

# The Cayley Connection

Cayley School

“Developing and Celebrating Engaged Learners,  
Responsible Citizens, and Capable Individuals.”

Edition 20/21

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## *Message from Administration*

As the principal of the school, I have to say I am very pleased that the first six weeks of school have been relatively event-free. To date we have had a number of parents follow the school division's and Alberta Health's protocols for determining when students should be at home and when they should come back to school. The number of children absent from school has been in decline in recent days which has brought a sense of normalcy back to the school.

While being “event-free” has been a positive thing when talking about our school community's state of health, from an extracurricular perspective, being event-free has been one of the greatest adjustments and realities that the Cayley School community has had to face thus far this year. As I'm sure you all know, we are a school that prides itself in the way we have provided opportunities for our students to be active in the school, in the community, and within the division. This far into the year, unfortunately we have cancelled our start-up breakfast; we've revised our Terry Fox Run to avoid the mixing of cohort; our clubs have temporarily been put on hold; our sports teams are not able to practice or compete at the moment; the annual Halloween parade will be held outside instead of in the gym; our Remembrance Service will be done via Zoom to each of the classrooms; and, our Parent-Teacher conferences will be conducted by phone instead of in person.

The challenge moving forward will be to find creative ways to provide as many of these important events for our students and school community as possible while remaining diligent in our efforts to keep everyone safe. Now that our relaunch has successfully taken place, as a staff and with parent input, we are revisiting those things we thought we wouldn't be able to do this year. In fact, through this process we believe we can actually improve on some of the things we have traditionally done by looking at other options available to us. Instead of just writing things off, we are accepting the challenge of finding new and exciting ways to either do the same things differently or come up with alternative activities to replace the ones that are no longer feasible.

Thank you to all of you for your ongoing diligence and support through these challenging times. I really do feel our school community is working as a team as we navigate these previously uncharted waters. Our plan is not just to get through this year; rather, we plan to grow and get stronger as a school and school community in spite of and possibly because of the unique challenges we will face together the rest of the school year.

Phil Irwin - Principal





**Here is an update of what's been happening the past six weeks in Cayley School along with some things that are coming up ...**

**Start-Up / Relaunch:**

- social distancing / hand washing / sanitizing / wearing masks / cohorting
- Systems / schedules are in place for bathroom breaks, entering and exiting the school, entering and exiting the bathrooms, utilization of the Learning Commons and signing in and out books, accessing lockers

**Recesses:**

- Staggered recesses ... no more than two classes out on the playground at one time
- 45 minutes of recess time per day ... 15 minutes in the morning and teacher-designed noon and afternoon recess times to fit in with afternoon instructional programming
- Zone 1 - playground equipment, memorial garden, tire swing /
- Zone 2 - swings, logs, football and soccer fields, pool noodles

**Phys. Ed.:**

- Cross-country running, skipping, dance, tumbling, stretching, endurance and strength building, balance, Frisbee golf, and archery (Gr. 5-8) are activities students can do on their own during daily Phys. Ed.
- Sanitizing of equipment is ongoing between classes during the day
- Micro-cohorts allow small groups of students to share some freshly sanitized equipment during a class provided students mask up, wash up and or sanitize before or after using sanitized equipment ... allows for the development of skills in small groups for such sports as soccer, flag football, volleyball/triple ball, basketball, badminton, and eventually field events in track and field.
- Pool noodle are used for a variety of tag games
- Flag football flags acquired through the school's previous Moo milk program ... great for tag games outside and inside the gym

**Band:**

- New guidelines have opened up the opportunity for Band to be taught to Grades 5-8.
- Classes will be in one half of the gym with the archery curtain separating Band from elementary Phys. Ed. classes on Tuesday afternoons.
- Instruments will be stored on the stage for easy access.

