

October 2025 School Newsletter



Principals Message

I can't believe we are through a month of school already! It has been an awesome start to the year. I am so pleased with how the students have hit the ground running - there has been a lot of learning and a lot of fun happening at school already!

There are a few things that I would like to highlight for you. First of all, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came out to our Meet the Staff night. It was great to see so many parents! I always enjoy the chance to chat with families - and it was great to meet some new parents too!

For those of you who don't know, we have a few priorities that we decided to focus on as a community. These priorities came out of our vision and mission work over the last few years. Our main priorities as a school are to focus on student growth (social, emotional, academic, sense of purpose), to embrace the outdoors, to learn to work hard and play hard, and lastly to embrace hope and kindness in our interactions with others. These priorities are the pillars that we focus on as a school. You can also read a more detailed version of them on our website under the "Sunnyside School Mission and Motto" page.

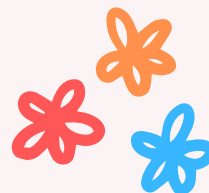
We keep these pillars in mind when we brainstorm ideas for our "words of the month" as a school. We look at things that we believe are helpful to focus on to enhance student learning. During September, our word of the month was hope! We had a number of good conversations about what it means to hope and be hopeful. Stay tuned for our October word of the month! (we haven't decided our October word quite yet).

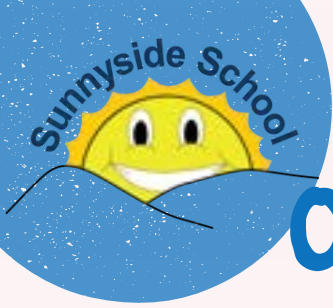
There are also a number of important events coming up in October. October 10th is our first parent-teacher interview day. We are trying something new this year - our interviews will be on Thursday after school and Friday all day. For this first interview, the time slots will be 15 minutes - a way for you to touch base with your child(ren)'s teacher and find out how the first month have gone. We will also have 2 more interview dates throughout the year. We also have our next School Council meeting on Tuesday, October 21st. Feel free to join us online or in person!

Lastly, I want to say thank you. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be the principal of such an amazing school. We have a second-to-none staff, an amazingly supportive parent community, and a wonderful culture built on kindness, growth, and learning. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity to help your child learn and grow. It really is an amazing privilege.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts, feel free to email or call me!

Mitchell Van Dyk

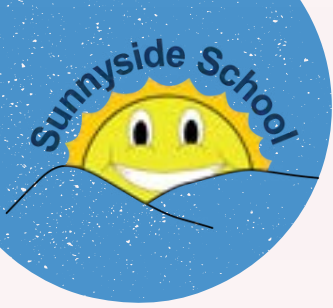




October 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>Orange shirt day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Life touch individual pictures day, Grades 1&2 are going to Pavan park</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Life Touch picture retakes and class pictures</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Grade 6 students are going to the Helen schuler nature centre</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Parent teacher interviews,</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Parent teacher interviews, no school for students</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>happy Thanksgiving</i></p> <p>no school for staff or students</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Penny Carnival</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>School Council meeting @ 4:00PM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PD Day no school for students</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>School wide Assembly</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</i></p> 	





Learning Commons

Welcome to the 2025/26 school year!
First of all, I would like to thank all the parents and students that have already donated books, games, puzzles and odds and ends to the Learning Commons/Maker space. Your donations are always appreciated.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of the parents and students who have sent in orders for Scholastic. I will be sending out flyers once every 2 months or so. To order, you log on to [scholastic.ca/bookclubs](https://www.scholastic.ca/bookclubs) then enter the class code RC192287. You pay for the order online then I enter all the orders on the due date...The orders then come to the school and I will send them home in your child's backpack. If you need the books kept secret as they are a gift to your child, just email me (brenda.hancock@pallisersd.ab.ca) or leave a message with Becky and I will arrange a time to get them to you.

Thirdly, these are the days that the students have their book exchange ...

