

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. We feel confident in our 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:

Teachers: Mrs. Brandi Abt, Mrs. Cindy McLaren and Mrs. Shauna Wessner

Ms. Hall- Educational assistant

Working with younger students is wonderful because we have the opportunity to watch their skills and abilities develop through the school year. 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. 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. Each homeroom teacher will help facilitate communication with other team members.

Grade two students will enter and exit the school using the North-east entrance, same location 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.

Your child's school supplies will be ready for them at school, but please supply your child with a set of headphones. Headphones are preferred over earbuds.



Meet the Grade 2 Team!



Mrs. Brandi Abt

I grew up in Ponoka and enjoyed being involved in all kinds of sports. My sons are attending college, and my daughter is moving up to grade seven this year. My family and I love camping, horseback riding, fishing, 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. This year I will be teaching my very favorite subject - Science- for all the grade twos. 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 7th year at Ponoka Elementary school, my 27th year of teaching. My family and I live in Lacombe, AB. My husband teaches junior high in Bentley, AB. My son, Lucas, is 21 yrs. old and attends the University of Alberta. My daughter, Kenna, is 19 yrs. old and will be attending SAIT in January. I have taught Kindergarten, grade 2, 3 and 4 but my favourite is grade 2. I am very interested in Social Studies and I will be teaching all grade two social this year. I enjoy camping, yoga and traveling. I am looking forward to exciting year with our grade two students, a fabulous year full of discovery and learning.



Ms. Cindy McLaren

I started my career in a grade one classroom, and then taught both grade one and kindergarten for several years. After that I spent 6 years teaching the Play Academy at PES and learned so much from the amazing people and children I worked with. I have spent the last 2 years in grade one, and I am very excited to be teaching grade 2 this year, and learning from the amazing grade 2 team of teachers. When I am not teaching I love reading, hiking, running, and playing board games with my family. I am thrilled to be teaching many of the same students, and watching them continue to learn and grow this year. I will be sharing my love of physical activity with the students this year as I teach Phys.Ed. to all the grade twos.



We will send home a monthly calendar to ensure parents are informed about upcoming events in school and grade two.

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 8:30. We encourage the students to bring a nutritious morning snack, we will have snack after first recess at 10:30 am. **Please note: The school will not be providing morning snacks for the children this year, since the funding for this program has been discontinued.** Each child must bring his/her own snack. 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 LUNCH PRIOR to going outside to play. The bell to begin eating rings at 12:00. After eating their lunch, children will go out for fresh air and exercise, 12:20 - 12:40 pm.

Basic grade two routine	
8:30-8:45	Home room
8:45 - 9:15	Language Arts
9:15 - 9:45	Language Arts
9:45 - 10:15	Language Arts (intervention)
10:15 - 10:30	Recess
10:30 - 11:00	Math
11:00 - 11:30	Math
11:30 - 12:00	Class rotations: Science, Social, P.E.
12:00 - 12:20 12:20 - 12:40	Lunch Recess
12:40 - 3:00 pm	Class rotations: Science, Social, P.E., Music
1:50 - 2:00 pm	Recess
2:00 - 3:10	Class rotations: Science, Social, P.E., Music
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 Parents must set up text and/or email
Brandi Abt	403-783-3583 EXT. 4124	brandi.abt@wolfcreek.ab.ca	Text to:(587) 409-5868 message: @babt2
Shauna Wessner	403-783-3583 EXT. 4224	shauna.wessner@wolfcreek.ab.ca	Text to: (587) 316 6201 message: @mrswessne
Cindy McLaren	403-783-3583 EXT. 4211	cindy.mclaren@wolfcreek.ab.ca	Text to: (289) 212-0880 Message: @hkg766d

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.

