

## Message from Administration

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December, 2016



# Spitzee Elementary

November has flown by and Christmas is right around the corner. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the wonderful things that have happened here at Spitzee over the course of the last month. First off we would like to extend our warmest thanks to Mrs. Koberinski, Mrs. Misura and Mrs. Scheller for their extensive and thoughtful work on our Remembrance Day Ceremony. We would also like to thank all of our students and families for taking part in such an important day. Spitzee is a community school and it was never more clear than on that day.

November also saw our first reporting period come to a close as learner profiles went home with each of our students. The staff of Spitzee School have worked incredibly hard to ensure that student progress is clearly and accurately reported to parents and caregivers. Learner Profiles are not only meant for informational purposes but they are intended to act as a means for home and school to support student learning together. With this in mind we would also like to thank parents, caregivers and teachers for their time and energy during parent teacher interviews last week. Again these conversations are vital both in celebrating learning and in allowing families and teachers support our students.

Looking ahead, December is a time for our school to give something back not just to our local community, but to people both near and far as well. Our staff, students and families have spent time collecting and combining items for our operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes as well as creating Christmas decoration for a school in need in Fort McMurray. Thank all involved for their kindness and generosity. As a way of celebrating the holiday season at the school level we would like to invite all to our Christmas concerts to be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 15. Please see the calendar or our website to find the date and time that your child will be performing.

December is a unique and exciting month in a school. Though we continue our unfaltering focus on teaching and learning we take time to reflect that no true learning can happen without family, friendship and community. Wishing you all the best this holiday season,

Brooke MacNeill and Chase Ellis

# DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Hot lunch ordering for January open	2	3
4	5	6 Junior Kindergarten Concert 6:00pm	7	8 Kindergarten Concert 6:30pm Grade 1 Concert 7:15	9 System Learning Day NO SCHOOL	10
11	12	13 4/5Z, 4/5R, 4/5B, 2/3C, 2/3LM, 2/3K 7PM	14	15 4/5E, 4/5A, 4/5O, 2/3S, 2/3 KAV. 2/3GC, 2/3M 7:00PM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Early Dismissal for holidays 12:10pm Assembly 10:45	24
25	26	27	28 Last day for Hot Lunch Orders	29	30	31

**NO SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**BACK TO SCHOOL JANUARY 9TH**

# Junior Kindergarten Christmas Concert

Our Junior Kindergarten (preschool) Christmas concert will be held on  
**Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00pm.**

Admission is a non-perishable food item for those who are able.

## Cookies Needed!

If you would like to do some baking for our Spitzee School Christmas Concerts please let us know. Each concert night we provide a table of treats for all to enjoy before the show.

All baking **must be nut free** and can be dropped at the office the day of the concert.

Thank you for your help

## *Christmas Concert Dates*

*Tuesday December 6—Junior Kindergarten Concert  
6:00pm*

*Thursday December 8—Kindergarten/ Grade 1 Concert  
Kindergartens perform at 6:30pm  
Grade 1's perform @7:15pm*

## THE MUSICAL "I NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS VACATION"

Tuesday, December 13 —4/5Z, 4/5R, 4/5B, 2/3C, 2/3LM, 2/3K  
7:00pm –8:00pm

PRE SHOW PERFORMANCE 2/3 Jazz Dance and 4/5 Choir

Thursday December 15—4/5E, 4/5A, 4/5O, 2/3S, 2/3 Kav.  
2/3GC, 2/3M  
7:00pm –8:00pm



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT PLAN 2016

**Thursday, December 8**

### **Kindergarten**

1. Kindergarten students go to classroom at 6:00. **Enter through main doors.**
2. Kindergarten Parents go to gym
3. Kindergarten classes called down to gym at 6:20
4. Kindergarten **concert begins at 6:30**
5. Parents pick kids up in classroom at 7:00 PM and **exit out kindergarten doors.** Visiting will happen in the gathering area.

