

NEWSLETTER

january 2021

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Welcome everyone to 2021! Hope everyone is rested and beginning 2021 with a great start!

Thanks to all families and students for the phenomenal job in the first week of January when all students were learning online. A shout out goes to our staff (EAs and Teachers) for working so hard to prepare for that week of online learning. And, well done to our students for getting your TEAMS up and running so you could be a part of the learning. It's so good to have all in-person learners back in our school this week. We've missed you. Welcome back to school! And to all our at-home learners, keep up the good work. You are working hard!

Here are a few things to consider during the month of January:

Division School Boundary Review - A school boundary review presentation to the public is scheduled for January 12 at 6:30 pm. A link to the presentation will be made available on the Division website (see link below) and there will be a feedback loop available from January 13 – January 28th.

[School attendance boundaries - recommendations for change | Lethbridge School Division \(lethsd.ab.ca\)](https://lethsd.ab.ca/school-attendance-boundaries-recommendations-for-change)

Division Town Hall Meeting - The Division will be hosting its annual Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 from 6.30 – 8.30 pm. The Town Hall will be a virtual event through a Division Town Hall website and Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the meeting is to seek feedback to assist the Board of Trustees and Division in planning for the future. The question that the Trustees are seeking feedback on is as follows: ***"In response to COVID-19, changes were made to school organization and instructional delivery. Are there changes that impacted students in a positive way that should continue and be built on?"*** If you wish to participate, please email me at mark.blankenstyn@lethsd.ab.ca or our School Council Chair, Marylou Williams at parkmeadowsparentcouncil@gmail.com

- **School Council:** Our next School Council Mtg is on Tuesday, Jan. 19th at 6:30pm. Details on mtg will be shared soon.
- **Theme Day:** Dress up Day is Tuesday, Jan. 19th – It's **TWIN DAY!**

Your Principal,

Mark Blankenstyn



Pivot Point Changes

The next Pivot Point date has been changed from Jan. 31st to **Monday, February 22nd**. This will be the last Pivot Point where students can choose to change from in-school to at-home learning or vice versa.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 11 — In-person Classes Resume

Tuesday, January 12 — Division School Boundary Presentation

Tuesday, January 19 — Twin Day Twin Day

Tuesday, January 19 — School Council Meeting

Friday, January 29 — PL Day No School for Students



**GET
INVOLVED!**

We invite all parents and guardians to join us
at the upcoming *School Council Meeting* on
Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30pm

For more information contact your school council at parkmeadowsparentcouncil@gmail.com

Did you know? Winter Walk Day is February 3, 2021.

Winter Walk Day encourages people across Alberta to be active outside in winter. Families learning from home or students at school can participate in this free event.

Take this opportunity to improve physical and mental health by bundling up, choosing a route in your neighbourhood or local park, and getting some exercise and a dose of fresh air.

Check out <https://shapeab.com/winter-walk-day/> for more information or to register.



LICE ADVICE

Parents and guardians, please be mindful of regular lice checks. It is a good idea to continually check your child's hair on a regular basis for lice. If you need any support with lice kits or any guidance as to how to deal with it please reach out to the school and we have some resources for you. Make lice checks a part of your regular routine.



A boundary review committee, consisting of representatives from potentially-impacted schools, has finished preparing recommendations for the Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees. These recommendations are being brought to the Board following months of review.

A presentation to the public has been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Closer to the event, a link to the presentation will be made available on the Division website.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

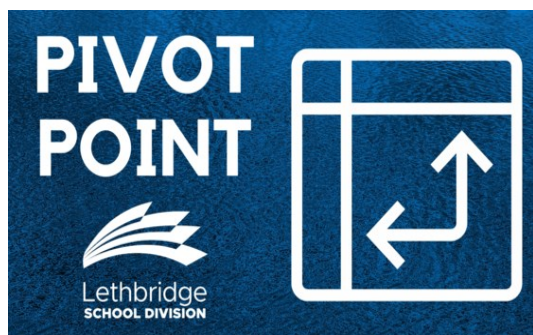
Boundaries in all sections of the city will change. In west Lethbridge, elementary, middle and high school boundaries are set to change. In south Lethbridge, elementary and high school boundaries are set to change. In north Lethbridge, elementary boundaries are set to change.

WHY ARE BOUNDARIES CHANGING?

Changes are in response to trends in population, impact of growth on school capacities and the location of the new elementary school in south Lethbridge.

FEEDBACK LOOP - JAN. 13-28

Following the presentation, a feedback loop will be posted on the Division website. Detailed maps of the proposed boundary changes will be included. <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/>



ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

With the previous pivot point occurring on Nov. 10, elementary and middle schools have expressed that the shift in classes (both at-home classes and in-school classes) that accompanied the change of students was challenging and it took some time to re-establish relationships, routines and ensure that every student adjusted in a positive way to the new configurations.

Given that it took time for re-configuration and adjustment, that in-school learning was interrupted this week and that schools feel that students need to re-settle into the pre-Christmas routines that had been established, it has been decided to move the second pivot point to a later date. The pivot point **FOR STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL** will be moved to Monday, Feb. 22 (the Monday following the Family Day week students spend at home). This is two weeks of instructional time later than the original date. It gives schools time over the week break in February to adjust and prepare for the change.

It will also give parents more time to consider the provincial context with respect to the status of COVID-19 a few weeks beyond the Christmas break and feel comfortable with their decision. The information and survey for this February pivot point will be posted on the School Division website on Jan. 27. The request for change will remain open until Feb. 4.

