

Panda Press



OCTOBER
2021

École Lacombe Upper Elementary (<http://www.elue.wolfcreek.ab.ca>)

(403)782-7410

**"We are the Future"
and the future is...WOW!!!!**
Our year is off to an EXCELLENT start at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School. We presently have 354 students in 15 classes:

Grade 4 F.I.

Mme Forman—21

Grade 4/5 F.I.

Mme Miller—23

Grade 5 F.I.

Mme Lebrasseur—23

Grade 6 F.I.

M. Durocher—21

Grade 6 F.I.

Mme Ince—21

Grade 4 English Homerooms

Mrs. Nelson—24

Mrs. Parsons/Mr. Epp—26

Miss Rimmer—26

Grade 5 English Homerooms

Mrs. Freitag—25

Mrs. Norris—26

Mrs. Wagar—23

Grade 6 English Homerooms

Mrs. Mackay-Hawkins—24

Ms. Marshall—24

Mr. Rankin—24

Mr. Richter—24

Teachers plan to regularly contact parents throughout the year. We encourage your support and involvement in your child(ren)'s education. If you have not yet had a chance to talk with your child's teacher, please arrange to do so.

Remember, if you have comments, suggestions, questions or concerns, we would like to hear from you, please call the office at 782-7410, or e-mail us at sonja.dykslag@wolfcreek.ab.ca to arrange an appointment. Your input and feedback is truly valued. Our mission statement at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School is:

École Lacombe Upper Elementary School is committed to working together to provide a quality education in a caring environment.

Terry Fox Toonie Turkey Trot:

Will be held on
October 7, 2021



Boston Pizza Quality Citizenship Recognition -September 2021

École Lacombe Upper Elementary School recognizes the value, necessity and significance of positive, contributing citizens within our school, community and society. It is our goal as a school, in conjunction with the home and community, to develop and enhance citizenship qualities and characteristics within individuals. This will provide an opportunity for every student at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School to work towards realizing his/her own personal aspirations while making a positive contribution to society. Students who demonstrate behaviours as delineated in the following criteria shall be eligible for the Quality Citizenship Recognition Award.

Recognition.

Exhibit positive interpersonal relationships with peers and adults.

Demonstrate a consistent high level of responsibility, dependability and cooperation.

Demonstrate a high level of consideration for the personal feelings and property of others.

Are a positive role model in terms of leadership and participation in both school and classroom activities.

This month, the following students are being recognized as outstanding citizens and have been treated to a complimentary lunch from Boston Pizza:

Presley Saxton	Dylan Hancock	Genevieve Parent	Sophie Dellezay
Kayl Robinson	Peyton Nowochin	Brooke Benedet	Callen Seibel
Londyn Jones	Kara Adamson	Maria Rachkova	Connor Hair
Ashton McNolty	Rayah Soosay	Eric Stangeland	

Congratulations to these outstanding citizens and also to our Staff of the Month: Mrs. Armitage, Mrs. Cornish, Mme Vaillancourt-Campeau



We would like to extend our appreciation to Marty Curtis of Subway for sponsoring our Student of the Month Program this year! Once a month each teacher will choose two or three

Students of the Month and these students will meet with Mrs. Dykslag or Mrs. Rawlinson and will receive a coupon compliments of Subway!

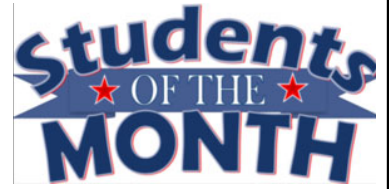
Huge thank you to Boston Pizza for continuing to sponsor our monthly Quality Citizen lunches. Due to Covid, Boston Pizza has generously changed up their program and are giving each Quality Citizen a certificate for an individual pizza and a pop!

Wow, what great supporters of our school!



