



Parkland Village School — December 2020
<http://parklandvillage.psd70.ab.ca/>

Good day caregivers ... It is December! This is a short month we only have 14 school days. Just a reminder that our children are outside for recesses until it is - 23 degrees Celsius with a wind-chill, so you must dress them for the weather. Mitts, hats, boots and scarves are essential. As perfectly stated by Richard Louv (2012) “The more high-tech our lives become, the more nature we need to achieve natural balance”.

Unfortunately we will not be able to have a Family Fun Night this year, as has been the tradition at Parkland Village School. It is our hope that next year we will see a return to larger gatherings.

Please remember to send snacks as our Nutrition Nook is often empty by the last day of the week. The break begins at the end of the day on Friday, December 18th. We return to school on Monday, January 4th and students begin Virtual Learning from home, then students physically return to school on Monday, January 11th. As a staff we would like to extend to all of you a Merry Christmas and hope that you all find time to spend together relaxing and celebrating as family.

Archie Lillico

REPORT CARD REMINDER

Your Child’s Report Card Will Be Online In Your Parent Portal at the end of the day - December 3rd, 2020

You will find your child’s report card online in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To access the website please go to: <http://www.psd70.ab.ca/PowerSchool.php> and sign into your account with your username and password. Click on the “Report Card” icon. If you can’t access the report and absolutely need a hard copy, please contact the office.

There are **NO** interviews following this report card but if you have any questions regarding your child’s progress, please contact your child’s teacher. If you have any general questions or feedback about the report card, please contact your classroom teacher or Mr. Lillico at 780-962-8121.

ALL LIBRARY BOOKS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

Donations for Our School Community Giving Tree

*In the spirit of the holidays our Giving Tree will be up in the school foyer **December 1st -December 14th**. We are seeking donations of new or homemade toques, warm mitts, socks and scarves for boys and girls. We will also be collecting hygiene products (toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.) which will be sent to a women’s shelter.*



Christmas Food Hampers

Classrooms will be collecting non-perishable goods for our school community Christmas Hampers. Items urgently needed are: peanut butter, pasta sauce, pasta and juice. Canned goods, canned tuna, dried goods, crackers, sugar, tea/coffee, rice, toys, etc. We will also accept Grocery Gift Cards. All items will be gratefully accepted. All food items must be in on or before December 14th, 2020. Please do not send expired goods, check the date. Thank you for your contribution to our school and community.

How to Talk About Report Cards With Your Child?

Written by Cassie (Teach Starter) Last updated Jul 2nd, 2018

As a parent or caregiver, we can spend a significant amount of time (over?!) thinking the best way to talk to our kids about their report cards. Whether you have one child in the early stages of formal schooling or siblings across multiple grades, report cards are a great way to start a conversation about their learning. So, what is the best way to talk about report cards?

1. Take Time One-on-One

Find a quiet time and place to sit one on one with your child to talk to them about their report card. Give them your undivided attention, without interruptions. Try to set aside enough time to have a relaxed discussion.

This can be challenging when you have more than one child to speak with, however, it is even more important if your children tend to try and compare their own report with their siblings.

2. Focus on Effort Over Grades

Our report card provides a grade for academic achievement.

Sometimes within the teacher's comment, the amount of effort may be mentioned, it will help you to understand your child's attitude towards learning. It is the aspect of their schooling that they have the most direct control over.

Focusing on effort over achievement isn't going to reduce your child's motivation to work hard. Rewarding effort is especially important for kids who 'struggle' academically. If your child is focused on trying their best and feels that their efforts are seen and valued, they are going to be much more resilient learners. Resilient learners enjoy learning, continue to challenge themselves and are more comfortable making mistakes. These are extremely valuable life-long 'soft-skills'.

3. Address Comparison

Help your child understand that everyone is different. Everyone excels (and struggles) in different areas. Try to avoid comparisons between their report card and their siblings' or classmates' reports. Instead, focus on where they have tried their best, as well as the learning areas in which they achieved well or made a great improvement in.

Make it clear between siblings that comparison is pointless because they have each been graded on completely different outcomes!

4. Consider Setting an Individual Learning Goal

There's a huge amount of value in taking time to sit with your child, reflect upon their current report card and then set an individual learning goal for the next term or semester.

