



SWAN HILLS SCHOOL

Grizzly Pride

October 2020

CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH

HONESTY

Principal's
Message

Welcome back to school!

As we near the end of the first month back, we can reflect on the re-opening, what has changed, and what has stayed the same. Our goal is to provide the highest quality of education possible for our students, and we are doing so within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Swan Hills School is, like all other PHSD schools, following guidelines for Scenario 1 set forth by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. This has required us to make some programming and some physical changes within the school. Everyone entering the school is expected to wear a mask and to disinfect their hands. Visitors must be kept to a minimum, and all will follow the same safety procedures. Students are, as much as possible, taking lessons in the same classroom throughout the day, with teachers moving room-to-room. Because each of our Divisions are established as their own school-cohort, this change has been implemented to cut down the time lost to the disinfecting of desks, tables, chairs, and any shared items, between class changes, and not so much to keep students from mingling in the halls. To lessen the numbers of students in common areas at any one time, class times have been slightly staggered, and limits have been set for the number of people who may be in smaller areas at one time to encourage physical distancing. Extracurricular clubs have been affected due to AHS guidelines on sport cohorts. Players and coaches may be part of one sport cohort (school or other) only at a time, and should leave 14 days between finishing one sport and beginning the next. PHSD is looking at how we may be able to run district leagues that meet AHS guidelines.

On the educational side, classroom delivery is mostly back to normal, with students and teachers working together in each course. School staff is very pleased to have the kids back and, in spite of what they might say to the contrary, students have appeared very happy to be back in school with their peers, and to resume learning in the in-school setting. As we progress through the school year, watch for updates as to how we will present student awards and run goal-setting and parent-teacher meetings. Please continue screening your children (and yourselves) daily for COVID-19 symptoms, and know that, should your child be required to isolate until receiving negative test results, and/or until symptoms disappear, the regular classroom content is available in students' Google Classrooms. Note that the lessons and content in each course's Google Classroom is as close as possible to what is being provided in-school, and is not the abbreviated emergency-measures content provided during the spring school closure. Students required to isolate are expected to keep up with readings and assignments while away - but of course with consideration should they actually contract the COVID-19 virus. Thus far, we have not identified any cases, though we have had a small number of students and staff who have been required to isolate at home until receiving negative test results.

It will be an interesting year and a busy one. Be assured that SHS will be following AHS guidelines as well as ensuring students receive appropriate education each and every day.

"Together We Can; Together We Will"

PEMBINA HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recent News

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY DATES

Oct. 1	Terry Fox Run
Oct. 2	PD Day – No School
Oct. 9	Alternate Day – No School
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving – No School
Oct. 30	Alternate Day – No School

See all events
on our website [Calendar](#)

PRINCIPAL
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HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

On Sept 19th students and parents participated in The Highway Clean Up sponsored by The Government of Alberta. **56 participants** worked a combined 235 hours to clean a 40km stretch of road to the center of Alberta. The students who participated will have the money they earned deposited into their student bank accounts as soon as the payment is made. Thank you for your hard work to keep our community clean.



Alberta Highway
Cleanup
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020



This year, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope, Swan Hills School is participating in the Terry Fox Run on October 1st at 11:00am. Our goal is to raise \$1000.00 for cancer research. If we reach our goal, Mr. Sekulich has agreed to sing over morning announcements. In addition to collecting pledges, half of all proceeds from the school hot dog sale on Oct. 1 are being donated.

We are asking students to get pledges and donations or even just give \$1.00 to support cancer research. Students can collect donations in person or have their parents register them by going to terryfox.org and clicking on [Help your child create a fundraising page](#). Donations can also be given by visiting www.terryfox.org and going under Terry Fox School Run and choosing [Find a School/Donate to a School](#). We are counting on the support of our community to reach our fundraising goal this year.

Terry Fox is a symbol for Canadian perseverance, determination, and drive to help others. When Terry Fox began his run across Canada, all he asked for was \$1 from every Canadian. In the end, donations to his Marathon of Hope reached \$23.4 million! Please help us reach our goal and make a difference.