**Boston
Pizza®**

Subway Students of the Month -September 2021



- ◆ Commencing the fourth week of September and ending the last week of June, each homeroom teacher will select three or four students once a month for this student recognition program.
- ◆ Students for this program will demonstrate academic excellence and/or excellent academic effort.
- ◆ Students who are chosen for this program will be called to the office by the administration and bring with them the work for which they have been selected. The student will share/discuss the work with the administration.
- ◆ A copy of the student's work and the student's picture will be displayed on the Student of the Month boards outside the general office for the following month. The student's name will also be announced.
- ◆ Students will receive a certificate highlighting their accomplishment and they will receive a gift coupon from the Student of the Month Sponsor, Subway.
- ◆ The administration will make a Happy Call to each student's parents/guardian congratulating the student on his/her accomplishment.

Gavin Simpson-
Clement

Cruz Astles

Makaila Schulze

Clark Bos

Olivia Dowler

Keira Sigurdson

Wayne Clarke

Isaac Rogers

Keegan Ileisin

Jeniel Mendoza

Kaiah White

Jordanan
Cochran

Margena
Mackinnon

Jensen D'Call

Pernilla Cowl

Zachary Primmer

Mya Gallant

Joel Tancock

Khloe DeClerck

Purva Patel

Kailyn Kelm

Charlie Tee

Harmony Bryant

Charlotte
Sarnacki

Everlee Dagg

Xander Tolliver

Mason Pearson

Carter

Averi Hoffman

Branscombe

Connor Brown



School Council Happenings

École Lacombe Upper Elementary School - School Council Meeting Minutes - September, 29, 2021

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended our first School Council Meeting on September 29th, 2021. Following is a summary of the meeting highlights.

School Council Constitution and Roles & Responsibilities of School Councils. Copies of these documents were available for members and are also available from the office.

Selection of Executive/Working Committee: Please consider joining us to fill the Vice Chair position.

Executive Roles & Working Teams:

Chairperson - Deanna Woodworth	Vice Chair - VACANT
Secretary - Nicole Rawlinson/ Sonja Dykslag	Treasurer - Christina Rice
Staff Representatives - Michèle Brousseau	School Council Display Case - Sonja & All
Hunger Busters Hot Lunch Program - Angela Wymann-Richter	
Administrative Representatives - Sonja Dykslag & Nicole Rawlinson	

Correspondence and Reports:

1. Hunger Busters: Off to a great start! We have 4 upcoming lunches/ snacks and more to come in November. Thank you to everyone involved in providing these delicious choices to our students!
2. Trustee Report: N/A
3. Treasurer's Report: Sonja Dykslag
Opening balance is \$5066.23. The funds collected through the school council go towards supporting such things as Schools Clubs, Track & Field, Family Literacy project, Grade 6 Camp, and students in financial need, etc.

Principal's Report: Sonja Dykslag

Enrollment around 355 with 15 homerooms.

We are off to a fantastic start! Thank you to our students and staff for continuing to manage our changing reality with Covid-19. Thank you also to our parents for doing your part to protect our students and staff by making sure your children have masks and keeping them home when ill.

New Business:

1. October Virtual Parent Teacher Interviews - Oct. 27 & 28. Book Fair is canceled at this time.
2. Covid 19 - WCPS continues to keep up with changes in protocols & procedures.
3. Increasing Parent Attendance at Meetings - Great turn out of new parents! We are always looking to grow. See details below re: The Alberta School Council Engagement Grant
4. Joint School Council Meeting Topic Ideas? Tentative date is March 23, 2022. Potential survey to all Lacombe School Councils to provide feedback for suggestions of relevant topics.
5. Growth Conferences Supper - October 27 & 28th. Motion made (A. Matthie) for School Council to provide supper for staff on both evenings of PTI, all in favor.
6. After school sport programs - Very excited that we are able to resume! About 55 students participated in our first after school club, The Running Club! Mr. Miller is eager to begin volleyball in the coming weeks. Indoor after school clubs will be cohorted by grade.
7. Meeting Start Times - Try 7:45 start time to see if this time is more convenient for parents.
8. [Wolf Creek Assurance Model Plan](#)
 - Stakeholder Engagement Goal: Seeking feedback and participation from students, staff, parents, and community partners.
 - Alberta School Council Engagement Grant: The Alberta School Council Engagement grant will provide each school council with \$500 to improve communication and engagement with parents in their local communities. Our school council will be applying for this grant once applications are being accepted.