If child's report identifies an area of challenge, whether academic or social, to improve in this area could become a learning goal. If your child absolutely adores a certain subject area, perhaps they would like to focus on improving their effort or achievement in that area.

You may like to compare your child's current report card to their previous one, to help them see their progress. This is one type of report card comparison that is helpful! Identify any areas of continued struggle and discuss why your child may still be falling short of their goals. Praise improvements made and their areas of growth.

5. Make a Plan

Out of your discussion, both you and your child may have identified areas that need some attention. Or you may have set a learning goal for the next term. With your child, decide on actionable steps they can take to address any concerns and/or progress towards their learning goal.

Such steps may include asking to meet with their teacher for suggestions of ways to meet challenges or setting a weekly goal for a little extra study or revision with your help.

Your child's report card provides you with a great reason to start a conversation with your child about school.

While the five tips above are important, above all else give your child time to share their own thoughts and feelings about school, about what they are learning, about how they feel in their classroom and about their relationships with their teachers and friends!

December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Grade 3 and 4's Library Day	1	2 Hot Lunch	3 Report Cards Downloaded to the Parent Portals	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 <u>ALL LIBRARY BOOKS</u> are to be handed into the library ASAP. Winter Fundraiser Delivery	11	12
13	14 Deadline for food hamper items and the Giving Tree donations. THANK YOU.	15	16	17	18 Last Day before holidays.	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		CHRISTMAS BREAK				
		First day back after the holiday's is January 4th, 2021				
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2

We would like to "THANK" Mrs. Milne for coordinating the Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony in honour of our Veterans and Serving Military.

They enjoyed receiving and reading the letters from our children..



Kyle who we sent the letters to. ----->



Ms. Nixon's Grade 3 Class made a beautiful Remembrance Day mural with hand wreaths. They wrote poems, and drew and coloured pictures about the war.



Mrs. Blanchet's Grade 1/2's drew and coloured their garden of Poppies.

Ms. Lynds Grade 1's did a beautiful job of colouring their poppies set in stained glass. They also coloured poppies for their crosses in honour of Remembrance Day.



Ms. Lynds Grade 1's did a very impressive job of drawing a black cat sitting on a pumpkin for Halloween.

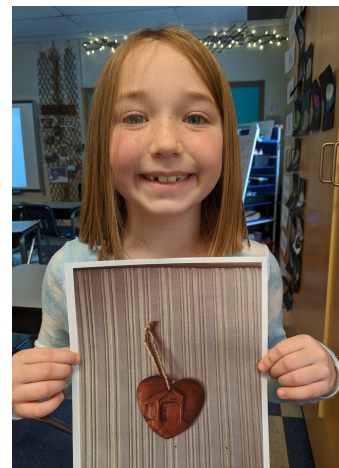
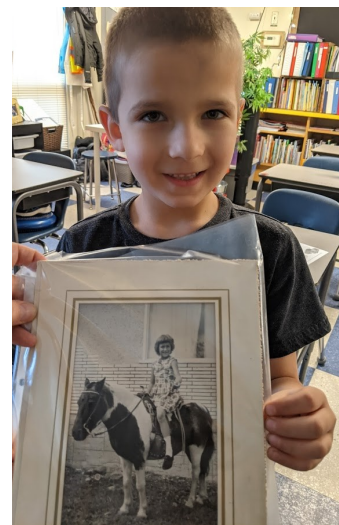
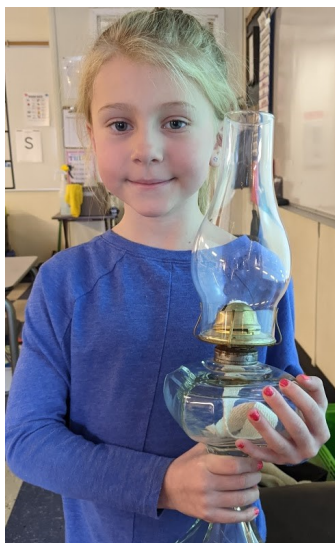
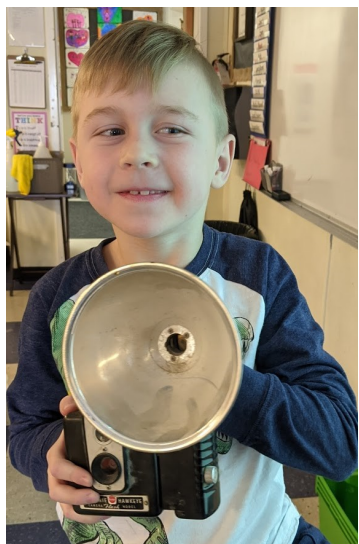


Mrs. Blanchet's Grade 1/2's had their black cat with their bright yellow eyes hiding around corners and behind a fence for Halloween.

