

Lights, Camera, Action!
Welcome to Grade 2!

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to school, everyone! We hope that your summer holidays were fantastic and filled with lots of fun. We sure had some amazing weather!

The grade two "TEAM" at PES is incredible. Our team spent time together this summer planning our programs, and designing ways to implement team teaching in L.A. and Math. We feel confident in our new PES learning environment, and are very excited about the opportunity this will provide us to work more intensively with students at different levels on specific skills —especially in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

The grade two team this year includes:

Mrs. Brandi Abt—Language, Math, Music, Health

Mrs. Lisa Allen—Language, Math, Science, Health

Mrs. Shauna Wessner—Language, Math, Social Studies, Health

Mrs. Jennifer Parker—Language / literacy support

Mrs. Barb Secretan—Math, Physical Education

Working with "younger" students is fantastic, because we have the opportunity to watch their skills and abilities grow by leaps and bounds. We are very excited to get to know all of our students and their families and to begin our terrific learning adventure together. We want our classrooms to be positive, engaging places where we all care about and respect each other, and take responsibility as enthusiastic learners. Our classes will participate together in many special activities throughout the year. Each week, we get together for singing, and we often enjoy sharing stories, art lessons, health and DPA activities. It creates a very positive environment as students from all the classes get to interact with all their friends and other wonderful teachers and staff. We create a very unique sense of community. The grade two team does not view the students as "mine" or "yours" but instead we consider them ALL "our" kids!

We'd like to get off to a great start this fall by establishing positive, open communication between the school and home. We feel very strongly that as teachers and families, we need to work together to support children as they grow and learn. If we cooperate, the children will experience the greatest success. The **school agenda** will be used each day to keep students organized, to inform you at home about important items or upcoming events, and to send home notices. Please look at your child's agenda each evening and initial it to let us know that you've checked it. You may write any notes or place papers to be returned to school in the pocket. **Agendas will be checked by the homeroom teacher each morning.** Please feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher anytime during the year through a note, phone call, or email if you have questions or concerns about your child. Grade two students will enter and exit the school using the North-east entrance. This is where we'd like you to drop off and pick-up (meet) your son/daughter. It is very important that you inform us of changes to usual home-time plans by writing a note in your child's agenda. We do not change the students' hometime plans without written notice.

Ponoka Elementary School is trying to go digital with our monthly newsletters. In addition to the general school newsletter that will be posted online each month, you can stay informed about the specific happenings in grade two by checking out our grade two team website: www.pesgrade2.weebly.com Each month we will post a calendar of events, updates about what we are learning in class, and some photos of the students' learning and achievements. After this month, paper copies of newsletters will no longer be sent home. **If you do not have the ability/access to view or grade two website, please let us know and we will make other arrangements.**

Along with this first newsletter, we are sending home a brief summary of the grade two curriculum (taken from the Alberta Learning website). It will give you a parent-friendly overview of the major outcomes that we will tackle in each subject area in grade two. A more detailed, extensive version is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/>.

Our morning periods will be largely spent on Language Arts and Math, so it is important for the children to be on time and well rested each day. We encourage the students to have a nutritious morning snack just after first recess (about 10:20 am). Please pack or help your child choose a healthy and relatively quick/easy snack to eat at this time. Cookies, candy, or other sugary snacks and drinks are not allowed at this time. We do not have a water fountain in the room, so your child is welcome to bring his/her own water bottle.

The grade 1 and 2 community is adjusting our lunchtime routine this year. **Students will EAT PRIOR to going outside to play. The bell to begin eating rings at 11:40. After eating the kids will go out for fresh air and exercise, 12:00 - 12:20 pm.** We hope that this will result in more energized students during the afternoon as well as reducing our time lost to cleaning up after lunch. Thank you for noting this change.

Basic grade two routine	
8:20-8:45	DEAR time - reading and getting settled for the day
9:00 - 10:05	Math
10:05-10:20	Recess
10:20	Morning Snack
10:30-11:40	Language Arts
11:40	Eat lunch
12:00-12:20	Recess
12:20-1:40	class rotations: science, social, music, health, Phys.Ed (Tues/Thur)
1:40	last recess
1:50-3:00	class rotations: science, social, music, health, Phys.Ed
3:10	dismissal

Children will not be given a great deal of "homework" this year. We want them to work hard here at school, then go home and play and exercise and enjoy themselves! Any chance that you have to read with your child is wonderful. Read aloud to each other; ask your child questions and talk about what you've read. We will begin tracking our home reading in October. Once we begin our spelling program, students may also review their word lists a few times each week. More information will follow later.

We hope that you as parents will become comfortable approaching and communicating with us about your child. Your involvement is appreciated and important! When you have questions or concerns, we would ask that you contact your son/daughter's homeroom teacher as a first point of contact. Then we can facilitate communication with other team members. Listed below are our school phone and email information.

Teacher	School phone	email	Remind 101 Parents must set up text and/or email
Brandi Abt	403-783-5541 EXT. 4124	brandi.abt@wolfcreek.ab.ca	(587) 409-5868 message @babt2 babt2@mail.remind.com
Lisa Allen	403-783-5541 EXT. 4279	lisa.allen@wolfcreek.ab.ca	
Shauna Wessner	403-783-5541 EXT. 4224	shauna.wessner@wolfcreek.ab.ca	(587) 316 6201 message @mrswessn mrswessner@mail.remind.com
Jennifer Parker	403-783-5541 EXT 4311	jennifer.parker@wolfcreek.ab.ca	
Barbra Secretan	403- 783-5541 EXT 4289	barbara.sectran@wolfcreek.ab.ca	

We hope to meet each of you at our open house and BBQ Thursday, September 3rd to say "Hello" and meet all your child's teachers. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and involvement in your child's learning in the months ahead. From 8:30 till 3:00, while they are here at school, YOUR kids become OUR kids! We want each of our students to feel comfortable and confident and we try very hard to create a positive, encouraging, rewarding environment for each of them. We look forward to a very enjoyable, successful year with your children!

Sincerely,
the PES Grade Two Team

Remind App!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Technology never ceases to amaze us! It is one of our favourite parts of teaching and we make an effort to use it as a tool to make learning and organizing easier and fun. We know that life can be a bit hectic and things are hard to remember so we would like to introduce you to a text reminder application that will allow us to periodically send out classroom and school reminders via text messages. The reminders that we will send will be about forms, field trips, school functions and more!

It is our hope that parents will choose to participate in this FREE program as a way to improve home-school communication. To sign up all you have to do is send a text to (587) _____ (see previous page with home room teacher *remind* number) with the message @_____ (.see previous page with home room teacher *remind* number)

Rest assured your personal phone number, those of other parents as well as my own will not be accessible by myself or others to maintain privacy. You will never receive advertisement texts and you may choose to opt out at any time by messaging "UNSUBSCRIBE" to the above number.

If you do not have a smartphone or do not receive text messages, you may still want to subscribe via email by sending an email to _____@mail.remind.com

If you have any questions just let us know! Thank you for your support.

**Class pictures
will be on
Tues. Sept. 29th!**

