



September 2018



From the Office

Hello Park Meadows School Community! From all of us here we welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. Your teachers, educational assistants, caretakers, and office & support staff have been hard at work the last week of August preparing learning activities, field trips, exciting writing projects, shiny clean hallways, and a safe and caring place for your children. There is a buzz of anticipation in the air. We are excited to meet all our students.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 4 at 8:20 for all Grade 1-5 students. Students in EEP and Kindergarten will have a staggered entry during the first week - as per the letter you received in the middle of August which indicates the appropriate first day for your son or daughter. Students Call the office if you have questions. We'd be happy to answer them as best as possible.

Your School Leaders (Jackie Fletcher, serves as Vice-Principal; Mark Blankenstyn, serves as Principal) want to welcome a number of new and returning staff to our building. Together, our mission at Park Meadows is to create a school where children, who are valued for their diversity, feel empowered to grow and influence their communities by taking care of themselves, others, and the world. We, as a staff, live out this mission in many tangible ways and engage your children in learning activities that guide them to develop life-long learning and life-long caring. We ask ourselves, our students, and our community the following questions: How are we caring for ourselves? How are we caring for others? How are we caring for this place? We challenge you to engage your child in these questions and get them thinking about creative answers.

-Mark Blankenstyn & Jackie Fletcher (your School Leaders).

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself" - John Dewey

Hot Lunches

Parent Council has a great line up of Hot Lunches for this coming year! First, we'll have M&M Meats grill up some hot dogs for \$6 per meal on September 26. Remember to order before September 15! All payments must be made through School Cash Online, as per our District Cashless Movement (page 4)

School Information

View our newsletter on our website to click on the hyperlinks below

- Introducing our new [School Councilor](#)
- Updated [School Hours](#)
- Reporting Absences - Page 3.

Parent Council Meeting—Tuesday, September 18, 2017 @ 6:30pm

Whether you're a new Park Meadows parent or a returning one, Park Meadows Parent Council welcomes you! We are looking forward to a fun and successful 2018-2019 school year and invite all parents to join us for our first meeting of the year on September 18 at 6:30 pm in the staff room (child care provided). If you're looking for a way to get involved with the school, we are an inclusive group of parents who are passionate about giving back to the school in a fun way. We always welcome new faces and fresh ideas and would love to have you join us!



Park Meadows Elementary School Calendar 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
2	3 Labour Day No School	4 First Day of School School Wide Assembly	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast Terry Fox Run <i>Bring a Toonie for Terry!</i> Hot Lunch Orders Due	15
16	17	18 Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm	19	20	21	22
23	24 Picture Day	25	26 Hot Lunch – M&M Meats	27	28 Orange Shirt Day – FNMI Every Child Matters Day (30 th)	29



Park Meadows School

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T: 403-328-9965 F: 403-328-9975
Email: meadows@lethsd.ab.ca

Website: pm.lethsd.ab.ca
Twitter: @ParkMeadowsSch
Facebook: /ParkMeadowsSchool
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September 4, 2018.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Park Meadows School, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. In 2016, we implemented a new system with our parent community called *SafeArrival*. It allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently. *SafeArrival* has been well received and was recently purchased by the company SchoolMessenger. It will now be re-released under SchoolMessenger with some improvements this fall.

In preparation for the move to this new release, we are asking for all of our parents to sign up for a new account on <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or the School Messenger app, even if you have previously used *SafeArrival*. Your old account will be deactivated. You must have an email address on file with Park Meadows School to use the website or the app. Please contact the office to update your information if necessary.

This new version is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time, even after the first school bell rings.

This automated notification system will continue to contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will continue to follow up. By reporting your child absent in advance using the SchoolMessenger toll free number or SchoolMessenger website/app, you will NOT receive a call.

We need your support in order to make this successful. We will start using our new absence reporting system on **September 4, 2018**. Starting today, parents with email addresses can log into the SchoolMessenger website/app as noted above to **Sign Up**. **As of September 4, 2018, all absence reporting should go through the *NEW* Parent Portal website or the Toll-Free number. Please do not** contact the school directly to report an absence.

Once you create a new account, you can report your child's absences by these three ways:

1. Use the **SchoolMessenger website**, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. Select Attendance to Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Select Attendance to Report an Absence
3. Using the existing toll-free number **1-866-879-1041**.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transition period to better ensure the safety of all our children.

