

## Welcome to Grade 2!



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to school! We hope your summer holidays were fantastic and filled with lots of fun and relaxation.

The grade two "TEAM" at PES is incredible. Our team spent time together over the summer planning our programs, and designing ways to implement team teaching in L.A., Math, Social and Science. We feel confident in our new PES learning environment and are very excited about the opportunity it will allow us to meet the needs of all students—especially in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

The grade two team this year includes:

Mrs. Brandi Abt, Mrs. Lisa Allen, Mrs. Shauna Wessner  
Mrs. Jennifer Parker— literacy support  
Mrs. Barb Secretan—numeracy support  
Ms. Comeau - educational assistant  
Ms. Hall- educational assistant

Working with younger students is fantastic because we have the opportunity to watch their skills and abilities grow by leaps and bounds. We are excited to have the opportunity to meet all of our students and their families, to begin our terrific learning adventure together. We want our classrooms to be positive, engaging places where we care 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 combine all three classes for storytime, art lessons, health and DPA activities. It creates a positive environment as students interact with their friends and teachers/staff. We create a unique sense of community. The grade two team does not view the students as "mine" or "yours" but instead we consider them ALL of "our" students!

We'd like to begin our year 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. The **school agenda** will be used **each day** to keep students organized, to inform you 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 it has been checked.** You may write any notes or place papers to be returned to school in the front 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, and this is where we'd like you to drop off and pick-up (meet) your son/daughter. We appreciate parents waiting outside the doors for pick-ups. Please avoid coming into the school and walking through the learning communities, as this is distracting to the students and teachers. 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.



# Meet the Grade 2 Team!



Mrs. Brandi Abt

I grew up in Ponoka and enjoyed being involved in all kinds of sports. My family and I love camping, horseback riding, and travelling. I've taught just about every grade over the course of my career, but grade two is my favorite! I love seeing how much my students change, grow, and develop new skills throughout the year. In addition to my grade two duties, I also have the pleasure of teaching grade 1 and 2 music at PES. I am very excited to meet our new students and work together with the whole grade two team to make this an amazing year.



Mrs. Shauna Wessner:

I am excited to begin my 5th year at Ponoka Elementary school, my 25th year of teaching. My family and I live in Lacombe, AB. I enjoy camping, yoga and traveling. I am looking forward to exciting year with our grade two students. Mrs. Abt, Mrs. Allen and myself will be team teaching L.A. and Math, with support from Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Secretan. I am looking forward to an exciting year of discovery and learning with our students.



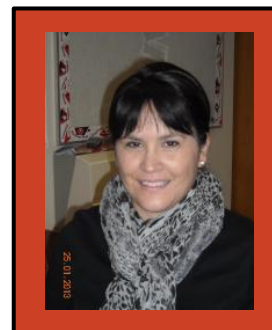
Ms. Lisa Allen

I am excited to start my third year in Grade Two. I have taught in Wolf Creek for over 20 years. I have a little girl starting grade 1 this fall and a son going into Grade 9. I enjoy camping, spending time on Vancouver Island and gardening.

Looking forward to teaching all the Grade Two's science this year and working with my wonderful Grade Two team. .

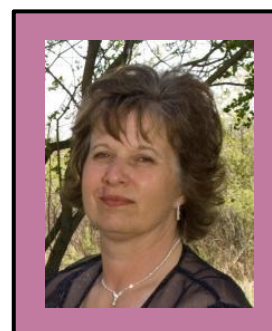
Mrs Jennifer Parker

I have been teaching with Wolf Creek for 17 years. I started my career in Edmonton and then moved to Rimbey Elementary and have been at PES for 6 years. This year I am working with the Grade 1 and 2's in Language Arts using my knowledge in literacy to support students as they learn to read and write!



Mrs Barbara Secretan

Grade one and two Math is my assignment this year. I have taught almost every grade and subject from K to grade 9 during my teaching career. My greatest joy is working with the younger students and sharing in their excitement as they discover and master new concepts and skills.



Ponoka Elementary School is going 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](http://www.pesgrade2.weebly.com). Each month we will post a calendar of events, updates about our learning and 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 our 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**. Instructional time begins immediately at 8:29. We encourage the students to have a nutritious morning snack at 9:50 am, prior to our literacy intervention period. Please pack or help your child choose a healthy and relatively quick/easy snack. 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**.

Students will EAT PRIOR to going outside to play. The bell to begin eating rings at 11:45. After eating their lunch, children will go out for fresh air and exercise, 12:05 - 12:25 pm.

| Basic grade two routine |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:29-9:00               | Math  |
| 9:00 - 9:30             | Math  |
| 9:30 - 10:00            | Language Arts   |
| 10:00 - 10:30           | Literacy intervention                                 |
| 10:30-10:45             | Recess  |
| 10:45 - 11:45           | Language Arts   |
| 11:45 - 12:05           | Lunch   |
| 12:05 - 12:25           | Recess  |
| 12:25 - 3:10            | Class rotations (Music, PE, Science, Social, library) |
| 3:10                    | Dismissal   |

Children will not be given a great deal of "homework" this year. We want them to work hard at school and enjoy their evenings with family/friends! **Home reading will begin in October.** Reading aloud with your child and asking questions as they read will further develop their literacy skills.

