

# Message from Administration

February, 2020




Spitzee Elementary

February is here and being that it is the short month, this month's message from Admin will be short, as well.

We have kicked off Literacy Week with a program called One District, One Book (ODOB). Thanks to École Joe Clark School for bringing us to the table with this great initiative. Using grant monies, they have coordinated the ODOB with all of the High River schools including Senator Riley and Highwood High. What a great way to highlight literacy, while getting us to stop for a few minutes each night, settling down as a family and reading "A Boy Called Bat". It just feels right and for those families that struggle with reading or time to read, other supports are in place with our peer mentors from ESRMS and HHS to get reading done with the students. A special shout out to Lisa Siggelkow at Pixie Hollow for ordering up all the books for the families. If you are looking for the sequels to Bat, you can talk with Lisa or see Ms. Valgardson at our upcoming book fair. Also, don't forget that the closing assembly will be February 13<sup>th</sup> so plan to stop in and celebrate with us.

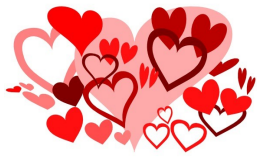
Bell's "Let's Talk" gets the spotlight for one day on January 29<sup>th</sup> but let's keep this going all year long. "Everyone has issues and you may not know what is going on in their lives . . . so just be KIND!" These words fit in well with our "Be the 'I' in Kind" campaign that we are running in the school. Check out the bulletin boards in our main hallway next time you are in the school.

"Kids Have Stress Too" is a program focused on building mental wellness and resiliency. École Joe Clark School will host this session to give parents strategies and tools to help your children deal with stress more effectively. Mark down February 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Check out more information in the newsletter regarding **Heart to Heart**  which happens again this year on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2 p.m. All of the funds raised (over \$2000 last year) go to our Unesco projects.

February 14<sup>th</sup> also is our 100<sup>th</sup> Day! Hard to believe that we are roughly half way through this year. We are looking forward to the rest of this 2020 school year. Don't forget that the following week, Feb 17 to 21, is the Family Week break for our students. What to do . . . what to do? Why don't you check out the "School's Out Day Camps" offered by Parks and Recreation – High River. Register today to ensure at spot – 403-652-4042.

*"Some of the most comforting words in the universe are 'me too.' That moment when you find out that your struggle is also someone else's struggle, that you're not alone, and that others have been down the same road." – Unknown*



# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Hot lunch ordering opens	
2	3	4 Basketball Game at Longview	5	6 Basketball game at Bob Snodgrass Rec Centre Vs Senator Riley—3:30	7	8	
9	10	11	12 School Council Meeting 6:30pm	13 A boy called bat assembly 11:30 Basketball Tournament Aldersyde Field house 12-5	14 Heart to Heart Market 1-2 	15	
16	17 Family Day NO School	18-22 Non Attendance Days For Students					22
23	24	25 Grade 3 Field Trip To Science Centre	26 Pink Shirt Day Emily Carr Small Wonders Presentation 2pm	27 Last day to order hot lunch	28	29	

## Children changing the world!

### HEART TO HEART MARKETPLACE

1:00pm to 2:00pm February 14, 2020

Spitzee School Children Changing the World!

Marketplace open 1:00pm—2:00pm

Draws in the gym from 2:15 - 2:30pm



#### How can you help ...

- We would appreciate new or promotional items to be donated to our silent auction. These can be dropped off in the office
- Help your child participate in bringing items for the class booth
- Bake
- Take the money that is normally spent on Valentines cards and give it to your child to spend at the Market Place
- Make a craft that can be sold
- Come and “shop”
- Bring friends and relatives to “shop”

### Heart to Heart Marketplace Auction Information

Once again Spitzee School is hosting the Heart-to-Heart Marketplace on the afternoon of February 14th, 2020

One of the many fundraiser activities is a silent auction and draw. Children are encouraged to bring an item that could be used for a draw or as part of the auction. The items could include promotional items from the companies you work for or with. They could be new or like new extra paraphernalia that are gathering dust at home. Baking can be a great draw for those with a sweet tooth. Just be sure to list the ingredients. It is best that they are quality items as that will attract the most interest. Obviously, we don't want this to be a financial burden, but remember the monies are going to great causes.

Thank you for being a part of a great event and we look forward to your participation.

