



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message:

We are excited to enter into the month of December, we have some fun activities planned as we head into our Christmas Break at the end of the month! We will be partnering with the Town of Millet as part of the Winter Festival on December 8. We are also planning to have some fun skating activities in December at the arena which will be supported by our Hockey Academy staff - it should be a great time for our students. Our concert is going to be earlier this year on Dec. 14 which will be a great celebration of our student and staff's hard work!

This month we will be practicing our Lock Down, Shelter in Place and Hold & Secure Drills, we will be sending a message home prior to running through those drills with more information about them.

Warm regards,
Trevor Van Someren
Principal



SCHOOL-WIDE UPCOMING EVENTS



GSS Christmas Concert

December 14

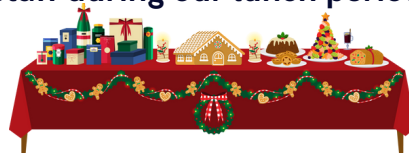
- 1:30pm Rehearsal. - Grandparents are welcome to attend.
- 6:30pm Evening Concert - Doors will open at 6:15pm.



PAC "Christmas-Dinner" Lunch

December 15

Parent Council is putting together a "Christmas Dinner" for students and staff during our lunch period!



December Skating Days

Grades 5-6

December 5th, 12th, 18th

Grades 7-8

December 7th, 14th, 18th

Permission forms are on your parent portal.
www.griffithsscott.ca



Candy Grams = \$1.00

Purchase dates for each grade are below, delivery is Dec 20:

Dec 4: Grade 1's

Dec 5: Grade 2's

Dec 6: Grades 3 & 4

Dec 7: Grades 5 & 6

Dec 11: Grades 7 & 8

Dec 12: Last call for everyone



Christmas Break!

December 23 - January 7.

The School will be closed during that time.

**Students will return Monday,
January 8th, 2024!**





DECEMBER CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Skating Day	6	7 Grant MacEwan Band Field Trip Skating Day	8 PLC Day: No School	9
10	11	12 Skating Day	13	14 GSS Christmas Concert Skating Day	15 PAC "Christmas-Dinner" Lunch	16
17	18 Skating Day	19 Oral Health Program K-3	20 Griffins Classic Game starts @ 10:15am Oral Health Program K-3	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve!	25 Christmas Day! Merry Christmas! 	26 Christmas Break! School's Closed	27 Christmas Break! School's Closed	28 Christmas Break! School's Closed	29 Christmas Break! School's Closed	30

31

New Year's
Eve

RED = SCHOOL'S CLOSED

GREEN = PLC DAYS - NO SCHOOL

BLUE = GS SCHOOL EVENTS



UNESCO

Calling all bakers! The UNESCO Club is planning a bake sale on December 19th. We are continuing to raise money for the Downie-Wenjak Foundation.

<https://downiewenjack.ca/>

If you could donate some baking that would be marvelous. We are also hoping to make sure we have some peanut-free, gluten-free, and lactose-free treats. Thank you for your support.



GRADE 1 - MRS. GREKUL

We've started to learn our numbers all the way to 50 and making patterns. We have learned 14 Tricky Words so far that we've been working on reading and spelling. Keep practicing letter sounds and names at home daily as well as the Tricky Words. In December there will be lots of fun to be had. Stay tuned to hear more about our Christmas Ornament making day.



GRADE 1 - MRS. SENDECKI

We have been working hard in math on counting to 50, making patterns with 4 elements and addition to 10. All of our Jolly Phonics sounds have been taught and we are now learning some "Tricky Words". The grade ones are also working on writing 1-2 sentences independently, sounding out words is always so exciting! We have also been reading lots of Christmas stories and doing some lovely crafts/art projects. The students are excited to perform at the Christmas concert and have been working hard practicing their little song.

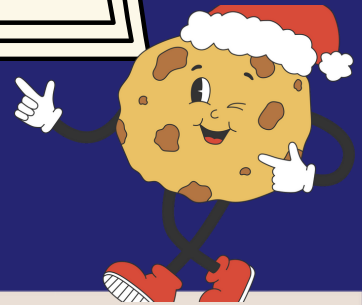


CLASSROOM & UNESCO ANNOUNCEMENTS



GRADE 3/4 - MRS. WILLIAMS

We are so excited about all the fun learning we have done this month. We made fossils for Grade 3 Science and Grade 4 Social Studies. The students wrote fantastic paragraphs about their favourite shows. Technology is used frequently in this class, whether we are competing using Kahoots, practicing our reading on Raz Kids or learning our math skills in IXL. Next month, we are looking forward to our Christmas Concert!