LIBRARY NEWS



The library is open...sort of. K-6 library classes have resumed, with students seated on chairs, distanced, rather than on the soft carpet, which has been removed. Students from grade four and up must keep their masks on while in the library to avoid cross-contamination between cohorts. There is no reading on cushions or even browsing the shelves.

A few students at a time can choose from a display of books preselected for each class, after which they return to their chairs to read or watch a story video until all the class members have had their turns. Books are returned to their classroom box and quarantined after their teacher returns them to the library.

Since browsing isn't possible, students from grades four and up have been or will soon be shown how to log in to the library online, where they'll be able to view their own account, see what they have checked out, browse the collection, and reserve books. Available reserved books will be given to the student at their library class, or, for grades 10 to 12 who don't have library classes, to their English teacher to pass on.

Instructions for accessing the library online have been added to the school website on the [library page](#). From there, students can view an instructional slideshow. There are also PDF versions of the instructions to download.

It's very different but so far our students have been cooperative and understanding and we've managed to have fun with it. Once it all becomes routine, we hope to be able to fit in a read-aloud or two.

CHROMEBOOK PURCHASE

We are excited to offer an opportunity for our students to purchase their own Chromebooks. Much of students' grades 4 – 12 course content will be accessed on Chromebooks and will be available through Google Classrooms, and many student textbooks can be accessed using the Chromebook. Chromebooks may be used from one year to the next, although they may need to be replaced once they are no longer under warranty. Chromebooks and other devices may be purchased through the school or at local stores, and Swan Hills School is able to offer a one-time subsidy of a Chromebook purchased through the school. Regularly priced, the Chromebook comes with a 1-year warranty, and would cost \$260.00 (approximate - cost may vary slightly), including GST and recycling fee. Through the SHS purchase program, the school will subsidize \$50.00 of this cost. Chromebooks purchased through the Swan Hills School purchase program would be eligible for technical updates provided by the district.

If interested, contact Swan Hills School to obtain a purchase agreement form. Chromebooks will be issued to students once the payment has been received and Chromebook orders have arrived. Forms can be returned to the office.



SHS SR. STUDENTS' UNION

2020 – 2021 Executive:

President – Nicholas Baker

Sr. Vice President – Eric McLean

Jr. Vice President – Amton Reeves

Secretary/Treasurer – Jacob Fleming

Sports & Events Coordinators – Brodie Hooey &
Owen MacDonald

Social Convenors – Blaize Lappin & Billy Lewis

Room Representatives:

Gr. 12- Joey and James

Gr. 11- Evan and Cameron

Gr. 10- Aden K. and Isabelle

Gr. 9- Rachel

Gr. 8- Jaila

Gr. 7- Tyren and Johnny

SHS SPORTS

With cohort restrictions in place, we are still able to participate in interscholastic sport competition. We have a Jr. High Girls volleyball team that will be competing in a small 3 team mini league as well as a Sr. High Girls volleyball team that is practicing twice a week. As the year goes on, we hope to have more sports teams available for our students.



The school will collect **large dead batteries** for recycling.

Money raised will be spent on program enhancements.

Thank you in advance for any donations you make

Swan Hills School
4707 Ravine Dr.

HEALTH NEWS



Here is a direct link to the Alberta Health website with info on novel coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>

Tidbits & Reminders

- ❖ **PLEASE call the office when your child is absent from school**
- ❖ Please be mindful of the school bus when you are out and about.
- ❖ Items on the bus **must fit in a backpack.**
- ❖ Please Do Not Enter the staff parking lot for the safety of the staff and students.
- ❖ **Please** do not leave your vehicle unattended in the **drop-off zone** in front of the school. You may be ticketed by the Bylaw Officer.



See all events on our website [Calendar](#)

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- ❖ Did you know that you can subscribe on our website at <https://www.swanhillsschool.ca/>