



Graminia Flyover

August 30, 2022

Principal's Message

Graminia School

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Welcome back Graminia Families!!

We are so excited to have everyone returning to school and to continue our learning and growing together. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer with a lot of fresh air, adventures and memories made. It was great to see so many families come in to the school today to drop off their supplies and check out their classrooms and the school!! On our first day of school, August 30, we ask families to follow the parking and drop off rules to keep everyone safe and to use their designated doors to reduce congestion at the front entry. We will have extra supervisors out front to assist families. Our teachers will be both inside and out to greet their students and their families.

With school starting this week and the temperatures looking to stay in the +30's, we ask that families send along refillable water bottles for our students, hats for recess and outdoor play as well as wearing layers so students do not overheat as the day warms up. Our classrooms get quite toasty!

We look forward to seeing everyone out for our official Meet the Teacher night, which will start with a short presentation in the gym on Thursday September 8 at 6pm. We will introduce our staff, the amazing organizations that support our school and give a brief overview of the year.

Our goal this year is to connect, collaborate, and celebrate our Graminia community! We are all grateful that you entrust us with the care of your children, and for the parent support we receive. It is wonderful to see students learn and grow as the year progresses.

Treena Neumann - Principal

School Events and Calendar

Check out our [school website](#) to see our school's monthly calendar. Here you can filter by type of event and you can also add our calendar to your own iCal or Google Calendar. Please note there is **NO SCHOOL** on Monday, September 5 and Friday, September 30.





General Information

MEET THE TEACHER

September 8, 2022 6:00-7:30

The evening will begin with a short presentation in the Gym and then parents are invited to classrooms to meet our wonderful staff.

Morning Breakfast Program & Snack Shack

We are excited to announce both of these programs will begin after the long weekend - September 6.

Vending Machine

This is open for students in **gr 7-9 to use during recess and lunch break only.**

The gr 6 's are welcome to use the vending machine on Monday and Wednesdays and gr 5's are welcome to use the vending machine on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Stronger Together Newsletter

Each month, Parkland School Division's Learning Services team compiles a newsletter for parents and guardians of students. Inside you will find information, opportunities and strategies to help you and your family connect with us on your child's educational journey. Each month we will provide you with information about mental health and ways we can work together to support your family. [Please click here to see the latest issue.](#) You can also access the [Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#) to learn more information and find sessions regarding child/youth mental health and parenting topics.



Every Child Matters

On September 29 students and staff of Graminia will be observing National Truth and Reconciliation Day by wearing Orange Shirts and participating in classroom events and activities to honour the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. There will be no school on Friday, September 30.



General Information

Graminia Staffing 2022-2023

Kindergarten; Mrs Sloan & Ms. Frick

Gr 1: Mrs Phalen & Mrs. Osmond

Gr 1/2 : Mrs Munro

Gr 2: Mr Kawa & Mrs Kinsella

Gr 3: Mrs Chorney & Ms Schoepp

Gr 3/4 : Mrs Rupp

Gr 4 : Mrs Wolff & Mrs Marshall

Gr 5: Mrs Jacobs & Mr Sloane

Gr 6: Ms Moosa & Ms Kraus

Gr 7: Mrs Holst & Mr

Breckenridge & Mr West

Gr 8: Mr Inglehart & Mr Fraser

Gr 9: Mrs Valiquette & Mr Lygo & Mrs Holst

PE Specialist 7-9: Ms. Lewis & Mrs Valiquette

Music: Mrs Tepes & Mrs Schultz & Mr West

French Specialist: Mrs Shea-Pecoskie

EAs: Mrs. Weisenberger & Mrs Sims & Mrs Skaret & Mrs

Yakemchuk & Ms. Zerebecki

Librarian - Mrs Heiser

Secretaries: Mrs Velichko & Mrs Kent

Assistant Principal: Mrs Chessor

Principal: Ms Neumann

New Staff

In addition to the new staff announced in our June Flyover, we are happy to welcome the following new faces to the Graminia team: Miss Amber Frick is will be teaching Kindergarten and Mr. Kiran Kawa will be taking over one of our grade two classes. Welcome to the team!



Literacy and Numeracy Intervention

This will continue this year, teachers will be screening students in September and we will be contacting families after that to discuss supports.