This will give schools time to re-assign students and adjust teacher assignments for the Feb. 22 change. The February pivot point will be the last pivot point for elementary and middle school students for the school year.

JANUARY

ELEMENTARY INDIGENOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Ring in the new year often means writing a list of resolutions. Articles and posts have emerged discussing how important the distinction between a resolution and an intention is.

Naz Beheshti, a writer for Forbes, describes an intention as "more forgiving, without the built-in succeed-or-fail dynamic that seems to come with New Year's resolutions. The idea of intention honors effort and process, and not just results".

Within Indigenous culture and our Indigenous Education Department, we describe many of our learning experiences and intentions similarly. Focusing on the process, the experiences, and the intention we've set, not necessarily the final product. The Indigenous tradition of Smudging is another way to express or communicate good intentions.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nazbeheshti/2018/12/11/new-years-resolutions-dont-last-try-this-instead/?sh=49a082b059da>

SMUDGING

Smudging is a traditional practice common to many Indigenous cultures.



It is used as a way to purify or cleanse any negativity away, and to restore positivity and feelings of wellness. It is used to set positive intentions.

We smudge to
clear the air
around us

We smudge our ears
so that we will only
listen to good
things about others

We smudge to
clean our minds
so that we will
have good
thoughts of
others

We smudge our
mouths so that we
will only speak
well of others

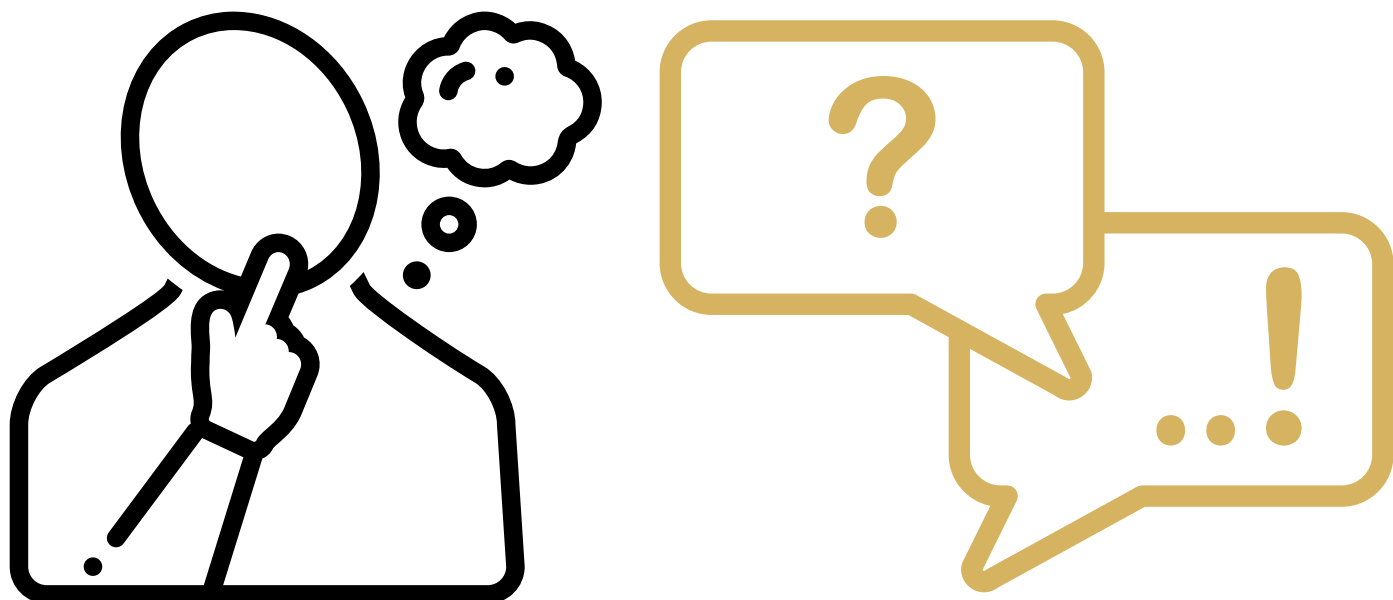
We smudge our
eyes so that we
will only see good
things in others

We smudge our whole
being so that we will
portray only the good
part of our self
through our actions



New Year, New Intentions.

ARE YOU READY FOR A QUICK
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMPETENCY
SELF ASSESSMENT?
IF YOU NOTICE YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS, REACH OUT,
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



Upcoming PL Opportunities

Registration open: Instructional Leadership in Reconciliation: A collective journey towards embedding the TQS and LQS Competencies. Presented by: Donna Ross

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, January 19, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, January 26, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, February 02, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, February 09, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Registration open: Infusing Indigenous Knowledge into the Curriculum - Mamawhitowin "Coming Together" 2020 - Series 3 Presented by: Kim Barker-Kay & Jamie Chalifoux

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, January 19, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, January 26, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, February 02, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, February 09, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration open: We Learn from the Sun Presented by: David Bouchard Date(s): Wednesday, February 03, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Do you understand the generational impact of residential schools?

Have you read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls-to-Action?

How do you react to uncivil dialogue?

How do you react to stereotypical imagery and statements?

Do you recognize and understand the impact of cultural appropriation?

What do you know about the history, culture, worldviews, and challenges of the Indigenous Peoples of the area in which you live/work?

Do you assume all Indigenous students share a common culture?

Why may families of Indigenous students may not be comfortable meeting in your school building?

Has your school created a culturally inclusive environment for Indigenous students in your classroom?

How might you bring local Indigenous culture and art into your classroom?

What is your own attitude towards Indigenous communities?

Do you make assumptions about Indigenous learners?