**Fiddle Program:**

- Chris Fuzessy addressed the School Council at this month's meeting to explain the obstacles facing the school's fiddle program and the options that are available to us moving forward. A member of School Council and Mr. Irwin will work with the Division's new grant writer to explore funding possibilities in order to be able to secure the services of a fiddle instructor for Grades K-4.

**Virtual Learning ... cameras and mics provided by School Council**

- Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Blake have experimented with the one camera we have received and the cordless mic that comes with it. Mrs. Blake has used it once and is pleased with the quality and functionality of the technology for providing some instruction when students are having to stay at home.

**School Fees:**

- School fees have been sent out to all families. They are lower than previous years due to instrument rental fees and/or culture fees being on hold. Now that Band is back up and running in the gym, however, prorated Band fees will be put on your Maplewood accounts as of November 1st.





### FAA Learning Conference - October 29th

- Foothills School Division administrators' association decided to reduce its annual two-day leadership conference to one day this year and it will happen virtually on Thursday, October 29th.

### Halloween:

- Weather permitting, we will be conducting our annual Halloween Costume Parade outdoors during the afternoon of October 29th. Please see the detailed update in the newsletter below.

### Learner Profiles / Parent-Teacher

#### Teleconferences:

- Learner Profiles will be coming out on **Friday, November 20th**. Parent-Teacher Teleconferences will take place on **October 28 and 29 for the Grade 2/3** while the remainder of the teleconferences will be conducted on **November 25th and 26th**. Please see detailed schedule below in the newsletter. **N.B. We have decided to use a phone call over a virtual meeting due to the uncertainty associated with connectivity in our rural community.**

### Ed Plan:

- Our school's Education Plan is being reshaped this year to align more closely with the school division's new vision ... *Engagement, Support, and Success for each learner*. While most of what was in our Education Plan from the past few years still exists in the document, it has been refined to capture subtle changes within the school, the division, the province, and within education as a whole.
- Admin will present the school's Education Plan on November 4th to the Board.
- School Council will be presented with the draft of the document prior to that time for their perusal and feedback before it is finalized.
- The Education Plan deadline is November 30th, so there will be opportunity for additional conversation around the document at the November School Council meeting.

## 'Maplewood' is Out – 'Edsembli' is In!

Over the next few days our School Division will be switching Demographic programs which means that access to our old program, 'Maplewood' has been disabled for parents until the new software program 'Edsembli' is in place. Access will be turned back on automatically on October 27. In the meantime, if you wish to pay fees, please send either cash or cheque to the school. There will also be a new URL link to replace what parents have been using. We will update that on our website and send an email to everyone as soon as we know more.



Captain Underpants – AKA Mrs. Hutchinson, welcomes you to our first ever 'Virtual Book Fair'!







## Along with Winter... Halloween is Coming!

We will be going ahead with Halloween celebrations on the afternoon of **Oct. 29**. Students will be able to bring their costumes in the morning and change after the noon hour recess, approx. 1:00 p.m. (please send only costumes that they can handle without too much adult assistance). Any treats that are brought to share with the class need to be store bought and sealed in their original bag and/or individual wrappers.

Weather permitting, we will be doing a costume parade using the same route as our Terry Fox Run around the town of Cayley @ 1:45 p.m. Parents are welcome to join us outside for the parade. If the weather doesn't co-operate we will forego this part of the celebration, and will notify parents via email in the morning should this be the case.



Gr. 5/6 band students practicing their flute mouth piece technique outside...remember?... when it was warm!

## School Council Update

Thank you to everyone who were able to virtually attend our AGM and October School Council Meetings. The executive for 2020/21 are:

- Chairperson - Angela Leonard
- Vice-Chair - Kat Rademacher
- Secretary - Andrea Chen
- Treasurer - Ashley Tilleman

Upcoming meetings are slated for:

- Thursday, November 19, 2020
- Thursday, January 21, 2021
- Thursday, March 18, 2021
- Thursday, April 15, 2021
- Thursday, May 20, 2021

Minutes will be posted on the school website as they take place.

Angela Leonard

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