

# Newsletter



## Inclusive Playground Update

We are so excited to break ground for the inclusive playground expansion project with construction starting this May! It will be installed at the front (east) left corner of the school, adjacent to the Rose Garden. Please stay tuned for construction updates.

We could not have achieved our fundraising goal for the new playground without the incredible support from our amazing donors and the tireless work from our playground committee, led by Lindsay Flynn. Thank you so much!!



## School Council Meets

Our next School Council meeting is Tuesday, April 12, in-person at RDL. Everyone is welcome! Why attend? You'll get an update from RDL admin, our trustee, funding updates and more.

PLUS, all attendees be automatically entered to win a \$50 gift card from Water's Edge Pub!

## Volunteers - WE NEED YOU!



We have an immediate need for volunteers for our upcoming Casino commitment. Funding from our casino night comprises the majority of our fundraising efforts at Red Deer Lake. Funds raised have supported countless projects including: The Inclusive Playground Expansion Initiative, new computers for the school, special awards and more (please see p.4 for recent allocations).

We need help filling all of the volunteer roles. If we do not have enough volunteers, we cannot run the casino, which will result in a massive impact to our funding and student programs.

**[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TODAY, IF YOU CAN HELP!](#)**

Thank you so much to Steph McGill for organizing the casino for us - we are very grateful!

We also have openings on our Board - President, Vice President, Secretary + Treasurer Roles for 2022-23.

## Catching up with Mr. Markides, Principal



**What brought you to work in the education field and what do you find most rewarding about your work?**

I have always enjoyed coaching and working to create opportunities and support learners. I was drawn to education through the influence of my partner Jennifer who was a teacher in the CBE and Foothills and is now a professor at the University of Calgary.

**Where did you work before you started at RDL?**

I started teaching high school math and physics at Highwood High School, then worked overseas in Macau at a JK-12 international school. After returning to Canada, I taught at Highwood for one more year then became the Vice-Principal at Cayley School. From there I became a Vice-Principal at ESFCHS/AHSFA in Okotoks.

**What is a piece of advice that you love to share?**

All learners can be successful if they are supported and have loving and caring advocates.

**What is your favourite thing about Red Deer Lake?**

I love that the school is K-9. This allows for older kids to be role models and leaders for the younger kids. The older dragons are able to support their peers and the younger dragons are able to learn through observation.

**Anything else you'd like to share?**

Thank you for the amazing opportunity of working at RDL. It is an honour and privilege.

## A Funding Update from Mr. Borko

School Council was thrilled when Mr. Borko attended our meeting to request funds for computers and tablets so that he and the other amazing faculty at RDL could purchase new tablets and computers for student use.

School Council was pleased to approve Mr. Borko's request for funding and even more ecstatic when Mr. Borko returned to share with us a presentation of how the funds were used! For more on School Council spending, please see p. 4 of this Newsletter.



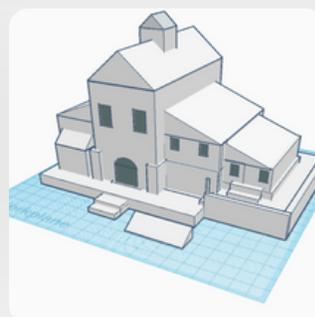
Making Maps in Social Class



Creating in Minecraft



Making Music!



From Concept to Creation - 3D Printing in Action



## Catching up with Ms. Burrows, Vice Principal



### What brought you to work in the education field and what do you find most rewarding about your work?

As clichéd as it may sound, I came to education because I love making a positive difference in people's lives. The feeling I get when I see students learning, growing and developing is monumental and profound.

### Where did you work before you started at RDL?

I started my career working with Regina Board of Education working in a Structured Learning Classroom (Behaviour needs) and then moved into a Kindergarten position. From there, I moved to southern Saskatchewan and taught Grades 4-6 Fine Arts and French with Weyburn Central School Division. After four years at that magical community, I moved to Calgary and taught at the Calgary Waldorf School for six years teaching Grades 5-9. I made the move to Foothills School Division in 2002. I taught at Ecole Okotoks Junior High School for 13 years teaching Fine Arts (Voice, Drama, Dance) and English and Social Studies 9. Then, I moved to Highwood High School and taught Grade 9-12 Fine Arts (Choral and Drama).

I was fortunate to become the vice-principal of C. Ian McLaren School in Black Diamond the next year and remained in that role for 6 years. In 2020, I became the vice-principal of Red Deer Lake School. And, as Ted Lasso would say, "I feel like I've fallen into the lucky tree and hit every branch on the way down." :)

### What is a piece of advice that you love to share?

Oh, goodness, I love to share advice. :) I have a lot of 'Saskatchewanisms' from my dad that I love to share :) I think right now, my most frequent advice reminder is, "Focus on being kind and helpful and everything else will fall into place."

### What is your favourite thing about Red Deer Lake?

My favourite thing about Red Deer Lake School is the sense of community :)

### Anything else you'd like to share?

I look forward to many years with the Red Deer Lake School community, and deepening relationships with students, staff and parents.

## Bidding a Fond Farewell to Ms. Hittel

Ms. Hittel retired a few short weeks ago and School Council was honoured to join RDL teachers and administration to bid her a fond farewell.

Ms. Hittel taught for over 3 decades, masterfully helping her students navigate elementary school life at Red Deer Lake. We were honoured to have her as a Dragon for so many years and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours!



