



Graminia Flyover

December 2022

Principal's Message

Graminia School

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Welcome to December!

Welcome to Winter! With a slow start to the cool temperatures, it is safe to say it is cold weather season. Please make sure to send toques, mitts, snow pants, boots and any other winter gear so that your child can go outside for the 30 min lunch recess and/or other classes that may go outside. Our PSD Administrative Procedure 750 states we will be going outside until the weather is colder than -23 including the wind chill, this includes all of our students kindergarten to gr 9.

As we move through a busy December, we look forward to our upcoming celebrations. We have our Kinette Hampers that are collecting donations until December 9, our Winter Concerts for Kindergarten - Grade 6 students, our Beginner and Senior Band concerts, our Drama Winter Play and our Hawk Holiday Spirit activities for the whole school. Our Athletics department has moved on from volleyball and has begun the basketball season.

Thank you to all of our families for meeting with our teachers to discuss your child's learning during Parent Teacher Interviews. It was great to hear the conversations about all of the learning that has occurred. Our Term 1 report cards are open for viewing on Friday December 2 through the Powerschool Parent Portal.

We value the time we have with your children and are grateful for your support. During this festive season, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday!

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 for Winter Break December 24 - January 8.**



PARKLAND
SCHOOL DIVISION



General Information



Kinette Annual Christmas Hampers:
 Each homeroom (K-9), will have a box for donations. The homeroom with the most donations will receive a pizza party! **Items will be accepted until Friday, December 9th at Graminia.** Our school will then drop off the donations at the collection site on Monday, December 12th so that the Kinette Club volunteers may assemble the hampers and distribute them to the families in need this Christmas. [Please see the link for more information.](#)

Special shout out to the the Culham family and Culham Custom Woodwork for the generous donation of 68 toys for the hamper program!



Kindergarten - gr 9 Report Cards go live on Powerschool through the Parent Portal on **December 2.** Please contact the office if you have trouble accessing them.



Illness in PSD Schools

Like the rest of the province, Parkland School Division has experienced a recent increase in absences due to more respiratory illnesses in the community. Most site outbreaks are caused by seasonal respiratory viruses or seasonal norovirus. When illness is identified early and appropriate control measures are implemented in a timely manner, these outbreaks are generally controlled quickly.

If the absence rate due to illness in an individual school reaches above 10 per cent of their student population, we advise Alberta Health Services (AHS). AHS will investigate and if they declare an outbreak, families will receive information from the school with AHS direction. To keep families informed, [PSD will now report school absences by Grade level on their website.](#)

Jr High Complementary Courses Term 2
 Starting Monday December 5 our gr 7-9 Complementary courses will change to the Term 2 options. Band, Drama and French as a Second Language are full year courses and will not change. Fees are due by December 16, teachers will be sending letters home on the first day of classes with information and the fees will be loaded into Powerschool for payment.



General Information cont



Winter Concert Information Page

We are thrilled and excited to have a more typical concert experience this year! This means that the classes will be performing together at times throughout the concerts. Due to this excellent ability to blend and bring together our students, we ask that **family limit the at number of people attending the concerts to 4 per student**. This will hopefully allow us to have enough space to fit everyone. We encourage extended family such as grandparents or family friends or for those that the timing works better, to attend the dress rehearsal concerts if possible as they are open to attend as well. The concerts will be seasonal concerts showcasing the hard work and enthusiasm of our students in our school! The main doors will be unlocked and open for audience members to enter 30 minutes prior to the start of the concerts, but not earlier, as we will be still setting up and doing last minute sounds checks.

We will be collecting TOONIE donations for the Graminia Band Society to supports their yearly trips and equipment repairs.