GRADE 5/6 GILL & GRADE 6 GRANGER

- Grade 5/6 and Grade 6 classes are currently looking for parent volunteers to read with our guided reading groups in the morning a few times weekly. If you believe you could help us out with this, please contact Mr. Granger at patrick.granger@wrps11.ca.
- Grade 5/6 Band will be playing Hot Cross Buns and Good King Wenceslas in the Christmas concert on Dec. 14. They should be taking their instruments home and practicing.
- Grade 5-6 Skating Days: December 5, 12, 18; leaving school at 9:50 and returning at 12:00. Forms for student participation, need to be completed prior to the skating days on your Power School Parent Portal. Students need to bring their own skates and must wear a helmet.
- In ELA we will continue reading aloud with our grade 2 buddies on day 1's in December. We will also be looking at oration and examining non-fiction forms of writing including: speeches, letters, Instructions, and descriptions. We will continue to build vocabulary using Words Their Way, analyze organization of ideas in media and writing, and listen to reading with Gordon Korman's book Masterminds.
- In Science we will continue studying Flight: experimenting with paper airplane design, examining aircraft control surfaces, describing helicopter flight and propellers, and revisiting Bernoulli's principle and forces of lift, thrust, gravity, and drag.
- In Social Studies we continue to look at modern democracy focusing in December on forms of local government.



OFFICE

With warm wishes to all of the students, staff, and families of Griffiths-Scott School, we hope everyone enjoys a safe and wonderful holiday! And, a happy New Year ahead!

Sincerely,

Mr. VanSomeran, Mrs. Micklich
& The Admin Team



SCIENCE: MRS. THOMPSON

We have begun the Interactions and Ecosystems unit with a fun project - Ecosystems in a Bottle! Each student has a plant, fish, aquatic plant and soon to be - baby snail(1) in their 2L bottle ecosystem. Grade 7 students will monitor and care for their little ecosystems until they take them home for Christmas. Updates to come!





LEADERSHIP

The Griffin Leadership Team has many festive activities planned for December! We will start with Red and Green Day this on Dec 1, so be sure to come dressed to school in these holiday colors.

The team will be selling Candy Grams again this year with all of the proceeds going to the Millet Food Bank. Candy Grams may be purchased for \$1 each and can be sent to anyone in the school. The leadership team will be in each classroom beginning the week of December 4th selling the candy canes. The Candy canes will be delivered to students and staff on Dec 20th.

Grade 1's - Dec 4th

Grade 2's - Dec 5th

Grade 3 and 4 - Dec 6th

Grade 5 and 6 - Dec 7th

Grade 7 and 8 - Dec 11th

Last Call for everyone - Dec 12th



To finish off the Holiday Season the Leadership Team will be hosting the 6 Days of Christmas - stay tuned to your emails as details for these fun dress-up days will be coming your way soon!

Thank you to the Leadership team for serving Hot Chocolate to the school on November 30th.





Tansi (Hello)

This month I'll start with the teaching of Honesty. The animal that represents this is the Sabe (bigfoot). There will be some Christmas crafts made using sticks & twigs. Maybe some decorating of Christmas Cookies? Students will also be learning Cree Christmas songs. I'm hoping to have an elder come in to share some stories after Dec. 21 which will be in January. Also if parents/guardians would like to learn some beading let me know so we can pick a date in January. Enjoy all the festivities that Christmas has to offer.

Miyo Manito Kiskaw (Merry Christmas)

Ayhay (Thank you)

Gloria Rogers (ISW)





Winter Family Bonding Kits...

**Includes a locally baked
and assembled cookie
decorating kit.
(Limited quantities available)**

County of Wetaskiwin residents,
pre-register online for a FREE kit at
county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca OR scan QR Code below.

Deadline to Register: December 7, 2023

Kit Pick Up Dates: December 12-14, 2023

Pick Up Locations: County Office or
Winfield Health Centre

Questions: 780-352-3321 or fcssadmin@county10.ca



**These kits are available only for families that live
in the county of Wetaskiwin.**

WELLNESS COACH ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello Winter

W inter reminds us the truth that
I f we can endure the coldest of times
N othing can dim the warmth of our spirit
T he air may be cold, but it can't
E xtinguish the fire within our souls
R emember, you are strong and capable



Mindfulness Exercises for Well-being in Winter

- 1) Cozy Gratitude Practice - Make a warm cup of tea or hot chocolate and find a cozy place to relax for ten to fifteen minutes. Take time to reflect on all the people, places, and things you are grateful for.
- 2) Take a Mindful Walk - bundle up and head outdoors. As you walk, notice the colours, sounds, and temperature. How do your body and heart feel?
- 3) Mindful Eating - Enjoy your favourite warm meal. How do your mind and body feel as you eat the first few bites? Take the time to enjoy and appreciate your food and all of the nutrients it provides to you and your body.

Copy and paste this link into your internet browser for some mindful exercises:

<https://mindfulness Exercises.com/6-mindfulness-exercises-for-wellbeing-in-winter/>

Thank you,

Natalie Peek



FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON



Hello Everyone,

December already! As the holiday season approaches, students and families may experience many different feelings. The holidays can bring a lot of fun and excitement for some families, but can also bring forward stress and sadness for others. It is important to take care of yourself through the holiday season and to spend the holidays in the way that works best for your family. As always, please remember that I am available at the school to connect with any students who may need to talk or to support any families who may be looking for community resources and connections.