Future Meetings:

Review of Wolf Creek & ELUES Education Plans - Assurance Model: Parent Engagement
What other interests do our parents have?

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, October 20th, **No Meeting in November, No Meeting in December, Wednesday, January 19th, February No Meeting, March 23rd - Joint School Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 20th Wednesday, May ?? If needed. June No Meeting**

If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns regarding the above School Council happenings or if you have any items you would like included on future agendas, please contact Principal, Sonja Dykslag, at 782-7410.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20th at 7:45. Likely it will be a virtual meeting.

Together Everyone Achieves More

Our Panda Press newsletter is emailed home at the end of each month. The focus of the newsletter is to inform parents and students of important upcoming dates and events, to recognize student achievements and to highlight a number of programs and activities that have been or will be taking place in the school.

If you have any comments, suggestions, questions or concerns, we would like to hear from you. Please call the office to arrange an appointment. Your input and feedback is truly valued. The mission statement of École Lacombe Upper Elementary is:

Commitment, Teamwork, Quality and Caring are what we practice at École Lacombe Upper Elementary School.

École Lacombe Upper Elementary School is committed to working together to provide a quality education in a caring environment.

Respectfully,



Sonja Dykslag
Principal



Nicole Rawlinson
Assistant Principal

PICTURE RETAKE DAY is on Thursday, November 2.

If re-takes are needed, please have your child bring the signed form from your proof package to give to the photographer on the day of re-takes.



Please help us by calling (403-782-7410) or e-mailing the office (lue@wolfcreek.ab.ca) before 9:00 a.m. if your children are unable to attend school.



Program Highlights

MY CHILD'S LEARNING: A Parent Resource

Be informed. Be involved.

Alberta is committed to creating an inclusive education system that inspires and enables all students to achieve success and fulfillment as engaged thinkers and ethical citizens, with an entrepreneurial spirit.

We recognize that parents play an important role in shaping the way their children view learning. As a parent, you understand more than anyone else how your child learns and processes information. This resource will provide you with a better understanding of Alberta's curriculum and how you can help your child. Here, you'll discover what your child is learning, how they're assessed and what resources are available to help them be successful from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

This resource also contains information on the variety of educational choices you have for your child, such as Catholic education and French immersion programming. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/>

Red Cross Baby Sitting

As part of our Grade 6 Health program, we will continue to offer the **Red Cross Baby Sitting Program** during **April** to all Grade 6 students at a nominal charge of \$10.00. Please note that although the City of Lacombe offers this course in the fall, we encourage students to take the program offered in school.



New Wolf Creek Communications Protocol Admin Procedure 152

Wolf Creek School Division has a new communication protocol that will impact communication in all schools. Below are a few of the highlights to note about this protocol. To read the entire protocol you can click the following link: [Wolf Creek Communication Protocol](#)

Here are some of the highlights:

1. Communication is a two way street between staff and home that creates and fosters strong positive relationships.
2. The "new" protocols aim to manage and improve school-home communication by offering a guide to tools, timing and work-life balance.
3. Social media can be a powerful tool for communication and is great for sharing news, sending key date reminders, directing people to resources, etc. but it does not work well for discussing personal and confidential issues, or engaging in dialogue.
4. If parents have concerns or questions they are encouraged to use the following process:
 - Speak to the Classroom Teacher: Seek resolution through discussions with the classroom teacher.
 - Speak to the School Principal: If resolution cannot be reached with the classroom teacher, discuss the matter with the school principal.
 - Speak to Central Office: If resolution cannot be reached with the principal, bring the concern forward for discussion with the appropriate Board personnel.
5. All communication MUST be respectful and all parties shall be treated with dignity.
6. To promote a positive and healthy work-life balance electronic communication will adhere to the "**Weekday 7 to 7 Rule**". Which means:
 - All electronic communication should be scheduled for delivery between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on regular weekdays only (excepting emergencies). There is an expectation that no electronic communication occur on the weekend unless there is an emergency. It is recognized that attending to work-related tasks may occur outside of the 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m hours due to how each staff member attends to their duties.
 - Responses should be as timely as possible in the circumstances respecting the 7 to 7 rule.
 - Staff may continue to conduct direct communication (telephone calls, online conference calls, or in person meetings) on weekdays and at times convenient for both staff and families.