Important Junior High Information - Gr 7-9

This is an exciting year where students will be traveling and moving classrooms to their various courses. This means that students **MUST have a locker with a lock** as their personal items and schools supplies will be kept there.

Option information will be coming out later this week. Families will make their selection for the three terms. The options courses will begin **later next week.**



General Information

Hawk Spirit !!

This is an new initiative we are starting this year. We will be buddying up our classes and learning focusing on building community and learning more about the Seven Sacred Teachings. We will celebrate and come together as a whole school many times this year to share our learnings and celebrate our journey. A student in each homeroom will be recognized at each celebration with families invited to join as well. More information will be shared by homeroom teachers and in upcoming Newsletters.

Hawk Nests !!

Is our other new initiative this year that will group students into different K-9 "nests" to complete team building activities and have some fun! Look for more details coming later in the fall and throughout the year.



Hawks Athletics - Volleyball Tryouts!

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of Athletics at Graminia! We will be kicking things off with Volleyball Tryouts right off the bat:

Wednesday, Aug 31 GIRLS
3-4:30

Thursday, Sept 1 BOYS
3-4:30

GRAMINIA 101

Question and information session on the who's who and what's what of Graminia School. Presented to you by school administration at the Council meeting on September 14 at 6:30 pm in the Graminia Library.

PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION

Graminia Cell Phone Rules

At Graminia School, our goal is to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to grow as learners, individuals, and social members of society . One part of achieving this goal is our approach to the use of digital devices.

When referring to a personal digital device, we mean a device that is privately owned and whose use is not expressly designed or required for academic productivity. This includes, but may not be restricted to, cellular phones, digital watches, tablets, portable music players, and gaming devices.

At Graminia School, our policy for 2022-2023 is as follows:

From the time that students arrive at our building, to the time that they leave the building, students are expected to keep their personal devices in their lockers for the duration of the school day.

Phones and other personal digital devices are not to be in student possession in classrooms, hallways, locker rooms, bathrooms, the gymnasium, outdoor facilities including the playground, or on buses during field trips.

This policy also extends to headphones, external speakers, or any other accessory unless it is expressly required by the classroom teacher for academic purposes. If headphones are required for a classroom activity, they need to be wired, with a 3.5 mm jack. As it increases the likelihood of distraction, damage, theft, and incompatibility with school Chromebooks and other work devices, we ask students to keep wireless headphones at home.

We acknowledge that there is a need for students to be able to access their devices at short intervals throughout the day. To that end, students will be allowed to access their personal devices for a reasonably brief period of time at their lockers. This can be at the beginning of the scheduled breaks (morning recess, lunch eating time, and/or lunch recess), as well as at the end of the day. Students seen with a personal device at times other than those specified will have it confiscated and stored in the office until the end of the day. Should this behaviour become a persistent issue, it will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by administration.

We appreciate the need for parents and guardians to keep in contact with their child, but digitally messaging them during class time largely results in distraction, lost productivity, and probably the confiscation of their device, since they should not have it outside their locker anyway. Therefore, expect that if students are sent digital messages that they will be unable to immediately reply. If parents or guardians need to contact their child, the office phone line is always available at (780) 963-5035, so that in the event of an emergency we can call students down to the office and manage the situation in the most expedient way.