Alicia Cardinal
Family School Liaison





W.H.A. HOCKEY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The inaugural Griffins Classic, hosted by the WHA program, is set to take place on Wednesday, December 20th, between 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM at the Millet Agriplex. This event will feature players from the Griffins Hockey program alongside staff from WRPS! Parents are encouraged to attend and watch the action.



Schedule for WHA – Millet Hockey Students

8:00 – 8:20	Equipment drop-off time for families at school	GSS
8:30-8:35	Load Bus and Depart School	GSS
8:35 – 8:45	Arrive at Rink/Get Changed/Meet Staff	Arena
8:45 – 9:55	On-Ice Instruction (~70 Minutes)	Arena
9:55 – 10:05	Get Changed/Load Bus/Leave Rink	Arena
10:05 – 10:10	Bus Returns to School	GSS



Griffith Scott School Presents the First Annual

GRIFFINS

★ CLASSIC ★



TEAM CONRAD

VS

TEAM SCHNEIDER



Wednesday, December 20th 2023

Game Starts at 10:15 AM

Located at the Town of Millet Agriplex



PARENT COUNCIL ANNOUCEMENTS



Welcome to Parent Council



Helpers at Griffiths-Scott School (HAGSS)/ Parent Council

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out to our Market Trade Show. It was a huge success and we were able to raise more than \$1000.00.

Volunteers are needed:

Turkey Lunch

December 15th we will be making our annual Turkey / Ham meal with all the trimming for the Staff and Students.

This event is fully supported by donations from the parents and community to make it happen.

- We will require all food, drinks, plates, cutlery, napkins, etc donated
- We will require volunteers that day to cook, set up the gym, serve the meal, and clean up. (you don't need to be there for the full day, it would be nice to have a set-up group and a clean-up group)

Please let Michelle Hougestol know if you are able to donate items and or help on the day of the event. 780-905-4374

Upcoming events:

- Parent council meetings will be held in the School Library Thursday, November 30th @ 4:00 pm. All parents are welcome to attend
- Win Front row reserved seating for 2 to the evening Christmas Concert. Look for entry forms coming home with students shortly.
 - 1st Place will have the luxury of sitting on a comfy couch and having a large snack basket to enjoy.
 - 2nd place will have a comfy couch and a small snack basket
 - 3rd Place will have reserved front-row seats for 2



2023-2024 STAFF LIST



Administration:

- Principal: Mr. Trevor Van Someren
- Vice Principal: Ms. Michelle Micklich
- Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Sharon Fehler
- Admin. Assistant: Ms. Olyvia McLeod

Teachers:

- Kindergarten: Mrs. Danielle Romaine
- Grade 1: Mrs. Kim Grekul
- Grade 1: Mrs. Ronda Sendeki
- Grade 2: Mrs. Samantha Pumm
- Grade 2: Mrs. Nichol Goodrich
- Grade 3: Mrs. Cindy Mandseth
- Grade 3/4: Mrs. Monica Williams
- Grade 4: Ms. Shirley Nicol
- Grade 5: Mrs. Hayley Snowden
- Grade 5/6: Mr. Pindy Gill
- Grade 6: Mr. Patrick Granger
- Grade 7: Ms. Cindy McGrath
- Grade 7/8: Ms. Chelsea Penman
- Inclusive Learning/Literacy Teacher:
Mrs. Kristine Becker
- Music: Mr. Marshall Tindall
- Science: Mrs. Natasha Thompson
- Gym/Hockey: Mr. Nicholas Schneider

Additional Staff:

- Family School Liaison Worker:
Mrs. Alicia Cardinal
- Wellness Coach: Mrs. Natalie Peek
- Indigenous Support Worker:
Mrs. Gloria Rogers

Educational Assistants:

- Mrs. Kim Betournay
- Mrs. Sue Schmidt
- Mrs. Jennifer Kadyk
- Mrs. Doreen Felske

Custodians:

- Ms. Natalie Evans
- Mr. Gordio Rayco





CONTACT /FOLLOW US



Phone us @: 780-387-4101



Text us @: 780-216-1474



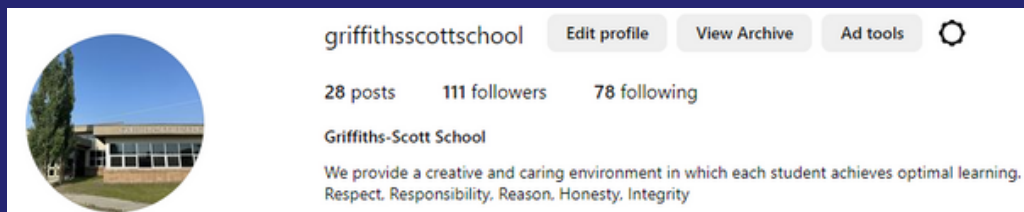
Email us @ Griffiths Scott Main Office : gs@wrps11.ca



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Facebook search: [Griffiths-Scott School](#)



Instagram search: [griffithsscotschool](#)