Grade 1-3 & Choir Concert - Wednesday December 14 - Dress rehearsal 10:00 am - Concert 1:00pm

Grade 4-6 & Choir & Band Concert - Thursday December 15 - Dress rehearsal 1:00 pm - Concert 6:30 pm

KinderChristmas Celebrations will be held in the multipurpose room beginning at 1:00pm. Ms Fricks' kinderclass (KC) will be on **Monday December 19th**. Mrs Sloan's Kinderclasses will be on **Tuesday, December 20th (KB) and Wednesday, December 21st (KA)**. The teachers will be sharing details of the celebrations directly with families.

Jr High Drama - So you think you can Carol? - December 16 10:00 am

A Special Note for Choir Parents:

Thank you very much for confirming your child's participation in both our Christmas concerts that will take place on Wednesday, December 14th from 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 15th from 6:30 p.m. The choir will perform first in both concerts, followed by a Vocal Group performance featuring some of our choir students. In regards to the Christmas concert attire, choir students do not need to wear a special outfit this year. They are expected to wear the same costume that they will be wearing for their classroom performance. Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at these wonderful events.

Kindly,
Monica Tepes

General Information cont



Kindergarten held their annual Teddy Bear Picnic to wrap up Bear month!



Student vs Staff Volleyball Game





General Information cont

Graminia Hawk Holiday Spirit

- DEC. 5TH - 9TH **GRINCHY GREEN & RUDOLPH RED**
- DEC. 12TH - 16TH **HOLIDAY HAIR, DON'T CARE
FESTIVE HAT OR HAIR ACCESSORY**
- DEC. 19TH - 21ST **SWEATER WEATHER
HOLIDAY SHIRT OR MAD FOR PLAID**
- DEC. 22ND & 23RD **PAJAMA DAYS FOR A LONG
WINTER'S NAP!**

**CHRISTMAS
CAROLS
DEC. 22 & 23
GYM**

Have Fun!





General Information cont.

Hawk Spirit Recipients - Courage - November



Thank you to Mrs Valiquette, Ms. Marshall, Mrs Jacobs and Mr Kawa's classes for an awesome Hawk Spirit Assembly!

Many families came out and enjoyed the presentation!

We look forward to our next Hawk Spirit Assembly on January 27, where we will be focusing on Wisdom. The classes presenting will be Mrs Chorney, Mr Inglehart, Ms Frick (KFC) and Mr West's classes!



Hawk's Athletics

Basketball/Athletics Update and Calendar

Congratulations to all our volleyball teams on an awesome season and to the boys on getting first in DIV 3

Congratulations to our VBall Allstars - Kalen Rowter, Piper Sullivan, Miya Stauffer. Both the Boys and Girls East Teams won their games in 3 sets!

Basketball is starting up, we will have Sr and Jr teams for girls and boys. Their seasons begin before Christmas with our seeding games to determine which league we will play in. Get ready for an exciting season!

Jr. B will start up after Christmas Break, more details to follow.

Click here for the [Athletics Calendar](#).





General Information cont.

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.



Morning Breakfast Program & Snack Shack

Our Breakfast Program is up and running in the Multipurpose Room starting at 7:35 every day. We also have a Snack Cooler that is available for students to grab a healthy snack at any point in the day. These programs are for everyone and anyone!

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.



Graminia Rink Society

We are hosting the Rink Society's Annual General Meeting on **Monday December 5th** at 7 pm.

Location: Bentham Residence #32, 51514 RR 262 Spruce Grove (text or call 780-910-4190 for a pin). Our meeting agenda will be short, with lot's of time to socialize with community members and gain insights into priorities for the rink and summer surface activity areas (rink plus tennis courts). We have a number of open positions (communications lead, treasurer, Vice President) on the Board of Directors and are looking forward to adding to our team!

Ice Cleaning Volunteers: We are always looking to add more helping hands (young or old) over the winter to clean the rink ice!

