student-produced videos, feeding schedules, fun facts, and personal introductions to each animal.
2. The Dragons' Den: Students are becoming entrepreneurs! They are developing a product derived from their animal, complete with a brand name, logo, cost analysis, and marketing plan. They will pitch their business to our "investors" (you!) during the exhibition.

Grades 7-9: The Science of By-Products

Our older students are looking at the big picture of agriculture by researching Animal By-Products. They are exploring how every part of the animal contributes to various industries beyond just food, highlighting the sustainability of modern farming.

AgPro Class: Engineering Excellence

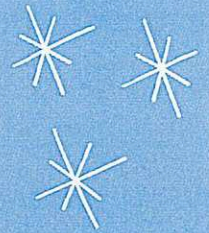
The AgPro students are putting their design skills to the test. They are currently designing and building a scale model of a cattle handling system, focusing on safety, efficiency, and animal welfare.





JANUARY

newsletter



Winter Reminders & Building Safety

As the temperature drops and the snow begins to fly, we want to ensure all our students stay warm, dry, and fuelled for a great day of learning. Please take a moment to review these important seasonal reminders.

Dressing for the Weather

Students spend time outdoors every day for recess and lunch unless temperatures reach extreme lows. To keep your child comfortable, please ensure they come to school with:

- A warm winter coat and snow pants.
- Waterproof gloves or mittens (an extra pair in the backpack is always a good idea!).
- A toque or warm hat that covers the ears.
- A scarf or neck warmer.

Indoor Shoes are a Must

To keep our classrooms clean and dry, all students are required to have a pair of indoor shoes that stay at school.

- These should be closed-toe and suitable for Physical Education classes.
- Please check periodically to ensure your child hasn't outgrown their indoor shoes!

For Our Guests: Footwear Policy

To maintain the safety of our hallways and prevent slippery floors, we kindly ask all visitors, parents, and volunteers to remove wet or soiled footwear immediately upon entering the building at the front door. Keeping our floors dry helps prevent accidental slips and falls for our students and staff.

Extra "Fuel" for Cold Days

The body uses more energy to stay warm during the winter months! We've noticed many students are extra hungry lately. Please consider packing an additional healthy snack in your child's lunch bag to ensure they have enough energy to power through the afternoon.



JANUARY

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 First Day Back!	6 Ag Program- Leave @ 12:10pm	7	8 Ag Program- Leave @ 12:10pm Basketball Practice 3:20- 4:30pm (PSP)	9	10
11	12	13 Ag Program- Leave @ 12:10pm JK-Gr 4 Fire Presentation- 10am	14	15 Ag Program- Leave @ 12:10pm Basketball Practice 3:20- 4:30pm (PSP)	16 Pizza Buns Hot Lunch	17
18	19	20 Ag Program- Leave @ 12:10pm	21	22 Ag Program- at Ralston School Basketball Practice 3:20- 4:30pm (PSP)	23	24
25	26	27 Gr. 9 Eagle Butte Orientation- Arrive at School for 8:20am (9's ONLY)	28	29	30 Monthly Assembly- 9am	31