

JANUARY

2016

Wilson Middle School



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

January

- 4 School resumes
- 13 "What you need to know about kids and drugs in today's society" 6pm
- 18 School council 7pm
- 22 Exploratory 2A ends
- 25 Exploratory 2B starts
- 28 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4pm-7pm
- 29 NO SCHOOL
Parent /Teacher Interviews 8am - noon

February

- 2 Town Hall Meeting
- 10 School Council 7pm
- 15 Family Day No school
- 16-17 Family day Break
No school
- 18-19 Teachers Convention
No School
- 22-26 Badminton Tryouts
- 24 Pink Shirt Day

Happy New Year to all. May you find peace and joy in 2016!

Well, we've hit the ground running in this bright and shiny New Year and we assume that you have at home as well. May this fresh start to 2016 bring you energy and peace, good health and great happiness.

Two weeks before the holiday break, we distributed report cards. Many of the students were very proud of the marks that they had achieved, and some took the opportunity to set new goals for growth and improvement. We are quickly approaching parent teacher interviews on January 28th and 29th and would love the opportunity to discuss your child's progress on his or her learning journey. We hope to see many of you out for these important meetings.

We would like to take this time to provide an important reminder that parental involvement is always welcome here at Wilson Middle School. One of the ideas that we stress to our students and staff is that we are a community, and as such, we have a responsibility to care for and support one another. Parents are a valuable part of this community and we welcome your involvement and active participation. If you are looking for a way to join our learning community, we would invite you to attend School Council Meetings (7:00pm on the second Wednesday of every month) or to call the school to see about individual opportunities. Our next School Council meeting is on January 13th, 2016. We are very pleased to have a number of parents who are regulars on *Home Logic* where they are able to stay abreast of their child's progress and attendance. If you have not yet registered, please check our website for more information or contact the office for assistance.

The counselling team at Wilson Middle School would like to extend an invitation to all parents to attend an upcoming event. Please join Chris Windle and Aimee Collins from Alberta Health Services and Constable Brent Brussee from the Lethbridge Regional Police Service on Wednesday, January 13th from 6-7pm in the school library for a parent workshop called, "What You Need to Know about Kids and Drugs in Today's Society". Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the office by Tuesday January 11th if you are able to attend. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued support - 2016 is going to be an amazing year! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Brad Dersch
Vice Principal

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GENERAL INFORMATION

"NEW" Student Drop off Zone

Dear Wilson Middle School Families:

Effective today there is a "NEW" student drop off zone on 20th street North. This zone is located right in front of the staff parking lot, on the road.

This drop off zone is meant to provide an easy and quick way to SAFELY drop your students off, close to the school.

Instructions:

Drive your vehicle up as far as you can

Drop off your children safely, reminding them to use the sidewalks to enter the school area

Continue driving.

This process will allow for a number of vehicles to get in and out of the school area in a safe manner.

We ask that students proceed to either North or South sidewalk and come into the school. We ask that students do not walk through staff parking lot.

LASTLY: We are asking that you no longer drop off students in the staff parking lot.

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GRADE LEVEL REPORTS

GRADE 6

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2015 has come to an end. The Agora marketplace was a wonderful event for all grade 6's and the staff as well. We greatly enjoyed shopping throughout the grade 6 hallway and seeing the various goods and services sold. They obviously worked hard and learned a great deal about Ancient Greece in the process. Students also thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Movie Mill to complete their novel unit Percy Jackson The Lightning Thief.

The grade 6 team will have two intern teachers from University of Lethbridge joining their teaching team from the beginning of January until the end of April. Ms. Sam Clarke-Davies will be working with Miss Jenn Cowie and Ms. Ria Beekman will be working with Mr Thibault. We would like to extend a warm welcome to these ladies! On Thursday January 7th, an Astrodome Portable Planetarium will be coming to Wilson for all grade 6 students to participate in a 45 minute presentation. A portion of the cost was donated by the Lethbridge Family Centre and MEF Services Ltd. The AstroDome is a mobile planetarium that utilizes an inflatable dome and a high-definition (HD) digital projection system.

We would like to remind you that the 2nd Interim Report will be updated and available on home logic and will be sent home on Monday January 25th. Remember that this is only the half way mark for the school year. If you need assistance getting set up with Home Logic please contact the office. Parent/Teacher Interviews are scheduled for the following week for the evening of Thursday January 28th and the morning of Friday January 29th. We look forward to seeing you there!

GRADE 7

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. The year has sure flown by quickly, crazy to think it's already January 2016! The students in grade 7 had the chance to have some fun on the last day of school before the break.

We had our Wilson Way Awards presentations on the 18th of December where students are recognized for showing the Wilson Way in our school. The students are nominated for these awards by their peers. These awards celebrate students and the strong character traits they possess in our school community. Congratulations to November and Decembers award winners.

On the 18th of December students also had the chance to do a gift exchange with their class. The exchange was for a gift of 5 dollars. This is a cool experience for the students and a neat way to build community within our classroom. It's not about the gift they receive but more about the experience shared together.

Students also had the opportunity on the 18th to have pizza in grade 7. Each student was asked to bring in a toonie to help cover the cost. This is a nice way to end the year and send the students off to their Christmas break! This is another example of a way to build community within each classroom.