### March Hot Lunch Information

March hot lunch will open on February 1st and close on February 27th Lunch menus include Picasso's Pizza (Mar 6st & 20th), ReFresh (Mar 12th), and Taco in a bag (Mar 27th) All orders must be placed and paid for by February 27st or your order will be canceled. Thank you for your continued support!



## Spitzee School Council News

February is a fun month at Spitzee. With Valentine's day celebrations & creating of all things red there is so much fun & love at Spitzee. Parent council was asked by admin if we could take over the bulletin board in the UNESCO hallway. We gladly jumped at the opportunity & have created an amazing KIND-ness display. Thanks to Kylie Siggelkow & friends for creating this amazing board. As a school & council we are encouraging kindness & recognizing kindness in our kids, staff & community.

Be the reason someone smiles today! If you notice your child or another child being kind, either at home, school or community please come in & write it up on a sticky note & place in on the kindness bulletin board. We hope to fill this board with sticky notes & fill our kids up with kindness. This theme fit in perfectly with our presentation at our Jan meeting. Those in attendance heard from Sheldon Meehan with the Minds-up team on a pilot project that Spitzee & Blackie are running. The PATHS program is researched based curriculum program that gives our kids the skills to become better socially-emotional balanced. The program goals are to:

1. Build caring classrooms & self esteem,
2. Teach emotions & creating emotional safe schools,
3. Teaching & supporting self regulation.

Please watch for exciting material coming home about this program & for a parent info night coming soon. In an effort to connect with more of our parents, staff will be connecting with us via technology with updates on the program & it's roll out. We may see some Vlogging, instagramming, & video messages. How exciting !! The success of this program needs parental involvement. Stay tuned on how this will look.

Parent council will once again have a table at the Heart to Heart market selling candy bags etc. Please stop by our table to say hi & see how you can get involved in council. Candy grams are once again another fun council project. Send your kids & friends kids a sweet treat to let them know you love them & appreciate them. Money raised is going to support our many awesome school programs.

Council is looking for a parent who may be interested in helping out with our hot lunch program. We are looking for a 1 or 2 parents to be our new coordinators. For more info please email our Chair, Ila Nagus @ [Spitzeeschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Spitzeeschoolcouncil@gmail.com).

We have started a new fundraising team & are always looking for new ideas & any involvement you can give. If your wondering if this is for you then stay tuned for our next meeting. As always follow us on Facebook & Instagram for updates & reminders.

**Hope to see you at our next meeting, Feb.12 @6:30pm .**



**Coming soon!!**

**We will be doing a Perogie and Sausage Fundraiser in February so watch your agendas for more information coming home after the February break!**



The Alberta Provincial Budget is impacting K-12 education in significant ways. Foothills School Division (FSD) has been working diligently to adapt to our new funding reality while maintaining high quality teaching and learning throughout the Division. We are experiencing challenging times as we continue to plan for current and future school years.

We are committed to minimizing disruption and impact on the classroom. We must also be prudent in our spending and be the best stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Board of Trustees passed the Fall Budget Update at the December 11, 2019 Board Meeting to help offset current budgetary challenges and [approved several immediate actions](#).

We have now turned our attention to preparing for the 2020-2021 school year budget. Last month we invited all staff to provide input on possible budget solutions. You can see the [review the themes generated in this staff consultation](#) as well as the responses we provided to provide additional context. As an Executive Team, we have considered every recommendation.

Alberta Education is also undertaking a review of the current funding framework. As a result, school jurisdictions across the province are taking a cautious approach and anticipating further budgetary changes and possible efficiencies for future years. We expect continued challenges as we move towards a Provincially mandated balanced budget and adapt to a new funding framework.

We commit to engaging with you, as parents/guardians through this process. We have launched an [assurance engagement plan](#) to gather stakeholder input into our 2020-2021 Budget and Education Plan.

Please take a moment to [participate in our Thought Exchange](#). This opportunity is open to all students, parents/guardians, staff, and members of the community. Your input will help establish Foothills School Division funding and 3-year Education Plan priorities. Please note that this consultation will close on 28 February, 2020.