### **Grade One**

1. 7:00 Grade one Parents and students enter **through East entrance door** just east of 1S (Flagpole door) which is lit up with Christmas lights
2. Grade one students dropped at classrooms at 7:00.
3. Parents remain in classrooms with students or may lineup in east end hallway. There is no access to the gym until 7:10. Table placed just past 1S in hallway blocking access to gym as kindergarten parent's clear gym.
4. 7:10 Parents invited to the gym
5. 7:15 Grade one classes called to the gym.
6. Parents pick up students from classroom following concert.

**Tuesday, December 13**

**2/3 King 2/3 Kavanagh 2/3 Livesey Moore 4/5 Zazula 4/5 Read 4/5 Bulmer  
4/5 Choir and 2/3 Jazz Dancers in King, Kavanagh and Livesey Moore**

1. Students go to classrooms at 6:30. **Enter through main doors**
2. Choir and Jazz dancers come to the music room at 6:40
3. Parents settle in gym
4. Choir and dancers called to the gym at 6:50
5. 7:00 concert begins
6. Parents pick up students from classroom following concert.

**Thursday , Dec 15**

**2/3 Scheller 2/3 Calabrese 2/3 Chin 2/3 Mace 4/5 Egeland 4/5 Andrews 4/5 Olmsted and Jazz dancers in 2/3 Chin Calabrese  
Mace and Scheller**

1. Students go to classrooms at 6:30. **Enter through main doors**
2. Parents settle in gym
3. Classes called to the gym at 6:50
4. 7:00 concert begins
5. Parents pick up students from classroom following concert.

### **Grade 4/5 Choir**

Our Grade 4/5 choir will be singing at our Christmas concert on Tuesday, Dec 13 at 7:00 PM. They are singing two songs and will be finished by 7:15 PM . Students in 4/5 Zazula 4/5 Bulmer and 4/5 Read will stay to perform their class concert. Other 4/5 students are free to leave following the choir performance. The choir will not be singing on Thursday, Dec. 16.

We hope your child is able to join us, and yet we understand that it is a busy time of year. If you cannot attend on Tuesday night, please know you are welcome to come to the dress rehearsal Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 to hear your child sing.

We ask our choir students to wear a Christmas hat for the performance

If you have any question please feel free to contact Mrs.Misura.

[misuram@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:misuram@fsd38.ab.ca)

## Hot Lunch Ordering

**Hot lunch orders for January open on December 1 and the final day to order will be Wednesday December 28.**

Mrs. King and the Lego club would like to thank everyone who donated Lego! It is greatly appreciated.



The kindergarten classes will be going to the hospital for a fieldtrip on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. They will start their tour on the second floor where they will perform a short version of their Christmas concert for the residents.



### Thank you

Thank you to all the parents who brought food in for the Teachers pot luck during parent teacher interviews. It was truly a feast and enjoyed by all. A big thank you to the Purdy's fundraiser volunteers for all their hard work on this very successful fundraiser.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

From time to time I am asked about Christmas gift ideas for teachers and staff. Your best wishes are most appreciated. Another idea is a donation to a local charity or organization such as the High River Foodbank, High River Hospital, library or Immigration Society. Thank you for supporting our local charities at this busy time of year.



## PARKING

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking. Please be careful **NOT** block their driveways.



## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thanks to all families who completed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Boxes have been delivered. We are grateful for your giving spirit!



## Spitzee School Council Corner

Did you know? On Tuesday, November 8th School Council held the third meeting this year! That leaves six more meetings in the coming new year 2017. At this November meet we had the pleasure of having John Bailey, Superintendent of Foothills School Division join our discussions of our coming Christmas concert preparation organized by Maureen Masura, our music teacher and Barb Kellock, our School Liaison who discussed the available programs on social and emotional learning. Again a fun filled night of informative discussions.

And a reminder to all Parents that you are welcome to join in on these monthly School Council discussions. Every meet brings new conversations and people. Please come to our next School Council meet on **Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30.**

The Council Fundraising Team just reported that we had a successful Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser that set a goal to raise \$5,000.00 and thanks to all the parents we did exactly that. This was our first Fundraiser of the year and we are happy to report that we will be able to purchase our reading program material needed for some of the classrooms. All orders were due November 18th and a reminder that "pick up" order date is set to be Thursday, December 8th. Thank you to all Parents and Students for your participation.