We value parental involvement and look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic and social success. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your son/daughter's homeroom teacher as a first point of contact. We can facilitate communication with other team members. Listed below are our school phone and email information.

| Teacher          | School phone              | email                            | Remind 101<br>Parents must set up text<br>and/or email |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Brandi Abt       | 403-783-5441<br>EXT. 4124 | brandi.abt@wolfcreek.ab.ca       | Text to:(587) 409-5868<br>message: babt2               |
| Lisa Allen       | 403-783-5441<br>EXT. 4279 | lisa.allen@wolfcreek.ab.ca       | Text to: (289) 204-1128<br>message: @f6cd6g            |
| Shauna Wessner   | 403-783-5441<br>EXT. 4224 | shauna.wessner@wolfcreek.ab.ca   | Text to: (587) 316 6201<br>message: @mrswessne         |
| Jennifer Parker  | 403-783-5441<br>EXT 4311  | jennifer.parker@wolfcreek.ab.ca  |  |
| Barbara Secretan | 403- 783-5441<br>EXT 4289 | barbara.secretan@wolfcreek.ab.ca |  |

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and involvement in your child's learning in the months ahead. From 8:30 till 3:10, while they are at school, YOUR kids become OUR kids! We want each of our students to feel comfortable and confident at school. We work hard to create a positive, encouraging, rewarding environment for each child. We all 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 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 we will send will be due dates for 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

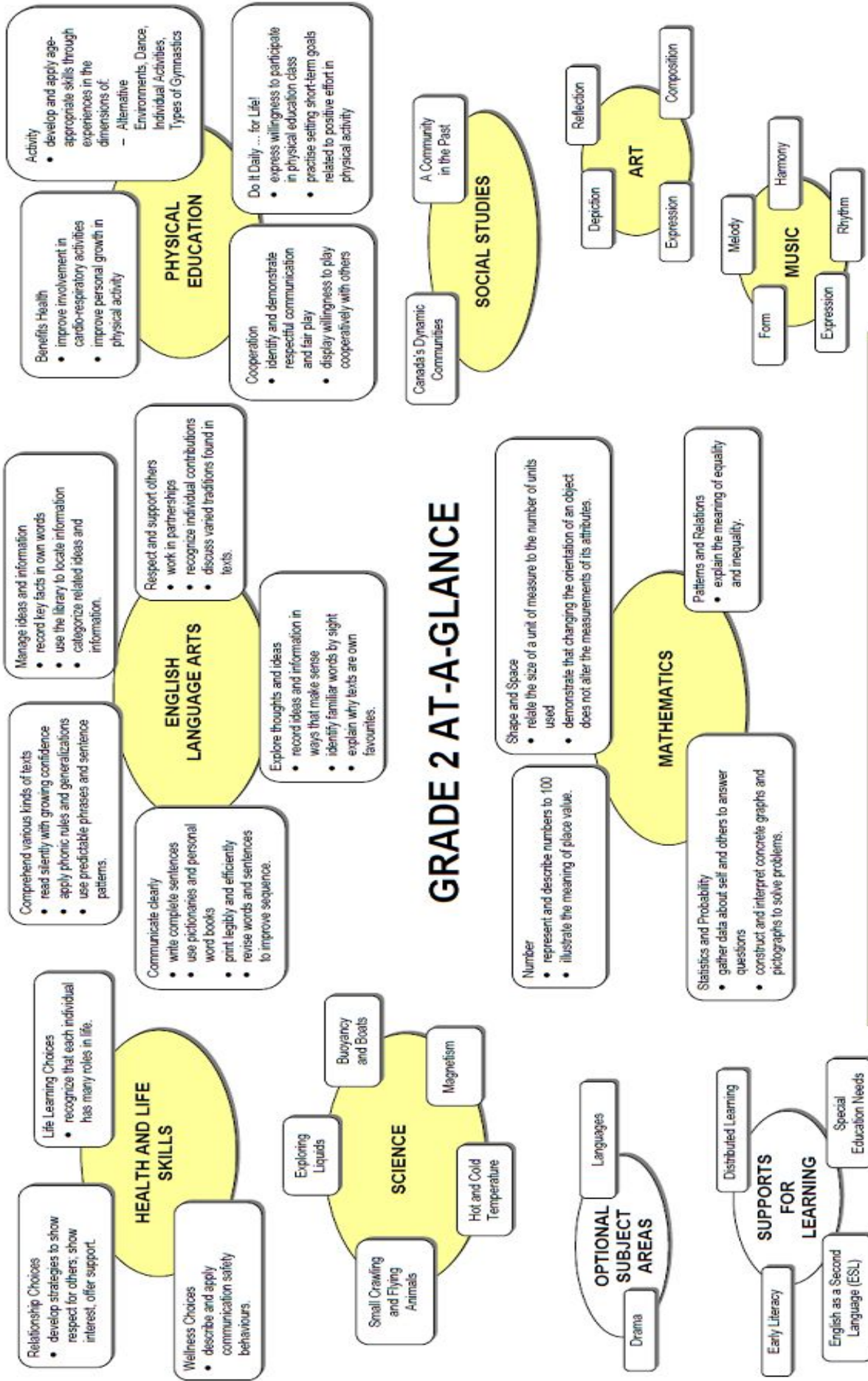
If you have any questions just let us know! Thank you for your support.





# September

| Sunday | Monday                      | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday       | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--|--------------|----------|
|        |                             |   |           |  | 1            | 2        |
| 3      | 4<br>No School<br>Labor Day | 5<br>First day of<br>grade two<br><br>Assembly<br>1:15 pm | 6         | 7  | 8            | 9        |
| 10     | 11                          | 12  | 13        | 14   | 15<br>PD Day | 16       |
| 17     | 18                          | 19  | 20        | 21   | 22           | 23       |
| 24     | 25                          | 26  | 27        | 28 -orange<br>shirt day -<br>(assembly 9 am)<br><br>-Terry Fox run<br>(pm) | 29<br>PD day | 30       |



**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**. Students learn and apply ICT knowledge and skills while learning in content areas such as language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.