Each child also created their own Monster.

Grade 2 Sharing Artifacts

In Social Studies, Mrs. Lee's class are learning about Stories of the Past. Students were asked to invite a family member or friend to share a story from long ago. They were also asked to share an artifact to go with their story (i.e., a photo, actual object or model). Below are some of the items we shared with our friends.



27 Unique Christmas Traditions to Start With Your Family This Year

By *Brigitt Earley* Aug 18, 2020

There's a reason the holiday season tends to evoke such warm and fuzzy feelings. It's one of the few times during the year where we put pause on the hustle and bustle of the always-on digital world we live in and gather together with family to partake in time-honored Christmas traditions. Some opt to spend Christmas watching Hallmark movies, whereas others bake family recipes while playing festive tunes. But, if you're looking for a new Christmas tradition to add to your itinerary, there are countless ide-

as from all around the world to turn to. Though many of the oldest Christmas traditions from countries like France, Germany, and England are still prevalent today (caroling and markets, for example), there's also an abundance of fun modern options (like wearing matching pajamas and doing a cookie swap with pals) to look forward to every year.

No matter how your family chooses to celebrate, these little rituals add an element of intimacy that's part of what makes Christmas Eve and Christmas day so special for so many. These sweet and unique ideas are sure to leave you with fond memories.

One of the most touching ways to mark the passing years is to have a custom ornament made each holiday season. Whether you've moved or sent your first child to kindergarten, you'll be flooded with memories each time you pull that trinket out of storage to hang it with care.

Tap into that holiday buzz by ticking off each passing day, counting down to the main event. It's an old Christmas tradition the kids especially love, but more modern versions—like wine and beauty advent calendars—appeal to adults, too.

Once you've selected the perfect fir, reserve the afternoon to decorate as a family. Though you probably have a selection of string lights and baubles at your disposal, this tradition originated in Germany, where revelers adorned their trees with red apples and later strings of popcorn, candles, white candy canes, cookies, and dolls, according to *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas* by Ace Collins. To infuse a little personality into the tradition, give each family member a mini tree for their bedroom and task them with decorating it in a singular theme that speaks to their personality.

While this quirky custom, sometimes called *Weihnachtsgurke*, supposedly has German origins, it's more likely an American Midwest tradition, according to *The New York Times*. What's the significance of this ornament? Traditionalists say the first child to find the pickle Christmas ornament gets the first present, an extra present, or the job of handing out the presents, plus good fortune for the year.

To the dismay of parents everywhere, this modern Christmas tradition has taken on like wildfire. Though undeniably fun for the kids, it's a bit of work for the parents, who are encouraged to come up with creative ways to stage their family's elf each night. The upside? Your elf watches over the little one's behavior, reporting back to Santa, so he can craft his naughty and nice list.

All things considered, this sweet Christmas tradition is actually relatively modern, originating in the late 19th century, according to *TIME*. How exactly did children start penning letters and lists to Santa? Cartoonist Thomas Nast published some of the first visual representations of Saint Nick in *Harper's Weekly*, including an 1871 image of Santa Claus sorting mail at his desk. In the image, one pile is labeled "letters from naughty children's parents," while another reads "letters from good children's parents." While your kids will undoubtedly want to pen their own, encourage a little Christmas good will by *answering* a letter to Santa as a family and delivering a wished-for toy to a child in need.

Outdoor light displays first gained traction in the years following World War II, when greater production made them more affordable and accessible to the masses, according to *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*. Suddenly, there were illuminated Christmas displays both indoors and out, complete with lighted ornaments, bubble lights, and even lighted Santas. In some locales, these Christmas displays have really exploded. For a truly unique experience, see if you can find a local spot that's synced their lights with popular Christmas ballads.