Monday Grade 5/6

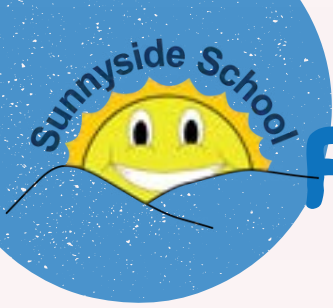
Tuesday Grade 3/4

Thursday Grade K/1/2

Have a great year and if you have any questions about the Learning Commons or the book exchange, feel free to reach out to me.

-Mrs. Hancock





Friday Wellness- Learning Commons Maker Space

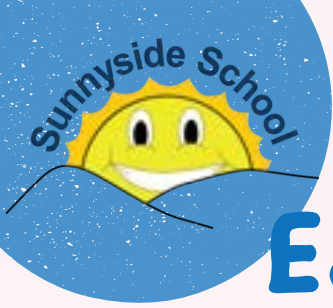
Our Maker Space is a favorite among Sunnyside students, and the projects are so creative. We are always in need of supplies! If you feel inclined to contribute, we would love it if you could save some of your household recycling and/or donate anything you think students might enjoy using. Some suggestions might be:



- seashells
- googly eyes
- stick on jewels/sequins
- fabric
- fabric batting/stuffing
- wood pieces (like spools, dowels, shapes, etc)
- pom poms
- paper straws
- paper muffin cups
- anything plastic (containers, lids, etc)
- small recycling boxes (about the size of a cracker box, shoe box, tissue box, etc.)
- coloured popsicle sticks
- felt markers
- hot glue guns/glue sticks
- yarn
- washi tape
- tissue paper
- ribbon
- string/twine
- pipe cleaners
- feathers
- glitter
- beads
- clothes pins
- paper towel rolls
- ANYTHING!!!



Anything you save or collect to contribute would be amazing! Thank you!

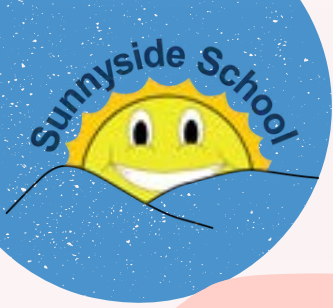


Early Learning Program

It's been a busy month in the Early Learning Program!!

What a beautiful September! We have been spending extra time outside taking advantage of this beautiful weather. Pete the cat, learning about fall, and apples, have been our main focus this month. Apple tasting, and baking applesauce muffins are some of our fun activities this month.

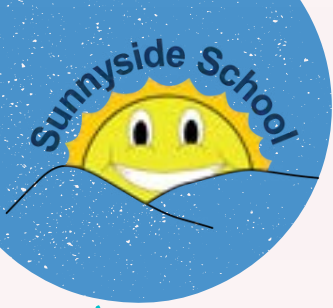




Kindergarten

Reminder to check our classdojo
for our classroom newsletter
and updates for our room.





Miss Smith



We made milkweed babies
and learned about how
important milkweed is for
monarch butterflies

**We made milkweed babies and learned
about how important milkweed is for
monarch butterflies**

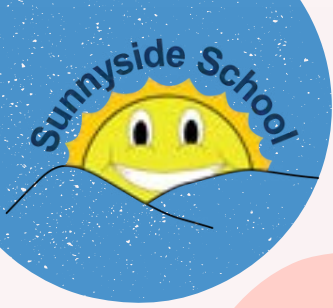
It has been a lovely first
month of school! I am so
excited to see what the
rest of the year has in
store for us!



We got to go on a ladybug
hunt

to bring them into the
greenhouse to kill the
aphids!





Mrs. Klassen

It's hard to believe September has come and gone already! The past few weeks have helped us establish routines, build connections with others, and delve into learning. It is great to see growth already in all these areas!