Intramural Pep Rally

Our 2021 Pep Rally was held on Tuesday, September 28th. Classes worked diligently to create class banners to highlight their 2021-22 "Fantasy Creatures" theme for our annual Pep Rally. The pep rally was held outdoors on the soccer field this year. We didn't get to cheer the roof off the gym, but still a fun celebration to kick off the noon hour intramural season beginning with Kick Ball in October. Students will need to show exceptional teamwork and sportsmanship to make for a successful intramural program this year.



Terry Fox Toonie Turkey Trot

This year will be our 24th annual Turkey Trot to support the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. It is also the 41st anniversary of the Marathon of Hope. On or before the date of the run, **Thursday, October 7th**, we encourage each student to bring at least one toonie in support of this worthy cause. We **will not** have students canvassing their neighborhoods this year looking for donations. However, we encourage people to make donations to the Marathon of Hope through the link

<http://www.terryfox.ca/EcoleLacombeUpperElementary>

which can be found on our school website. All proceeds will go to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Over the past 23 years we have collected over \$119,000! We are pleased to be part of keeping Terry Fox's dream alive.

During the afternoon of our event, grade levels will be staggered, with students walking or running, around Cranna Lake.

Leadership Program

ALL Grade Six students are members of the ÉLUES Leadership Program. Things may look a little different for our leadership team this year as Covid guidelines may prevent us from doing some of the activities we have done in the past. That being said, we are confident that our team will harness their creative energy to make sure we have great intramurals and some fun activities and events for the students at ÉLUES this year.

Running Club

The ÉLUES Running Club has been up and running since the first week of school. We had about 55 runners who committed to running 2 or 3 times a week. Our runners had the opportunity to take part in a fun run over to the MEGlobal Athletic park on September 24th. Our grade six runners will be heading to a fun run out at Clive School on October 1st. A huge thank you to all our runners and to Mme Miller and her helpers Mr. Richter, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Norris, Mr. Epp and Mr. Miller.



Supporting *ALL* Students

At **ÉLUES** we care about *ALL* students and want to make sure *ALL* students have what they need to succeed! Throughout the year, if you ever have any concerns regarding the social, emotional or academic needs of your child(ren), please don't hesitate to contact homeroom teachers or any of the following:

Principal: Mrs. Dykslag

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Rawlinson

Inclusion Coach: Mrs. Armitage

School Social Worker (SSW): Mrs. Roxanne Wojtaczka

**The SSW provides assistance to students and their families experiencing difficulties at school, home or in the community by:*

- encouraging cooperation and communication among families, schools and community agencies
- helping families access community services
- providing short term counselling and support

ORANGE SHIRT DAY



On Wednesday, September 29 the students and staff wore orange shirts to honour the children who survived the Residential Schools and to remember those that didn't. Orange shirt day is also an opportunity for all people to come together in the spirit of reconciliation & hope for generations of children to come.

Six Tools for Conflict: HAHASO

During the last few weeks, Mrs. Dykslag and Mrs. Rawlinson have spent many hours in the classrooms teaching/reviewing six simple strategies our students can use to deal with conflict. The team acted out a conflict scene and showed a variety of strategies that could help solve it. The six skills taught to all students are: **H**umor, **A**void, **H**elp, **A**ssert Yourself, **S**elf-Talk, and **O**wn it or better known as **HAHASO**. The students then put on a quick skit that showed a common conflict and how they used the six tools to resolve it. Our goal is to have our students try these strategies when in a conflict either here, at school, at home, or in our community.