Fresh Grade digital portfolios:

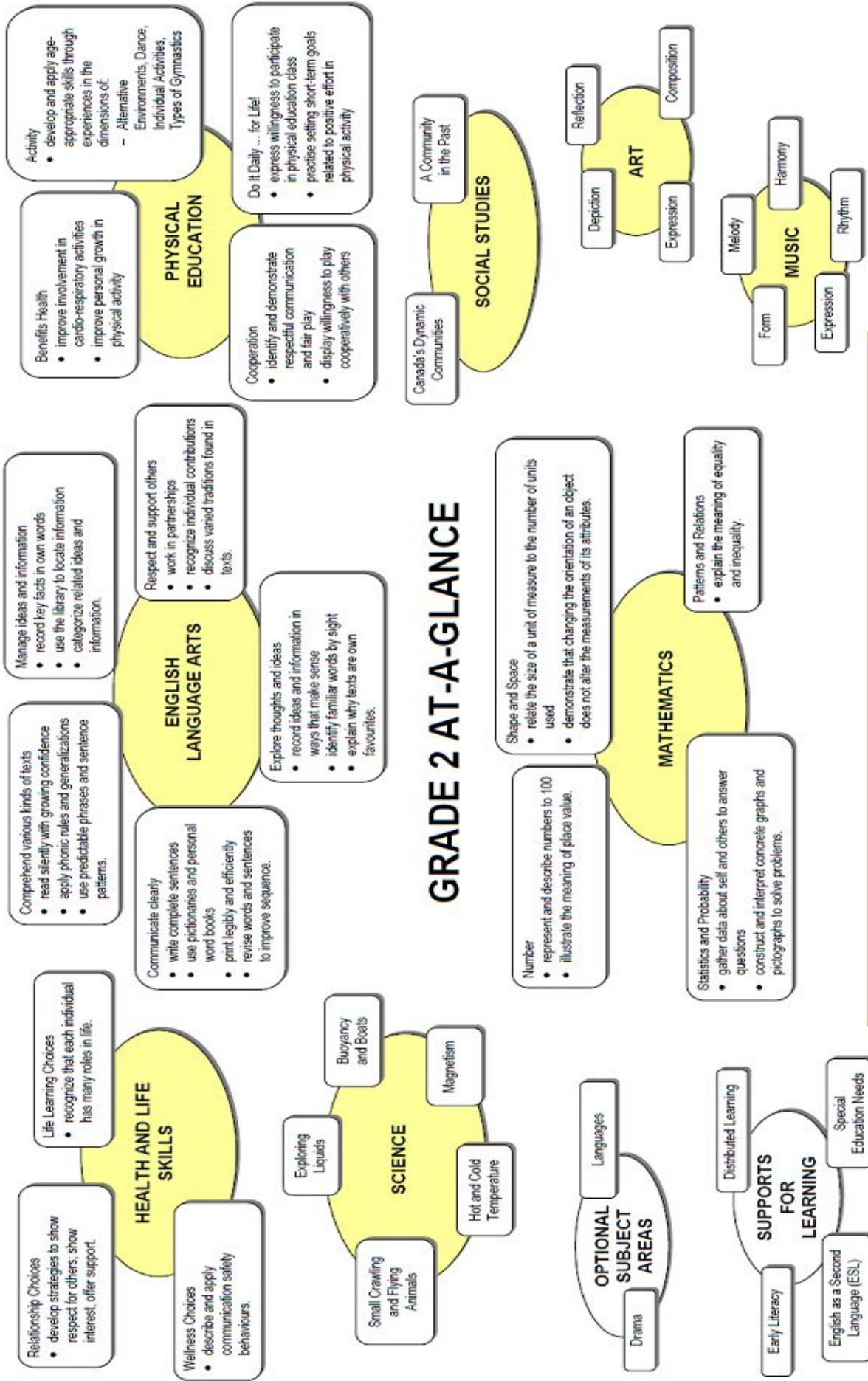
Wolf Creek School division is presently upgrading to a new version of Fresh Grade, and the program is not yet ready to be implemented. At this time, we are not able to set up the students' portfolios or share them with families using Fresh Grade. This means that we will rely on other methods of communication such as agendas, monthly newsletters, and our REMIND app. We hope that Fresh Grade will be up and running in October, and at that time we will make sure to get all parents connected. Thank you for your patience and understanding!





September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 No School Labor Day	3 <i>First day of grade two Assembly 1:30 pm</i> Get the Scoop -Meet the Teacher (3:30-5:00)	4	5	6 Performance (Peter Puffin) 1:30-2:30 everyone welcomel	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Staff collaboration day	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Terry Fox Run (pm)	21
22	23	24	25	26 Parent teacher Interviews 3:30 - 7:00	27 PD day	28
29	30 Sept. assembly at 10:45 am School Council 6:00 pm					



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.