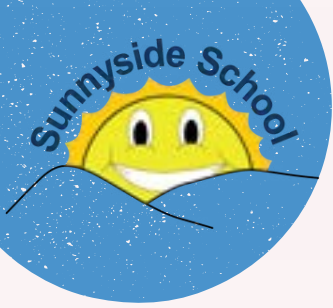
Science: We are learning about Matter and various ways of measuring objects and their properties. Measuring and comparing our favourite stuffie was a blast!

Math: We are building our understanding of numbers and patterns all the time. Games, math tasks, math talks, and opportunities for hands-on learning are all ways we are growing our math brains!



Social Studies: We are learning about natural features and landmarks in our community. We can't wait to explore the Pavan Park coulee and riverbottom as part of this learning!. Our first afternoon in Pavan will take place Thursday, Oct 2.

Reading: Our reading routines are off and running. We have spent lots of time exploring our amazing classroom library, listening to stories, and building our decoding skills. New readers are blending sounds, reviewing letters, and building confidence all the time! It has been so much fun already!



Mrs. Klassen





Mr. Johnston



We will be doing something different this school year with the Grade 3/4J Newsletter. I am going to have our students help write it! We will tell you all the fun things we have enjoyed throughout this month and what we are looking forward to in the next month! Here is what we came up with for September:

What happened this month?

- Our Grade 4's loved being introduced to DECIMALS!
- We had a blast making, then throwing, paper airplanes in class!
- We definitely love our 1 hour gym class on Wednesdays!
- Collaboration is terrific! We loved getting to know everyone in Grade 3 and 4!
- Art has been awesome! We have started making Silhouettes!
- We love getting to meet new people in our school!
- Mr. Johnston picks amazing stories and reads them in a hilarious way.



What are we looking forward to next month?

- We are super excited to dress up for Halloween! I wonder what the teachers will dress up as?
- Picture Day is coming up soon! We will dress so "6,7!" (Please explain to the teacher what that means...)
- I can't wait to see Mr. Johnston get a haircut! (Early November)
- Mr. Johnston is looking forward to eating TURKEY on Thanksgiving! Please share how big your bird is.
- Hot Lunch will be starting soon! How many Hot Dogs can we eat?



Mrs. Hudey

What a fantastic start to the year we have had! Things are going well as we settle into our daily routine and schedule. September's word of the month was HOPE.

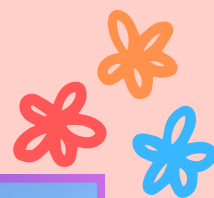
Students have reflected and shared their hopes for the upcoming school year!

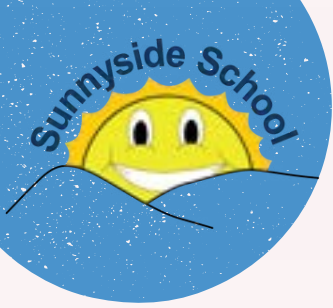
Here's a brief outline of some of the things we've been up to this past month.

- **MATH:** Numbers, numbers, numbers!! Place Value-Exploring and working with numbers. This is done through instruction, games, whiteboard tasks, mystery numbers, base ten blocks and problem solving. We are exploring new vocabulary, expressing numbers in standard form, expanded form and word form, addition and subtraction facts etc.
- **LA:** Our book boxes are full and we are enjoying a variety of new books! We are learning how to choose good fit books, practicing strategies to improve accuracy, fluency and comprehension. We are excited to do Reading Buddies with the Kindergarten class on Thursdays! In Writing, students are working hard to include more detail and description in their daily writing.
- **Science:** Our first unit of the year is "Matter". Students will be learning about properties of the physical world by investigating matter and energy.
- **Social Studies:** In Social Studies this year, we will be focusing on Alberta- Time and Place, starting with mapping skills, land features and Alberta's First People and Their Land.
- **Art:** The first project students completed was abstract name art focusing on line and color. Check out our bulletin board in the hallway!



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Sunnyside School 403-327-9214, or by email at lynnell.hudey@pallisersd.ab.ca.



