

LINSFORD PARK SCHOOL

"Building Healthy, Inclusive Relationships and Academic Competencies"



January 2024

PARENT NEWSLETTER

We trust that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and start to the new year. School begins again on Monday, January 8th. Hopefully students are well rested to complete the 1st half of the school year, with assessments occurring this month in preparation for progress reports.



BEACH DAY

Brrr...it's cold outside! At least on Beach Day (January 26) we can enjoy our shorts and T-shirts inside! Students and staff are encouraged to dress up on this day. We will still be going outside for recess so make sure to still bring your outdoor wear. We will also be going swimming at the LRC (Kindergarten and Gr. 1-6). Further information will be sent home very soon about this.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The school will be closed on Wednesday, January 31st as teachers participate in professional development activities

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:

4502—51 Street
Leduc, AB
T9E 7J7

Website: <http://lps.blackgold.ca>

Email: lps@gshare.blackgold.ca

Phone: 780-986-8474



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION



SAVE THE DATE | January 8, 2024
2024-2025 Kindergarten registration begins!

More info: www.blackgold.ca/schools/programs/kindergarten



Pre-Kindergarten program intake process and registration will begin **February 1st, 2024.** Check the Black Gold School District website for further information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Dear Linsford families, Mark your calendars! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! It will take place February 5th-7th. Your investment in your reader helps our whole school. All purchases earn Scholastic Dollars that can be redeemed for books and educational resources for our school's classrooms and library.

The countdown to more book joy is on!

See you at the fair!



POWER SCHOOL REPORTING PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 – 6

In order for teachers to complete the online report cards, Power School Reporting will not be accessible in January. Reports will then be available to view online starting January 30th. A paper copy will also be sent home on this date. Students on more modified or adapted programming will also be receiving updated individualized student program plans that outline both learning goals and progress.

Parent/Teacher interview dates have been scheduled for February 5 & 6th.
Further information about conferences will be sent home shortly.



FAMILY LITERACY DAY LET'S HAVE A PARTY

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

Celebrate 25 years of *Family Literacy Day* and learning together as a family by having a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.

Families can visit <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/> for fun and easy activity idea.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations to all of our winners of the gingerbread houses created by our grade 5/6W class.

- Braden Beveridge
- Javeria Ibrahim
- Hally Fitzowich
- Chantal Laboucan
- Caleb Lemon
- Noah Reinich
- Crystal Shorten



Thanks to your generous donations \$483.15 was raised for the Leduc Food Bank.

PARENT COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Our next meeting is at **6:00 pm** Thursday January 11th.

Parents of our school community are welcome to attend this virtual meeting. Please email Mrs Oppermann if you'd like an invite in order to attend. (ann.oppermann@blackgold.ca)

Dear families,

As you are aware, the Parent Council has been working hard to secure funding for our new playground, but we cannot do it alone. To achieve this goal, we are reaching out to local businesses for their support. We have prepared a letter that outlines our initiative and the positive impact it will have on the development and well-being of our children.

We kindly request your assistance in distributing these letters to businesses within our community. Your involvement is crucial in making this project a reality, and we believe that by working together, we can create a safer, more enjoyable space for our children to play and grow. Thank you for your dedication to our children's education and well-being. Together, we can make a lasting difference in their lives. Please find the letter attached to this month's newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Parent Council at lps.council@gshare.blackgold.ca or call Sheree at 780-257-6675.



Linsford Park School Needs a New Playground!!

Linsford Park School Parents' Association is a group of dedicated parents who are on a quest to replace our school's deteriorating playground. Our goal is to build an inclusive playground that will meet the needs of all students in Pre-Kindergarten - Grade six, as well as be enjoyed by the residential neighborhood in which it is located. The present playground has less than 2 years of life before it is deemed unsafe, with several unstable pieces of equipment already removed. It is the sole responsibility of Linsford Park School's Parents' Association to fundraise for a new playground, the cost being approximately \$250,000.00.

We are reaching out to your company for any financial support that you may be willing to donate to help us raise this large sum for a new playground. Depending on the sum of your donation, in turn we can promote your business. This may include advertising your company in our school's newsletter, recognition on our Facebook page, being part of a banner hung in our gymnasium or on a plaque on our new playground.

We look forward to hearing from you, including discussing how we can acknowledge your financial support! Please consider this very worthy way of giving to your community, by contacting us at lps.council@gshare.blackgold.ca or call Sheree at 780-257-6675. Cheques can be made payable to Linsford Park School Parents' Association

Thank you from the Linsford Park School Parents' Association Board Members



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

Family Movie Night Friday, February 16, 2024.