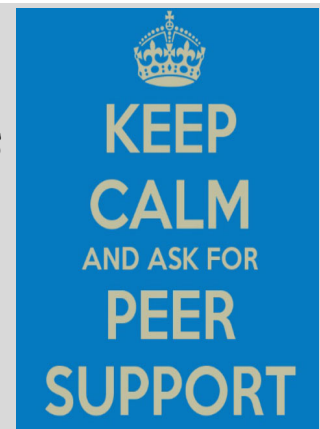
Please ask your child about the six tools they learned during their in-class presentation.



Peer Support Team

Peer Support (PS) is a solution oriented conflict management team. Students are trained to help peers deal with conflict in a safe and caring way.

Our Peer Support Team will be coordinated by Mrs. Rawlinson and Mrs. Wojtaczka. Following training PS will be scheduled for the year. All PS will receive a T-shirt to wear when they are scheduled "on duty".



**I WON'T GIVE UP,
NO I WON'T
'TILL I REACH THE END**

"Try Everything"

Our school theme this year is, "Try Everything", which we know is very fitting for the year ahead of us. During our first weeks together students were encouraged to set goals for themselves, to try new things, and to embrace a growth mindset. We all know that challenges can be scary, but having perseverance and never giving up leads to great accomplishments!



~ TOGETHER FOR PEACE ~

The theme to this year's International Day of Peace (September 21) was "Recovering Better for an Equitable & Sustainable World". All students learned about why this is an important day—a day to take time to honor & think about what peace really means. Students were encouraged to consider how they can work together to help create peace, at our school and within our community, and how they can do their part to take better care of our world.



THANK
YOU
VESTA
ENERGY
for the
generous
donation of
new
basketball
hoops &
backboards!
We LOVE
them!!!



Assessment & Reporting

Wolf Creek Public Schools believe that it is critical that we establish and maintain assessment and grading practices grounded in educational research that ensure each student is a successful learner. We believe that the primary purpose of "assessment for learning" is to gather information about a student's progress in relation to the learner outcomes identified by Alberta Education. Students need to be provided a clear picture of how they are performing in relation to the critical learning outcomes in each subject area. Improving our assessment practices has been the focus of our staff's professional development for the past three years. We have researched, debated and developed a clear understanding of assessment that supports learning.

We believe that when reporting student progress we need to focus on the following guiding principles:

- * Include only academic factors in student achievement grades. Academic factors refer to student achievement as a demonstration of the knowledge and skill components of the learning outcomes.
- * Data collection on non academic factors (effort, participation, attitude, neatness) should be reported, but reported separately from academic achievement grades.
- * Include information from varied summative assessments in a student's term achievement grade. Formative assessment scores are not included in a student's final grade. Assessment for learning data is used for instructional purposes only. Term grades should be based on assessment of learning data.
- * The student portfolio is the main and primary body of evidence that communicates student growth and achievement. Report cards are a snapshot of student progress; it is the portfolio that tells the learning story.
- * Descriptive feedback is essential for learning and will be present on many of the student work samples in the student portfolio.
- * Grading procedures are related directly to the grade level program of studies. We are not reporting on exceeding grade level unless the student is being provided learning opportunities above grade level curriculum outcomes.
- * Term report grades do not mean that learning is over in regards to outcome achievement; outcomes may be achieved at a later time and reported as achieved at this later time.
- * Report card grades should capture a trend in a student's achievement. They should not be determined simply by calculating the average mark of a student's work. If a student is consistently meeting the learning outcome after earlier failed attempts, the student will not be penalized for those earlier attempts in their final grade.
- * Student reflection is essential for growth as a learner. Students need to be provided opportunities to assess their learning strengths and areas for growth. They also need to develop the skills in goal setting to further their growth as a learner.

