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## **From the Office**

Dear Parents and Students,

As I sit down to write this month's newsletter, I'm not sure that I even know where to begin. I think what I am feeling, and what many of us are feeling, can be summed up in the word "wow." Not with an exclamation mark, but with a period. Our world, whether student, parent, school staff, has literally been rocked. It is during challenging and difficult times like this that I am reminded and amazed at human beings and how resilient, how forgiving, how caring, we are. As we received the news of school closures across the world, my heart broke. Being part of the Park Meadows community has been such an integral part of my life for the past eight years and I knew big challenges were to come. However, I also knew the unbelievable community of people we have here at Park Meadows. And this is what I saw unfold before my eyes....

- I saw staff enter the building on Monday after learning of school closures with heavy hearts, knowing the changes that were to come. Our staff are perhaps *the* most caring group of individuals I have had the pleasure of knowing. Amongst the uncertainty and unknowns, it was the students and families that brought tears to their eyes. As teachers and support staff, we care about your students like they are our own. We light up upon seeing them each morning - giving them high fives and hugs. And above all else, we value the connection we have with them and the role we play in their lives - a safe place, a hub of learning not just for academics but life in general. We miss your children more than we can express.
- I saw students arrive at the front of the school bearing messages of love and care and kindness. Our front door and windows became plastered with these messages, filling our staff's buckets and also those of their friends.
- I saw parents rallying around teachers, around each other, and around their children to ensure everyone was safe and healthy and cared for.

This community is special. And precious. And held close to my heart.

Throughout the past weeks, our staff have worked feverishly to bring your child's learning into your homes to the very best of their ability. They have been making videos of lessons, recording themselves reading stories, writing letters, planning lessons, learning new technology within a few days time. The task of transitioning learning from the physical classroom to the virtual classroom was not an easy one but the team work and collaboration of all made it happen. Our students' learning is valued and our staff worked their hardest to make learning the best it could be.

So now, as we march on through April, I want to tell you this: We are here for you. We will support you the best that we possibly can. We are only a phone call away if you need us. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school if you need assistance navigating on-line learning or accessing community supports for food or mental health. We cannot thank you enough for the positive messages we have received, and the patience and grace you have shown us as we navigate these uncharted waters together. It means the world to us.

Finally, please stay safe and healthy. As a parent or grandparent or guardian, give yourself the same patience and grace and care you have shown us. Go for a walk. Read a good book. Take time for you when you can. Listen to great music. Watch a movie that will make you laugh so hard your sides hurt. Through the struggles that this virus brings upon us, find time to smile and laugh as that is what will get us all through.

Please give your child a hug from us at Park Meadows School and tell them that we miss them dearly. And please know that you are never far from our thoughts and our hearts. We hope to see you all again very soon.

- Mrs. Jackie Fletcher, on behalf of your Park Meadows Family



## Making Connections

Since 1996, Lethbridge School Division families have benefitted from Making Connections programming. Making Connections workers support vulnerable families in Lethbridge and connect them to a wide range of community resources. The professionals who have been a part of this team have demonstrated a commitment and dedication, and the services and care they demonstrate daily is truly excellent. Due to unforeseen provincial funding changes from our external agencies, the role of the Making Connections Workers has been divided into two different roles. In their place, eight new positions, with different mandates will be created.

To learn more, check out the [Division News Page here](#).

For a list of community agencies available to families needing financial support, you can look at the [Park Meadows Website here](#).

**If you are in need of any assistance as a result of Covid-19, please contact our school office at (403) 328-9965 or meadows@lethsd.ab.ca and we will gladly offer support to your family.**

### Green Shirt Day

If you ordered a Green Shirt to support Organ Donation and the Logan Boulet Effect, please contact the school office to arrange for pick-up.

We invite all of our families to wear green on April 7 and send a photo to [meadows@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:meadows@lethsd.ab.ca) so we can share a gallery on our website and social media. By sending us your photo, you consent to the images being shared online.

### Upcoming Events

- April 7—Green Shirt Day, send us your pictures!
- April 10-20—Spring Break, no online content provided.
- April 20—Staff PL Day, no online content provided.
- April 22—Earth Day
- April 24—Arbor Day
- April 28—Western Theme Day, send us your pictures!

### Microsites and Online Learning

- Find resources for your child's online education on our Microsites at <https://pm.lethsd.ab.ca/grade-team-websites>.
- If you having difficulty accessing these resources, please contact your child's teacher.

## Dance-athon School Council Update

We are delaying our Bunny Hop Dance-athon until this fall, when it will be a Monster Mash Dance-athon. If you have collected any cash donations so far, you can choose to return these funds to your donors, or you can deposit the cash donations to your bank account and then donate the funds electronically through [School Cash Online here to the Park Meadows Dance-athon](#). School Cash Online will only remain open for Dance-athon funds until April 30th and then we will close it. We will reopen School Cash Online for Dance-athon fundraising at a later date, most likely in the fall. Parents, please let your son/daughter know that they are not to collect any more funds for the Dance-athon for the remainder of this current school year. We will resume fundraising efforts during the upcoming new school year (2020-2021).—School Council Chair, Marylou Williams