Sincerely,

Mark Blankenstyn, Principal

SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, **Lethbridge School District No.51** would like to reduce the amount of cash & checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

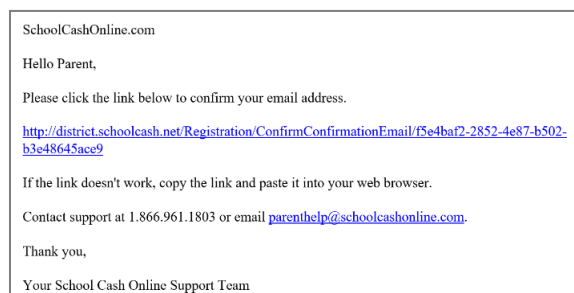
Step 1: Register

- a) If you have not registered, please go to the *School Cash Online* home page <https://lethbridge.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- b) Complete each of the three Registration Steps
*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and *School Cash Online* account. The confirmation link will open the *School Cash Online* site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- a) Enter the School Board Name.
- b) Enter the School Name.
- c) Enter Your Child's Student Number (this can be found on the report card)
- d) Enter Your Child's Last Name and Birth Date.
- e) Select *Continue*.
- f) On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*.
- g) Your child has been added to your account.

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575
Looking for a student in a different school board? [?](#)

School Name: [?](#)

Student Information

Do you have the student number?

Student Number:

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" and repeat the steps above. 8 children can be added to one parent account. If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.



Annual Volunteer Registration Form

Valid only for the current school year

In order to ensure the security and safety of our staff and students, all volunteers in our schools **need to be registered**. This form must be completed annually. The information collected on this form will be held in strict confidence.

A volunteer is:

Someone who assists schools and/or students either in curricular or extra-curricular activities including volunteer drivers and students volunteering outside their school.

Volunteers do not include:

- guest speakers
- presenters
- visitors to the school
- parents assisting their own children in the school
- school council members in their position as school council members
- Lethbridge School District #51 students volunteering in district schools

You must be 13 years or older to register as a volunteer.

PART A (Completed by all applicants)

Name of School or Department:		School Year:										
Your Name: (Last Name, First Name)												
If different from above, the name your Police Information Check (PIC) was registered under:		Date of birth: (YYYY/MM/DD)										
Mailing Address: (with Postal Code)												
Daytime Phone:	Evening Phone:	Cell Phone:										
<p>Do you have children or grandchildren registered in this school? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>If yes, please list by name and teacher or homeroom:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Name of Student:</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Teacher/Homeroom:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>			Name of Student:	Teacher/Homeroom:								
Name of Student:	Teacher/Homeroom:											
You may be asked to provide two references (Principal's discretion):												
Name of Reference:	Telephone Number:											

Part B: (complete if required: See * below)

The section below asks for information pertaining to Police Information and vulnerable sector checks. Please see * below regarding volunteer duties that require these checks. **If not applicable move to Part C.**

1. Have you ever been subject of an investigation or order under the *Child Welfare Act of Alberta* or equivalent legislation in any other province or country? (If you answer "Yes" to this question, you must submit a current Child Welfare Statement along with this form.) **No** **Yes**

2. Do you have a criminal record for which you have not received an official pardon? **No** **Yes**

Note: "Yes" to either (1) or (2) above will not automatically exclude an applicant from becoming a volunteer in Lethbridge School District No. 51

3. Have you completed a Police Information Check (PIC) previously for Lethsd51 or another organization? *{Please attach}* **No** **Yes**

If you answered yes, where _____ and when _____
Name of School/Organization Date (YYYY/MM/DD)

*All individuals, including minors under the age of eighteen, who may be engaged in the following volunteer activities, shall be required to provide a current (within last 9 months) Police Information Check and an Intervention Record Check **once every three years** prior to assuming any volunteer duties regarding:

- Involvement in Sports Teams;
- Overnight field trips;
- Activities involving the supervision of students where District staff members are not in attendance at all times; or
- Driving students in District or non-District owned vehicles

Police Information Checks and/or Intervention Record Checks may also be required at the sole discretion of the principal, and/or the Superintendent in any circumstances where it is deemed appropriate. Under exceptional circumstances, the Superintendent may waive the requirement for the provision of a Police Information Check and/or Intervention Record Check.

Part C: Must be read and signed

As a volunteer, we would like to advise you of the following conditions:

1. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance in the school setting in order to ensure that the dignity and worth of students, parents, volunteers and school staff is honored.
2. Any information collected, used, generated, and stored by Lethbridge School District No. 51 including student, instructional, financial, or administrative information is strictly confidential and is to be used only in the performance of volunteer duties.
3. You may not disclose, communicate, publish, take, alter copy, interfere with, or destroy any information unless you are specifically authorized to do so by the teacher or principal.
4. You must notify the principal of any new criminal charges at the time the charge is made.
5. The teaching and administration staff is responsible for student learning and discipline.
6. School administration, teaching, and support staff have specific roles to play and it is important that the staff of a school operate as a team.
7. You as a volunteer monitor can assist greatly in enhancing student learning by working positively and cooperatively with the school team.
8. Any failure to comply with these conditions or Lethbridge School District No. 51 [Procedure 1003.3](#) may result in termination of your position as a volunteer.