Whether you DIY gifts, festoon garland, or assemble a Christmas village, hosting a family craft afternoon is one of the most fun ways to get into the spirit. Turn on some classic Christmas music, warm up a mug of hot chocolate, and get to work. To spread a little holiday cheer, hand deliver your handiwork to elderly neighbors who could use a little company.

This Christmas tradition first became popular in England around the middle of the 19th century, quickly spreading to the rest of Europe and then to the United States, according to *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*. At first these cards coupled seasonal illustrations with greetings, but today's modern take usually features family photos, too. If you're feeling inspired to get a little crafty, many nursing homes accept handmade cards to cheer up residents who may not have any family to celebrate with. Alternatively, you could do something similar for first responders, including doctors and nurses, police officers, and active duty military.

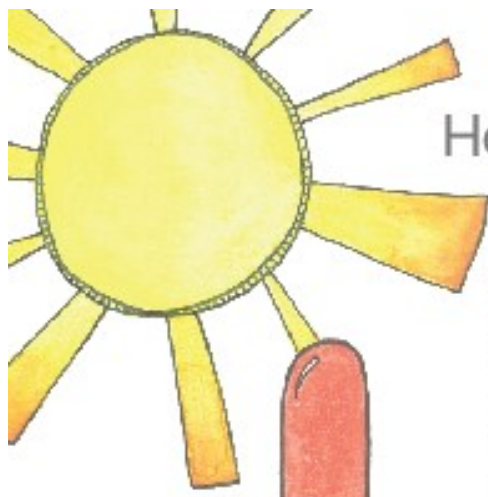
The night before Christmas, don identical jammies for an adorable family portrait.

Though one of the oldest Christmas traditions from Southern Italy, it remains a popular one on the tables of Italian-Americans today. The feast, also known as La Virgilian in some circles, occurs on Christmas Eve and is a grand meal, including—you guessed it—seven different types of seafood, ranging from shrimp and octopus to clams and cod.

Once presents have been torn through, gather the family together for one last holiday celebration—a special brunch. Menu options are boundless, from French toast, to lox and bagels, to egg casseroles. If you want to tap some other holiday traditions, take a nod from Australia and serve shrimp, or turn to ruby red pomegranate, which symbolizes abundance and life.

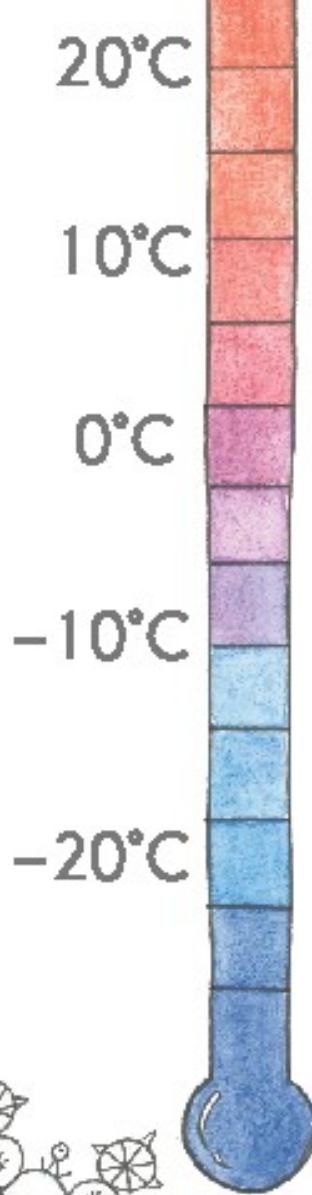
You and your Family can create your own special family traditions that give a warm and fuzzy memory every year, and can be passed onto future generations. Have a great holiday!





How to Dress for the Weather Guide

Outdoor play is a great way to support healthy growth and development. Opening the doors to outdoor play in all kinds of weather provides children and adults with opportunities to spark their curiosity, leading to wonder, exploration and learning. When children have the right clothing for the season it contributes to them having positive, rich outdoor play experiences that just can't happen indoors. Get outside, be curious, let children lead and have fun!



Supporting Outdoor Play Year Round



www.getoutsideandplay.ca



www.befitforlife.ca