As you participate it is important to understand:

- Your thoughts will be shared exactly as you enter them
  - Your thoughts and ratings will be seen by other participants and will be made public
  - You do not need to sign up to participate and your thoughts and ratings are kept anonymous
- We promise to keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge your concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how input influenced our decisions. We remain dedicated to achieving our Education Plan goals with a focus on continuing to deliver high quality teaching and learning for each learner in all our schools.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Fuzessy, Superintendent of Schools

## Kindergarten Registration

Parents of prospective Kindergarten students are invited to register their child now for the 2020-2021 school year. Our school division offers high quality learning opportunities that allow each learner to explore, develop and celebrate his/her unique gifts and abilities. **Kindergarten students need to be five by the end of DECEMBER, 2020 to be eligible to attend.** Visit [this link to register online](#). **This link is also available on the Spitzee webpage under kindergarten registration information.** Please call 652-2376 or stop in at the school office anytime and see Mrs. Perceval or Mrs. LeRoux with any questions you might have.

## Junior Kindergarten Open House

There will be an open house for Junior kindergarten on Wednesday March 18 at 6:30pm. Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 year is now open. Junior Kindergarten students need to be four by the end of DECEMBER 2020 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 from January 7th on. Please see Mrs. LeRoux or Mrs. Perceval at the office for a package or for additional information.

## Accountability Pillar Surveys

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey.

- In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey in the mail from Alberta Education.
- In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. Starting this year, families have the option to complete the English or French survey either online or on paper. The parent survey is also available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Once we receive our results, they are studied at the school and division level. Each school uses the results as they review their school plans for the current year and develop their new school plans for the following year. At the division level, the results are also used to assess how well we have met our goals and what areas we may need to focus on more intently.

The Division's Accountability Pillar is included in its [Annual Education Results Report](#), along with [a summary](#) of information on how the Division is meeting the goals set out for it by Alberta Education and the priorities it has set at the Division level. The Accountability Pillar is also used to develop the Division's Three-Year Education Plan which details the strategies the Division will continue to use and the ones it plans to introduce to continue to improve in all areas measured by the pillar as well as the priority areas it has established.

Details about the surveys, the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available on the [Alberta Education](#) website.



# Catch the Reading Wave Scholastic Book Fair

Once again we are very pleased to have the Scholastic Book Fair at our school and it will be held in conjunction with our Parent/Teacher conferences. The Book Fair will run from Monday **March 23 from 9:00– 3:30pm** and on **Tuesday , March 24th from 9:00 - 3:30 pm** **Wednesday, March 25 from 9:00 AM - 7:45 pm** and **Thursday ,March 26 from 9:00 am - 5:45 pm**. There will be a large selection of books available so please mark the dates on your calendar. Children and teachers will be given previews and “wish lists” which we fill out once again. There will also be Classroom wish lists for you to be able to purchase books for your child’s teacher if you choose. See you there! If you are able to volunteer some time to help Miss. Valgardson out please call or email her at [valgardsonm@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:valgardsonm@fsd38.ab.ca)



## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences provide wonderful opportunities to strengthen communication between home and school. Parents and teachers can exchange information, celebrate successes and raise issues of concern. Parent/teacher conferences will be on **Wednesday, March 25th from 3:30 - 8:00pm** and **Thursday, March 26th from 3:30 - 6:00 pm**. **Online booking will open at 9:00am on Monday March 2nd, 2020**

## Free Children's Concert: Peter and the Wolf. Saturday, February 8 at 1 pm

The High River Gift of Music Society presents a free children’s concert featuring Prokofiev’s musical fairy tale for children, Peter and the Wolf, with the extraordinary WindSync Wind Quintet on Saturday, February 8, 2 pm at the High River United Church. This is a perfect way to introduce children to classical music as each character in Peter’s world is voiced by a different instrument in an enchanting exploration of sound and imagination. Children under 18 years: Free. (Children must be accompanied by an adult).

Information and reservations: [www.highrivergiftofmusic.com](http://www.highrivergiftofmusic.com)

## IMPORTANT FOR BUSSING STUDENTS

If your child is **NOT** going to be on the bus either in the morning or after school you **MUST** contact transportation and let them know at  
403-652-6547



# Spitzee School Council

Will be selling  
Candy Grams for  
Valentines Day!  
\$.50 each

Feb 4 & 5 @  
lunch hour by  
the office

Also we will have a  
table of goodies for  
sale at the Heart to  
Heart Market!

Friday February 14th  
The Heart to Heart  
Market