General Information continued

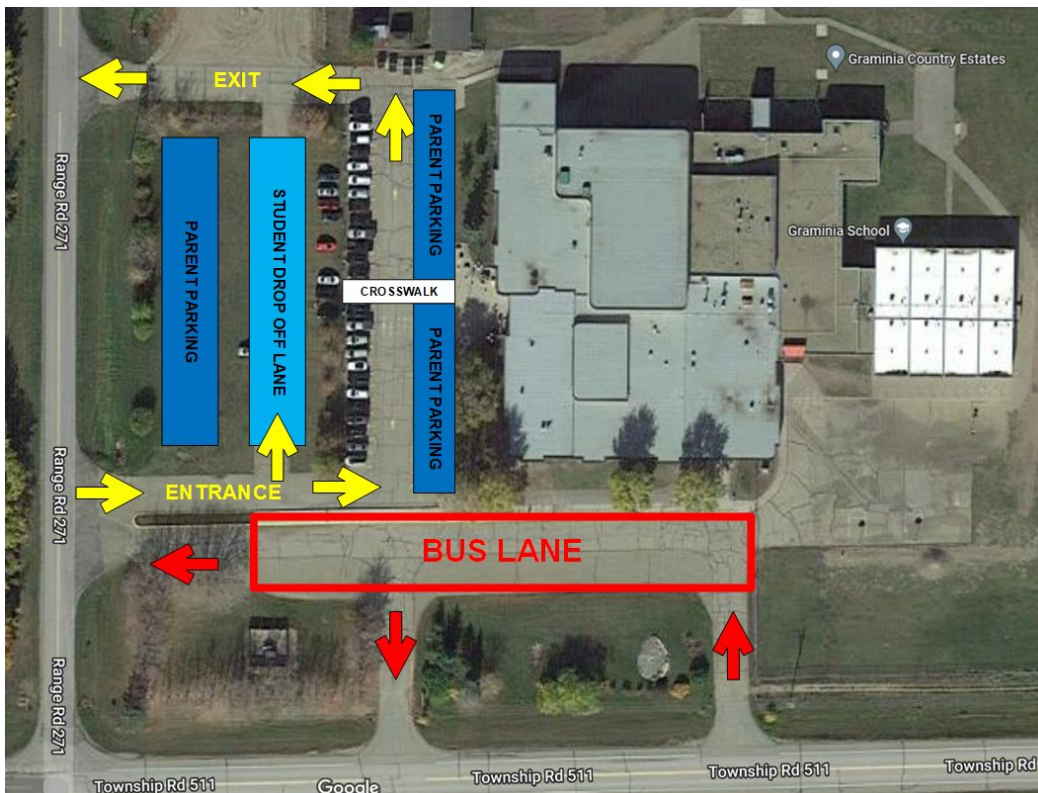
Parking Lot Safety

For those families that are new to Graminia it is important to note that our parking lot is a **one-way street**. The entrance is at the South and the exit is at the North. It helps us to keep everything safe when traffic flows in this direction. In order to ensure the safety of students during pick-up and drop-off we would ask you to follow the following rules:

- If dropping off students in the lane closest to the school, please park in a parking stall following all traffic rules. No dropping off in this lane without correctly parking (**no drop and roll**).
- If dropping off students in the grass/gravel lane (in front of the totem pole), you may drop students off without parking (drop and roll). **This can only happen in this lane, not in the lane closest to the school.**
- It is critically important that students, parents and staff use the crosswalk when crossing the parking lot in front of the front doors. It is not safe to cross from in between parked cars and the Parent Parking areas have cars constantly backing up and moving. As the adults, we can model this for the kids!

Thank you for your cooperation. Ms Neumann and Ms Chessor will be out to support a safe drop off and pick up each day.

Please make sure that anyone dropping your child off is aware of the rules.





General Information continued

Toonies for Terry

We are pleased to participate in the 41st annual Terry Fox school run on Friday, September 23rd. Graminia School has annually supported the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. So many people are directly and indirectly affected by this devastating disease. We have established our annual "Toonies for Terry" campaign where we ask each student and staff member to donate a toonie to the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research. All monies collected will go to the Terry Fox Foundation where it will be used to help fund cancer research so that one day, this disease will be a thing of the past.

When your child comes home and asks you for a "Toonie for Terry", you know what it's about.

Terry Fox started the Marathon of Hope in 1981 and we can help achieve the dream he had which was to find a cure for cancer. He is a Canadian hero and his legacy will live on in us. Working together will make a difference.

Can you imagine a world without this dreadful disease? We can help make that dream come true.

Our school goal this year is to raise \$2000.00 for this worthy cause. If you would like to donate more than a toonie, please make all cheques payable to "The Terry Fox Foundation" and send them to school with your child. You can also donate online by clicking the Graminia Terry Fox Fundraising link below:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/5940>



**THE
TERRY
FOX RUN**
for cancer research

**Everyone is welcome
to join us in the
afternoon on
September 23rd to
run the Terry Fox
circuit. We are
excited to see you
then!**

School Council and Fundraising Foundation

Upcoming School Council Meeting

All Graminia Caregivers are invited to the first School Council meeting of the school year on **Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30pm**. This meeting will be held in person in the Granimia Library. Attendees are welcome to bring their children if necessary. An agenda will be sent via email prior to the meeting.