Hopefully students, and families, had a chance to rest and recharge over the Christmas break and are ready for the school year to continue in January. Make it a great day today!

Grade 7 Team	7B - Mr. Seifert	ryan.seifert@lethsd.ab.ca	7A - Mrs. Heidinger	carianne.heidinger@lethsd.ab.ca
	7C - Mr. Keraiff	tyler.keraiff@lethsd.ab.ca	7D - Mr. Hirsche	jeff.hirsche@lethsd.ab.ca
	7E - Ms. Stout	sadie.stout@lethsd.ab.ca	7F - Mr. Griffioen	keith.griffioen@lethsd.ab.ca
	7F - Mr. Clifton	brett.clifton@lethsd.ab.ca		

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GRADE LEVEL REPORTS

Grade 8

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a restful holiday with family and friends.

Before the holiday we celebrated the achievements of our grade 8's by participating in some reindeer games. We recognized those students who were awarded student of the month and Wilson way awards. Each winner received a certificate and were able to choose from a selection of books.



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SCHOOL EVENTS



Yearbook

January 18th is the **LAST DAY** to order a Yearbook for the 2015-16 school year. Please contact the office to make your order.

Athletics

Our JV basketball teams will be hosting jamborees in the month of January as a way to get them some more competitive games against good competition. The JV girls jamboree will be held Friday, January 8th, 2016, and the boys Friday, January 15th. These are not tournaments, but rather three exhibition games against three different teams all in the same day. The draw for both the boys and girls jamborees is identical. It is as follows:

January 8 (JV Girls) & January 15 (JV Boys)

Game 1	12:30 p.m.	Wilson vs Baker
Game 2	1:45 p.m.	St. Joseph vs DA Ferguson
Game 3	3:00 p.m.	Wilson vs St. Joseph
Game 4	4:15 p.m.	Baker vs DA Ferguson
Game 5	5:30 p.m.	Wilson vs DA Ferguson
Game 6	6:45 p.m.	Baker vs St. Joseph

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WELLNESS



Happy New Year from the Wellness Team!

Now that the holidays are behind us and we get back into the routine of daily life, we may find that our stress levels are increasing. Coping with stress is an important family responsibility and our teens need our support and modeling to learn healthy responses to stress. Practice stress reduction strategies together for a healthier, happier family! Check out this website for some great information and ideas...

http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/stress.html

Also, the school participated in a "Day of Mindfulness" back in early December. Ask your son/daughter about mindfulness, the ability to stay in the moment and deal with life's stressors. Here are a few pictures of students and the activities they experienced that day....



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FINE ARTS

Fine Arts Update!

The Winter Concert on December 3rd was very well attended. It was a beautiful representation of our stellar music program at Wilson. Special thanks to Mr. Keith Griffioen for his outstanding direction of the bands and choir and to the students for their inspired performances.

Always a highlight of our year, Wilson will participate in the Kiwanis Festival:

Kiwanis Festival

March 7-19, 2016

Dates and Times yet to be Determined

Auditions for the Collage production, "My Name is Rumpelstiltskin" by Vera Morris, were held November 16-20. The director, Miss Lauren Copp, notes that the amount of talent which turned out for auditions demands a double cast this year! Mark the following information on your calendar - you won't want to miss this evening of great entertainment:

Collage of the Arts '16

March 21-23

7:00 p.m.

Sterndale Bennett Theatre

Cost: \$4.99

The Wilson Fine Arts Department would like to wish all of you much happiness, good health and success in the New Year!



Wilson Middle School

2003 - 9 Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 1J3
Telephone 329 - 3144 • Fax 329 - 3611

January 4, 2016

Dear WMS parents/ guardians:

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2016, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

Dean Hawkins
Principal
Wilson Middle School



Invest in the future.

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to gauge the quality of education your child is receiving and make improvements where needed.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

We all have a part to play in the important work of educating the next generation of Albertans.

Thank you for your participation.



David Eggen
Minister of Education

If you have any questions, please contact:
Anthony Warren, Alberta Education
E: Anthony.Warren@gov.ab.ca
T: (780) 422-4750
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed, pre-paid envelope by February 26, 2016.



A true picture of our success.

Measuring the quality of your child's education

We want to know that our children are receiving a quality education in a great school. Grades are important, but there's more to it.

A great school and its staff help every child to make the most of their talents and abilities. Great schools are caring, secure and encourage parents to play a key role. It's all about each student's success.

While it's easy to agree on such goals, how do we measure our progress toward them?

The Accountability Pillar is an innovative and straightforward way to measure our learning goals as schools, school authorities and as a provincial government.

Results are provided in a colour-coded and easy-to-read report so everyone in the community can review it. At a glance, it points out successes and areas of concern from both a local and provincial perspective.

The results report shows which measures have improved, remained consistent and which have declined. It allows everyone - parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province - to celebrate successes and respond to challenges together.

The Accountability Pillar looks at:

- **Survey results** - every year between January and March we survey students, their parents and teachers to see how they perceive the quality of education they receive and take part in
- **Student learning indicators** such as dropout rates, high school completion rates and the number of students eligible to receive Rutherford Scholarships
- **Student results** from Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

Details about the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/accountability>