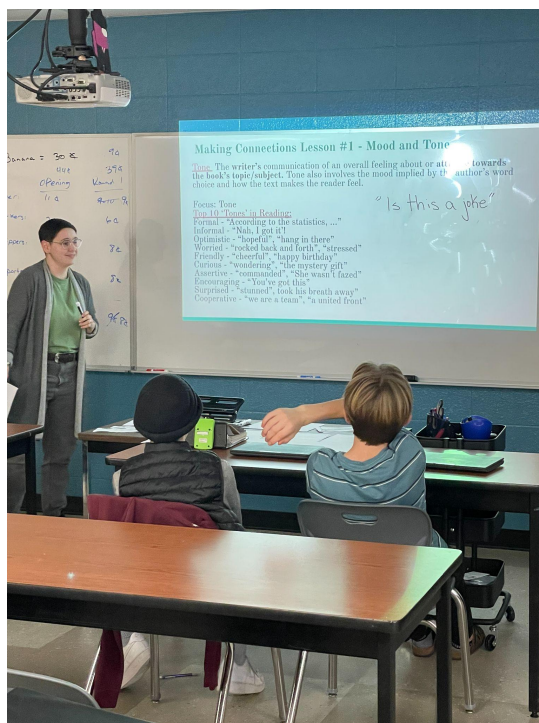
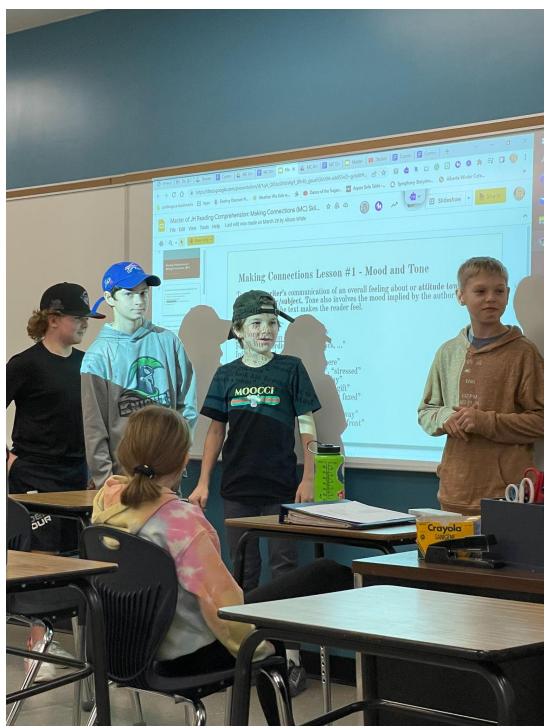
SAVE THE DATE: May 6th Rink Society Gala at Clymont Hall. Details will follow on our facebook page. Contact us at any time through Facebook messenger or via email graminiarink@gmail.com.



General Information cont.

Junior High Mixed Reading Comprehension Instruction

This week marked the beginning of a new method of instruction once per week for our junior high students. At the beginning of the year, every student in grade 7-9 completed a Reading Comprehension Achievement Screening Test (RCAT) which helped to identify areas of strength and growth in one of five reading behaviours. Based on this information, all students in each grade level have been mixed and sorted into different classrooms based on their area of growth. They will receive 7 weeks of instruction during this Common Literacy block to boost these skills. Towards the end of January we will re-administer an RCAT assessment to determine progress and shuffle groups. We are looking forward to a great session of learning for our bigger kids!



School Council and Fundraising Foundation

Upcoming School Council Meeting

All Graminia Families are invited to our School Council meeting of the school year on **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30pm**. This meeting will be held in person in the Graminia 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](#)

Purdy's Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased items for our Purdy's Fundraiser. Pickup will be in the school foyer **Dec 8 between 7:30-9:30am and 2:00-3:30pm**. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kerri Golka at kerrimcwilliam@me.com.





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 cont.

Please consider taking a moment to spread some joy and gratitude to a school staff member - your kind words make a world of difference! [Click here to visit the form.](#)

One Small Thing



SHOWING GRAMINIA STAFF OUR APPRECIATION

Scan the QR or click here to
submit
your One Small Thing!