The student progress report and student growth portfolio are sent home three times during the school year, December 1, March 14 and June 24. We also have two student growth conferences during the year. We look forward to meeting with you at the first conference on October 27 or October 28, 2021 to review your child's progress. **The October Growth Conferences will be done virtually.** Please contact your child's teacher anytime if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Parent-teacher meeting guide

Does the thought of the annual parent-teacher interview make you nervous?

Reprinted from the Manitoba Teachers' Society website (www.mbteach.org)

Ten minutes with your child's teacher to discuss your concerns about the progress of your child may not seem adequate. However, if you organize your thoughts and prepare ahead of time, these few minutes may prove invaluable for both you and your child. Following are suggestions on making the most of your interview.

Before you go

- ⇒ Talk to your child on a regular basis about what's happening in school. What is he or she learning? What is his or her favorite subject? Be familiar with class activities before you meet the teacher.
- ⇒ Don't wait. If you perceive a problem at any time, call the teacher immediately. Talk to your child the day before you go to the parent-teacher interview. Explain that this interview is not to check up on your child but rather to help him or her.
- ⇒ Write down specific questions or concerns. How much homework is expected? How does my child work in class? What kinds of evaluation methods are used? Does my child have any specific weaknesses or strengths? How does my child interact with other students?

During the conference

- ⇒ Take your child to the meeting and involve him or her in some of the discussions. A separate meeting can be arranged for any confidential discussions that may be necessary.
- ⇒ Be prepared. You may have only 10 minutes to discuss your child. Know what you want to discuss before sitting down with the teacher.
- ⇒ Begin the interview with a positive comment. Move into your specific concerns gradually instead of starting with a long list of complaints. This may improve interpersonal communication between you and the teacher.
- ⇒ Ask for specific follow-up suggestions: Should you be doing something extra at home with your child? Are there some enrichment activities that can begin at home? How can you support your child's learning at home? The teacher may ask you questions: What is your child's attitude toward school? Does your child have any physical or emotional challenges? How and where does your child do homework? These questions are not meant to pry or interfere. They simply give the teacher more insight into your child's life.
- ⇒ Ask to see samples of your child's daily work.

After the conference

- ⇒ Discuss the meeting with your child. Tell him or her what you discussed and mention both strong and weak points in school.
- ⇒ Do something productive and positive. If any improvement or help is required, make suggestions in a positive manner. Work with your child in weak areas. Talk about the problem with your child and create a study-plan together. For example, if reading skills are weak, create a daily reading activity together. You read one sentence, your child reads the next.
- ⇒ Continue communicating with the teacher. Have there been any improvements in your child's behaviour or performance? A five-minute phone call helps keep in touch between in-person interviews.
- ⇒ Talk to your child. Discuss school and homework on a regular basis. Sit down with your child while he or she does homework. What sorts of things is he or she doing? Is your child having any problems with certain subjects? Does your child need extra help?
- ⇒ Ask your child to show you assignments returned by the teacher. Has the teacher constructively criticized your child?
- ⇒ Keep involved with your child's progress. An interested, informed parent is an asset to both the child and teacher. Parent-teacher interviews are meant to be beneficial to the child, the parent and the teacher.
- ⇒ Take advantage of this opportunity to become more involved in your child's schooling. Carry out your part of the follow-through program.

October 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 World Teacher's Day	6	7 Booster Juice Snack Terry Fox Toonie Turkey Trot	8 Staff PD/ Collaboration Day	9
10	11 Thanksgiving no school	12 Boston Pizza Hot Lunch	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Subway Hot Lunch Virtual School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Eastside Eatery Hot Lunch	27 Virtual Student Growth Conferences	28	29 Staff PD/ Collaboration Day	30
31						

November 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 PHOTO RETAKEs	3	4	5	6
7	8 Remembrance Day Service TBD	9	10	11 No School In-Lieu Remembrance Day	12 EDO NO SCHOOL	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Healthy Living Fair	25	26 Staff PD/ Collaboration Day	27
28	29	30				