Math night for parents and students hosted by **Box Cars and One-eyed Jacks**. This interactive math game night will take place on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 6:15 pm- 7:30 pm.**

Mark your calendars as we look forward to seeing lots of parents and students at these events. More details to follow in the New Year!

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Chemco for their generous donations to sponsor our Pancakes and PJ's event!

Also, a huge shout out and thanks goes to Rivercity Motors for donating all the juice boxes.

These generous donations made this a successful breakfast and put many smiles on the student's faces!



Congratulations to our 50/50 cash raffle winner - Merrilee Hatfield! Merrilee won \$1595.00 and generously donated her winnings back towards our new playground! A big thank you to Merrilee and to everyone who supported our fundraiser.



POPCORN SALE

January 9th

(K-Gr.6)

\$1.25 (exact change)

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Information for parents and guardians

About the survey

Every year, Alberta Education surveys students, their parents and all teachers on behalf of schools and school authorities to assess what is working well and where there is room for improvement. The survey asks students in grades 4, 7 and 10, and their parents, about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school. The survey will be administered between January and March 2024. In some schools, all students in grades 4 and above and their parents will be surveyed.

Participants will be asked questions on a variety of topics, such as welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments; student learning engagement; and parental involvement. The survey does not ask for names and cannot be used to identify individual participants.



Why is the survey needed?

Alberta's Assurance Framework requires school authorities across the province to report their performance according to a number of different measures that provide key information about how the education system is doing. A provincial survey allows all school authorities to be measured on the same things at the same time.

Participation in the survey is voluntary:

- All participants may opt out of taking the survey at any time with no repercussions and/or skip any questions they do not wish to answer.
- All responses are anonymous. The survey does not collect personally identifiable information and Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, school and authority.
- Only grouped data where there are more than six responses are reported.
- All data collected will be managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- If you have any questions regarding the survey or your child's participation, please contact your child's school directly.



How will I take the survey?

- Parents or guardians are issued a single-use Random Access Code mailed through Canada Post to complete the survey online.
- The code must be used to access the survey and helps Alberta Education group your response as being from a parent/guardian. It is **not** used to identify individuals.
- Monitor your Canada Post mailbox starting late-January 2024 for the survey invitation package from Alberta Education.
- Parents or guardians with more than one student in an eligible grade will receive a separate survey invitation package for each child.
- Paper copies of the survey can also be requested through your school principal once the survey opens.



How will students take the survey?

- Students complete the survey at school.
- Before the survey begins, your child's teacher or school staff will explain to the students that the survey is not a test – there are no right or wrong answers. They will also explain that there are no repercussions for opting out of participating and that they may skip questions they do not wish to answer.
- Responses are submitted anonymously. Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, grade, school and school authority only.

Details about the assurance measures and how to obtain results are available online at www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, please contact your school principal.

**BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION**

3rd Floor, 1101-5th Street
Nisku, Alberta T9E 7N3

P: 780.955.6025
F: 780.955.6050
blackgold.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of Trustees appoints Acting Superintendent of Schools



Nisku, Alberta (December 14 , 2023) - At their regular meeting yesterday, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Cindi Vaselenak as the Acting Superintendent of Schools/CEO of the Black Gold School Division.

Dr. Vaselenak will take on the role starting January 1, 2024, until May 31 or until such time as Mr. Michael Borgfjord is able to begin his term as the new Superintendent of Schools/CEO. Dr. Vaselenak is taking over from current superintendent Bill Romanchuk, who is retiring on December 31, 2023, after 22 years of service to Black Gold.

"The Board has contracted Dr. Vaselenak for a couple of projects since the beginning of 2023," said Board Chair Esther Eckert. "We have an excellent working relationship established with her, and she is already familiar with Black Gold through her work with us. We know she shares our vision and commitment, and will ensure that the Division continues to thrive under her leadership."

Dr. Vaselenak has worked for over 35 years as an educator in the roles of teacher, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal, principal, deputy superintendent, and superintendent in Alberta. In 2019 she was named the Alberta Superintendent of the Year, receiving the provincial EXL Award for Excellence in School System Leadership. She currently consults for the Alberta School Boards Association, and serves as a sessional instructor at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Vaselenak has a solid background of research and practice in educational leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree in secondary sciences, a Master of Science degree with a specialization in administration and instruction, and a Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership.

"I am honoured to support the Black Gold School Division in a new capacity as Acting Superintendent," said Dr. Vaselenak. "As a former chief superintendent in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, I am familiar with the roles and responsibilities required to support a Board through a transition in senior leadership. Black Gold has an excellent reputation in providing quality education to their school communities, and the current initiatives led by the Board and retiring Superintendent Romanchuk will continue."