Mabel's Labels and Tru Earth

Graminia also has ongoing fundraisers with the following companies:

[Mabel's Labels](#) and [Tru Earth](#)



Farm to School/Somerset Pumpkins

Please keep your eyes open for our first fundraiser of the year. We will be sending out our Farm to School order form soon. You will be able to order online or through our paper forms. You can either order veggies for yourself or donate bundles to our local Parkland foodbank. We will take care of delivery for all the donated bundles. Orders will be due no later than Sept 15th and the veggies will be ready for pick up Sept 27 @ approx 2pm. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Angie Gehlert @ angiebyouth@yahoo.ca

We are also fortunate to have the Somerset Pumpkins fundraiser again this year! We will be set up to sell pumpkins Sept 27th @ 1:30pm in the rink parking. So please mark on your calendars so you don't miss out!





School Council and Fundraising Foundation continued

2022/2023 Hot Lunch Program

The hot lunch program will be running similar to last year. We will be offering hot lunch on Fridays with food being provided by local vendors. We strive to offer a variety of options and try to offer gluten free and vegetarian options when available by our vendors. For any dietary questions please contact the vendor directly.

Communications

Please note that there will be weeks when hot lunch needs to be offered on a different day to accommodate the PSD calendar (e.g., non-instructional days, holidays, etc.). The hot lunch program will communicate regular updates through email, the Graminia Flyover, and the Graminia Community School Foundation (GCSF) Facebook page.

How To Register

Visit graminia.hotlunches.net to register and to create a profile for your child(ren).

To order, please register your child(ren) into the classes they are in. All families, new and returning, must register each year. Please note if this is your first time ordering, please send cutlery to school with your child(ren) as we do not provide this to them.

Orders can be placed starting on Saturday, with the cut off being firm at 1pm on Thursday for hot lunch the following week. Payment can only be received through PayPal. Payment must be received by Thursday at 1pm, for your order to be accepted. Note, that a PayPal processing fee will be added to your order.

Cancellations & Refunds

Unfortunately, your volunteers will not be able to handle any refunds or cancellations. If your child is absent, we will accept a transfer request to another student by 10:00am on hot lunch day by email to: graminiaparentcommunity@gmail.com.

Donations

One of the menu items weekly on our menu is a donation. The money collected from this will go towards purchasing a hot lunch for a child in need at our school.

Please be patient with your hot lunch volunteers. The hot lunch program was a huge success last year. Our goal is to run a program with a variety of appealing options for the kids that will also generate funds for the school. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the hot lunch program please email us at: graminiaparentcommunity@gmail.com.



School Council and Fundraising Foundation continued

We Need You! Looking to Fill a Vacant Position on School Council

Position: Graminia Council Secretary

Role: Complete minutes at monthly parent council meetings from September to June and share the minutes with attendees after the meeting

Attendance at meetings will be in-person this year.

Time commitment per month:

-1.5 hours attending meeting

-1.5 hours composing & sharing the minutes

Mentorship from our outgoing secretary is available if wanted.

Please email Angie at angiebyouth@yahoo.ca or Amber at robamber@gmail.com if you have any questions at all.





Covid and our ongoing work to Keep our Staff and Students Safe and Healthy

Graminia and Parkland School Division are excited that the World is Opening Back Up. 2022-2023 should finally start to feel like what a school year is supposed to feel like.

With that being said, there are many measures that were previously implemented that just make sense to continue. Above all, we encourage anyone who is feeling ill to stay home from school. If you are exhibiting any of the key symptoms known for [COVID-19](#), we encourage you to access one of the many test kits that are also available at the school. Meanwhile, PSD will continue the following:

- Hand sanitizer will still be readily available at all schools,
- Students will continue to be reminded of the importance of thorough hand-washing hygiene,
- School staff will ensure that appropriate cleaning of high touch areas will continue,
- The frequency at which air filters are changed in PSD has also been increased and air handling/ventilation equipment in all schools has been adjusted to maximize the number of air exchanges within the schools. All schools will operate filtration systems that meet or exceed the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) 13 air filtration rate, and
- Where practical, entrances and exits can be used to efficiently reduce crowding during high traffic times of the day.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a healthy and happy school year.

Graminia School

Home Rooms and Room Numbers