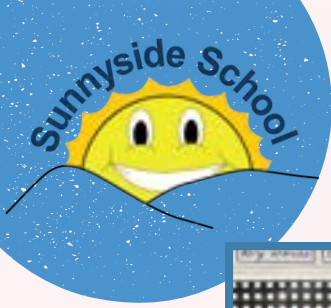


Mrs. Hass

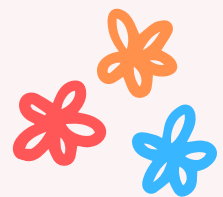
Grade 5 is off to a fantastic start!

Students have adjusted to our cozy corner of the Learning Commons (staff helped to rearrange the bookshelves this summer and we gained some more classroom space-YAY!). We have spent September building an amazing classroom community together as a straight Grade 5 class, challenging and encouraging each other to try hard things. We are loving the access to all the fantastic books. I (Mrs. Hass) teach Math, Science, Language Arts (Wordwork, Reading, Writing) to the Grade 5s, and then they move down the hall in the afternoon for PE with Mr. V and Social and Art with Mrs. Jesse in the Grade 6 classroom

In Math, students have established routines with our image talks, daily math practice and group challenge tasks on vertical whiteboards. We are now into our Place Value unit, looking at whole and decimal numbers. Students are encouraged to practice their basic facts at home. In Reading, students have had the opportunity to "taste" many different genres of books at our Ice Cream Shop Book Tasting, and have compiled a list of quality reads for the year. They are working on building their reading stamina, and are practicing oral language skills with some Reader's Theatre, focussing on Author's Purpose. In writing, students have written stories about themselves and set some goals for Grade 5, and we continue building writing stamina and skills during our writing bootcamp. In Science so far, we have looked at the Scientific Process, completing many controlled experiments.



Mrs. Hass





Mrs. Jesse



Wow! Where has the month of September gone?! It has been a busy, exciting month getting back into routine and the grade 6's have jumped right into both the academic and social aspects of school. There has been lots of volunteering to help out both in our classroom and our school, which has been wonderful. From recycling, to cleaning, to helping out in kindergarten and at recess this class has jumped at the opportunities to be great role models. Way to go everyone!

In math, we started this year developing various routines, such as daily math questions, math talks, board challenges, journalling and of course math games. We are currently working through our first unit on integers. Students have been working on identifying and modeling positive and negative numbers on number lines as well as with integer chips. They are currently working on using these tools to help them add and subtract various numbers. We will be moving onto multiplication and factorization by the end of the month.

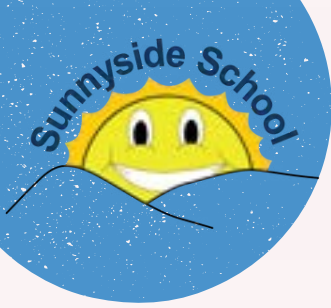
In LA, students are well into or just finished their first independent novels. They have chosen great books to read and have increased their stamina in the first few weeks of school. I encourage them to share what they are reading with family members at home. In writing, students have completed three writing assignments and are now starting their first major writing assignment which will be a personal narrative. We are hoping to have a good start on them to share with parents who attend parent conferences.

In social studies, students have been digging deep to look at who they are and the factors that have influenced who they have become. We have spent time connecting with our classmates to see the importance of both individual and collective identities. We are almost finished with our first unit, where students learned about the key features of maps and created their own map of Sunnyside. We are moving onto looking at ancient civilizations and their impact on modern society this month.

In Science, we started the year with many fun engineering challenges to think like scientists, test our ideas and work as a team. We then dived into our first topic, which is Living Systems, and students have just finished their first poster project. Students will have the opportunity to choose from 4 final projects to showcase their understanding of the complexity of various ecosystems at the end of the month. Some project choices may require some supplies from home. We will continue learning about Living Systems throughout October.

Finally in art, most students have finished their first art project and they turned out beautifully. The rest should be up in time for conferences.





Mrs. Jesse