By signing this volunteer registration form, I am agreeing to the conditions outlined.

Signature

Current Date (YYYY/MM/DD)

The information on this form is collected under Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to carry out our responsibilities under the *School Act*.



Cheer Team Information Package

Welcome!

Your athlete has expressed interest in the Park Meadows Cheerleading Program for the 2018/19 Season. The purpose of this document is to ensure each family clearly understands and accepts all obligations and other important expectations and requirements of the cheerleading program. This document also provides a summary of policies.

Program Director

Samantha Paradee Bus. Ph : 403-328-3990 email: sam@perfectstormathletics.com

Teacher Advisor

Stacey Hegland email: stacey.hegland@lethsd.ab.ca

Coaches

Grades 1-3 (Kittenz) Mackenzie Sokolowski

Grades 4/5 (Katz) Caoilfhinn McGinnity & Samantha DeCoste

Mandatory Practice Times

Late September - Early April

- Tuesdays 3:30-5pm Grades 1-3 (Kittenz)
- Thursdays 3:30-5pm Grade 4/5 (Katz)

Coach Samantha owns Perfect Storm Athletics, an All Star Cheerleading facility and due to both the time management of our volunteer coaches and the opportunities practicing in a fully equipped facility provides; the Park Meadows cheer team will split their time practicing in the gym at Park Meadows and offsite at Perfect Storm Athletics. All practice locations will be communicated weeks in advance.

Financial Obligations

DUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Sep 20	Payment 1	\$150
Oct 20	Payment 2	\$150
Nov 20	Payment 3	\$100

The entire program including competition fees, practice gear and competition gear is \$400.00. All transactions are through School Cash Online.

We also support and assist qualifying families to apply for Jumpstart & Kid Sport Subsidies.

- Tumbling is recommended but not mandatory for Park Meadows athletes. Athletes can choose a weekly class or semi-private lessons at many cheer & gymnastics facilities within the city.
- Cheerleading shoes are not included in registration fees. Shoes will need to be purchased by families as there are many price points and options. Shoes must be completely white and can be purchased at many locations. You may also purchase shoes at Perfect Storm Athletics.

Mandatory Performance & Competition Dates

- All competitions & performances listed below.
- Ticket prices and purchase deadlines will be announced by email as dates approach.
- Families are responsible for the transportation of their athletes to and from competitions.
- Athletes will have the opportunity to perform their routine prior to competition at our Perfect Storm Athletics and School Program Showcase

Event	Comp. Date	Location
Frostbite Showcase	Nov 25	Lethbridge
Imagine Cheer & Dance Championships	Jan 26	Lethbridge
Stampede City Cheer Challenge	March 16	Calgary
ACA Provincial Championships	April 13	Edmonton

Mid Season family travel and absence from practice

- We respectfully request that families do not take holidays during our competitive months of September through April, with the exception of Christmas, Reading Week and Easter Break.
- Absences will result in athletes being placed in new positions, choreography, stunts and/or formations upon athlete's return. The team will run practices in the most effective way possible when an athlete is missing, putting the team's needs before the absent athlete's needs.
- If you will be absent from a practice the program director must be **verbally contacted directly or emailed.**

Athlete position changes and team level changes

- Throughout the season coaches will make changes to routines for a variety of reasons. Athletes should expect this and be prepared for their roles within a routine to change.
- Coaches also reserve the right to change a team's competitive division during the season. This includes moving a team up or down a level.
- The Park Meadows cheerleading teams will compete in the Elementary Beginner and Novice categories for 2018-19.

Communication

- Every month the program director will email a calendar to parents outlining upcoming events, deadlines, etc.
- Other emails. Please ensure your email address is kept current.

**We are looking forward to the NEW Cheerleading Season with great anticipation.
Welcome to the Panther Cheer Family!**



**The Lethbridge Synchrobelles
Synchronized Swimming Club
invites you to join us in the pool
for our Free Trial Nights!**

**Competitive program: September 10 and 13 at 6:00-8:00pm
Pre-competitive program: September 11 and 13 at 6:15-7:15pm
Max Bell Regional Aquatic Centre**



Visit lethsynchro.ca or email headcoach@lethsynchro.ca for more information.