We received all the Hot lunch Surveys and want to say thank you to all Parents for taking the time with filling out the questionnaire. All responses will be taken into consideration as we continue the development of our Hot Lunch Program. Don't forget to mark on your calendars the online order cut off dates. These dates are emailed and posted in agendas as well as at the bulletin board at the front entrance of the school. Any questions or concerns please contact the School Council Team at [spitzeecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:spitzeecouncil@gmail.com)

Happy Holidays to everyone! May you Keep Calm and Sing a Christmas song.

Jamie-lea Tipton  
Spitzee School Council Chair



## Junior Kindergarten Registration

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 year will start on **Monday, January 9, 2017**. Junior Kindergarten students need to be four by the end of DECEMBER 2017 to be eligible to attend. Spitzee School offers high quality learning opportunities that allow each learner to explore, develop and celebrate his/her unique gifts and abilities. Registration forms can be picked up at the school office anytime. Please see Mrs. Perceval, Mrs. LeRoux or Mrs. Holm for a package or for additional information.

## Fort McMurray Christmas

Merry Christmas Fort McMurray! The students and staff of Spitzee School wanted to help the students and staff in Fort McMurray celebrate their Christmas season. We understand what it feels like to lose things that are special and important to us. We also know what it feels like to have others care for us and do nice things to help us feel better. We are paying it forward by making Christmas ornament kits to be put together as well as ornaments to hang on their trees. It is an amazing feeling to do something kind for others. Happy Holidays to everyone!

We focused on Beacon Hill School which is being housed in Dr. Clark school as Beacon Hill School is the school that lost everything. Pre-made ornaments and ornament kits went up for both Beacon Hill and Dr. Clark schools as a sign of hope and support. We would like to thank a former Spitzee student and his employer who generously donated the cost of shipping the ornament boxes to Fort McMurray.

Thanks

The Spitzee Ornament Staff



## Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school or late due to an appointment, could you please leave a message on the main office voicemail at 403-652-2376. This is the most efficient way for us to receive this important information.

If your student rides the bus and will not be riding please let the transportation department know at 403-652-6547



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## **Healthy Tips and Treats for the Holiday Season**

*Carolyn Frail, PHEc, BASc Food and Nutrition*

### **Healthy Tips**

The holiday season is upon us! Amidst the festivities, parents are faced with the challenge of trying to keep up with their children's healthy eating habits, while still indulging in the delicious foods that the holiday season has to offer. Many store-bought kid-friendly holiday treats are loaded with fat and sugar. However, here are some easy tips to keep your holiday treats healthy:

- When baking cookies or other traditional baked goods, try experimenting with whole-wheat flour instead of white flour.
- Keep lots of cut up fruit and veggies on hand for easy grab and go snacking. Get your children involved with the shopping and ask them to choose at least one fruit and vegetable to try.
- If the kids are looking for something salty, try air popped popcorn. Adding your own toppings such as cinnamon means you can control how much salt and butter is added.

### **It's Party Time!**

It's that time of year when classrooms are having their holiday parties and parents are trying to figure out what to send to school with their children. Party snacks do not have to be unhealthy. You can make holiday snacks that are fun and festive, and that will still give kids the nourishment they need. There are so many holiday items you can create with healthy foods and your kids can be of great help by using their imagination to come up with creative ideas. Here are some suggestions to get you started:



- **Fruit and Veggie Christmas Tree:** Try creating a Christmas tree with vegetables like broccoli, cucumbers and cherry tomatoes, or with fruits such as grapes, strawberries, kiwi, star fruit and bananas. Children will have lots of fun eating the fruit and vegetables right off the tree!  
<http://www.breakfastforlearning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Grape-Christmas-Tree.pdf>
- **Rudolph the Red-nosed Muffin:** Use your favorite muffin recipe and decorate it like a reindeer or elf. <http://www.breakfastforlearning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Rudolph-the-Red-Nosed-Muffin.pdf>

Breakfast for Learning is a national charity committed to helping children across Canada realize their full potential by funding breakfast, lunch and snack programs. Check out Breakfast for Learning's Nutrition Corner for more Holiday Recipe ideas: <http://www.breakfastforlearning.ca/services-info/nutrition-corner/>

**HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!**