Ms. Hittel's Retirement Swag



Steph McGill + Debbie McGuinness presenting Ms. Hittel a painting from Annie Froese

# RED DEER LAKE SCHOOL COUNCIL SPENDING REPORT

THE MAIN SOURCE OF FUNDRAISING FOR THE RED DEER LAKE SCHOOL COUNCIL IS THE PARTICIPATION IN A CASINO FUNDRAISER AND THE HOT LUNCH PROGRAM. BOTH OF THESE INITIATIVES REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

## 2021-22



**\$11,500**  
CHROMEBOOKS  
+ CART



**\$10,000**  
CTF  
COMPUTERS



**\$500**  
BOOKS FOR  
GRADE 1



**\$89,000**  
INCLUSIVE  
PLAYGROUND

WINTER WALK HOT CHOCOLATE: \$154  
TEACHER APPRECIATION: \$602

WELCOME BBQ: \$1,233  
MS. HITTEL RETIREMENT GIFT: \$400

CLUBS ALLOCATION: \$262  
GAMES CLUB GAMES: \$87

CLEANING STAFF, VOLUNTEER +  
BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION: \$375

## 2020-21



**\$471**  
BOOKS FOR  
CLASSROOMS



**\$132**  
TEACHER  
ALLOCATIONS



**\$75**  
LUNCH SUPPORT  
+ AGM AD



**\$332**  
WELCOME BACK  
COFFEE + TEACHERS'  
BREAKFAST



**\$262**  
ROSE GARDEN  
CLEAN UP

## 2019-20



**\$4,500**  
ARTIST IN  
RESIDENCE



**\$500**  
SPORTS



**\$232**  
LUNCH SUPPORT



**\$397**  
SCHOOL REACH



**\$200**  
WOODWORK  
FOR FENCING

BE BRAVE: \$612  
HOT CHOCOLATE FOR WINTER WALK: \$81  
TEACHER APPRECIATION: \$382  
CABINET FOR BAND ROOM: \$577

FRIDGE REPAIR: \$500  
AWARDS: \$750  
LEARNING COMMONS: \$1,000  
CLASSROOM BOOKS: \$142

TEACHER ALLOCATIONS FOR CLASSROOMS \$2,150  
SCHOOL ADMIN (THANK YOU GIFTS): \$459  
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: \$500

## 2018-19



**\$17,755**  
CHROME BOOKS  
FOR CLASSROOMS



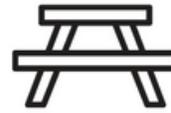
**\$4,598**  
NEW BLOXELS  
CLUB TABLETS



**\$2,133**  
CLASSROOM  
EXERCISE BIKES



**\$976**  
PODCASTER



**\$180**  
PICNIC TABLES

**\$254**  
PRINTER INK  
FOR 3D PRINTER



**\$1,177**  
TEACHER  
APPRECIATION



BAND: \$500  
LEARNING COMMONS: \$1,000  
SPORTS: \$500  
FINE ARTS: \$202  
SCHOOL REACH CLUB: \$417



**\$9,667**  
VIDEO WALL  
MAINTENANCE



**\$3,144**  
BOOKS FOR  
CLASSROOMS



**\$750**  
AWARDS

FLEXMIKE: \$1,838  
SCOREBOARD: \$549  
INSTRUCTIONAL CALCULATOR: \$243  
HEART MATH SENSOR: \$243  
MATH/SCIENCE MATERIALS: \$300  
SUMBLOX: \$447  
RACK FOR LOST AND FOUND: \$181

PRIVACY BOARDS: \$609  
PEER SUPPORT: \$302  
BAND: \$500  
LEARNING COMMONS: \$1,000  
SPORTS: \$500  
FINE ARTS: \$202  
SCHOOL REACH CLUB: \$417

TEACHER ALLOCATIONS: \$2561  
WELCOME BACK COFFEE: \$48  
GRILLED CHEESE AWARD/PARTY: \$87  
HOT CHOCOLATE FOR WINTER WALK: \$93  
ADMIN/PROMO: \$79  
ASCA CONFERENCE: \$272  
GRADE 6 BE BRAVE TRIP: \$660

CHAIRS: \$162  
POTTERY SHELVES: \$149  
BAND STANDS: \$1,711  
GRAD DINNER: \$500  
LUNCH SUPPORT: \$286  
SCHOOL ADMIN: \$640  
RETIREMENT GIFT: \$205



# WHY VOLUNTEER WITH RDL SCHOOL COUNCIL

## Gets You Involved



Volunteering with the Red Deer Lake School Council keeps you informed and at the forefront of many of the decisions that impact students. School Council helps to raise funds which go toward physical education equipment, special awards, computers, books, the new inclusive playground and more. Use your voice to help determine how those funds are allocated.

## Benefits Students + Parents

When there are more opinions, feedback and input, everyone at Red Deer Lake School benefits. Research has shown that parental involvement includes numerous benefits such as:

- Improved student achievement
- More positive attitudes about school
- More success with homework
- Higher rates of high school graduation
- More consistent school attendance
- Fewer behaviour problems
- A brighter future for students at school and later in life\*



## Builds Your Community



Strong parental engagement is one of the pillars of a positive school experience. There are many ways to volunteer including participation at the School Council meetings, taking on a specific volunteer role, helping with the School Casino, Hot Lunch, Precision Reading, Special Events and more.

Whether you have an hour to give, or more, we'd be so happy to have you join us!

### We have an immediate need for Casino volunteers

(July 4 + 5, 2022) + vacancies for the President, Vice-President, Secretary + Treasurer roles for 2022-23.

Email us at [rdlcouncilpresident@gmail.com](mailto:rdlcouncilpresident@gmail.com)

for more information / if you can help.

Find us on Instagram, Facebook + Twitter

**@RDLCouncil**

Scan to sign up for volunteer opportunities + more!



SCAN ME