We know the staff at Graminia, including the administration, teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodial staff, librarian, and our counsellor are working hard everyday to make Graminia an amazing place for our children. Let's fill up their buckets and send them words of support and encouragement throughout the year! Please share this link with other Graminia parents and come back periodically throughout the year to send a new message.



Graminia Swingin' Band Society

Who Are We?

The Graminia Swing'n Band Society (GSBS) welcomes students back to Graminia! What is the GSBS? Starting in 1995, a group of parents created this non-profit organization to sustain the Graminia Hawks Band program. Our efforts to fundraise, over the years, have allowed students to reap the benefits of receiving a high quality musical education. Last year, with Band starting back up from COVID, we contributed to buying new chairs for the band students to have good posture and support!

Please consider following us on Facebook at: -search "Graminia Swing'n Band Society"- <https://www.facebook.com/GSBS2022>

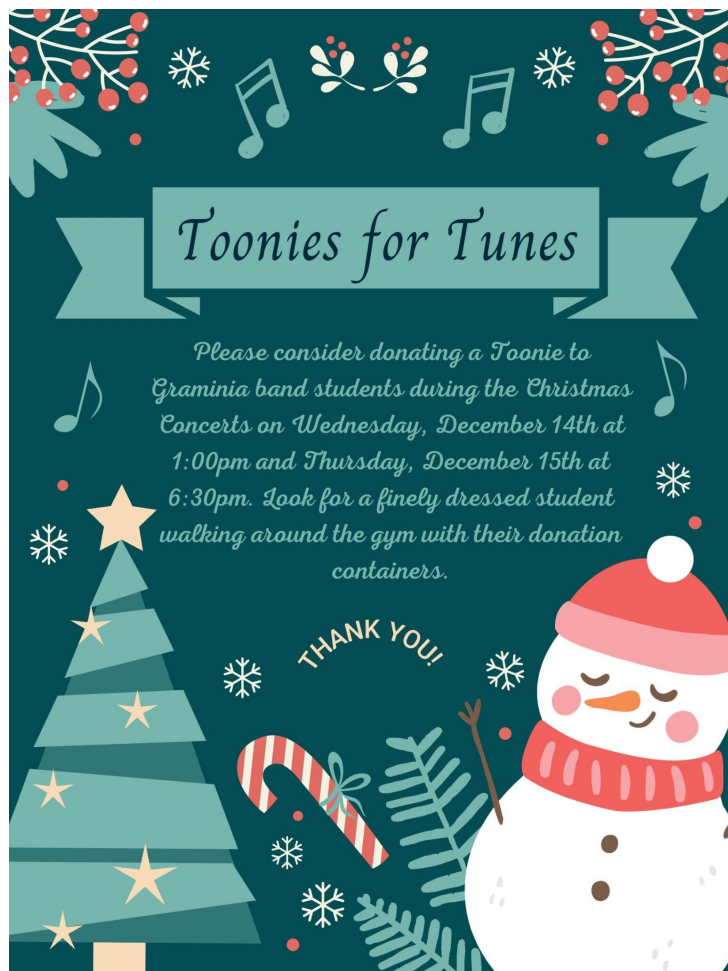
Or on Insta: @graminiaband
You can ALWAYS email us at: graminiaband@gmail.com

St Albert Casino, Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4

GSBS is lucky to be hosting a two night event to volunteer at St. Albert Casino.

We are in desperate need of more volunteers! Please connect with GSBS President, Jenn King at 780-445-0621 if you have any questions. You can also email graminiaband@gmail.com. To sign up for your shift, please click on this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xXu_ZnncIfQiBY_eNI3_L7x1nvWx8bmi_bwKbJoH70p0/edit#gid= This spreadsheet and more information is available on our Facebook page.



Thank you for your support of the Good Morning Honey fundraiser! We raised \$1095.00 and all of it goes directly to band students!

Help Wanted!

We are looking for a new Treasurer. Please contact Jenn King at 780-445-0621. This position requires around 20 hours of volunteer time over the course of a year. You will have support to learn the new role if you are not familiar with it.