

February
2021



CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION NO 73

Didsbury High School

Principal's Message

Halfway through a school year already! Semester 2 begins, and with it, students get a fresh start in many of their courses. As teachers, we find semester 2 classes seem to have more of a time crunch built into them than in semester 1. Even though there are the same number of school days, some of the scheduled breaks in February and April seem to create a disruption to the classes that require an extra class or two to catch up from. Teachers are very much aware of these events and plan accordingly; but it is important to be aware as a parent.

Not to sound like a broken record, but I do want to thank parents for supporting the variety of teaching and learning methods we went through in semester 1. We started with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the students coming on alternate days, had some time with traditional classes, and even spent time with students learning remotely. I can definitely say I find things much better with students in the building but was pleasantly surprised with how well things went with remote learning. It was refreshing to see the high level of student participation for remote learning and genuine effort to keep up with the curriculum. We will hope for the best through semester 2 but are planned for a number of situations that could still arise.

Have a great February,

Garth Dagg
Principal



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Principal—Garth Dagg
Vice Principal—Curtis Dick
www.didsburyhigh.ca

Message from the Superintendent

Sharing our values each day

Ensuring that our students are engaged in meaningful learning and encouraged to rise to new challenges is part of our mission in Chinook's Edge. This year, more than most others, our teachers and school staff have relied upon the core values that inform our work together, guide our relationships, and impact the potential of each student. We have all needed to shift our learning in several ways during this pandemic. We are able to rise to these challenges and accomplish great things together, because we share a firm foundation of values that help create a positive school culture.

Our Mission and Vision statements are a daily reminder of our most important values, which guide our work despite any challenges the pandemic may be creating. We recognize the uniqueness of every child in our care and, through our focus on relationships and on the values that shape strong character, we encourage each one to achieve excellence.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools

For Trustee updates and to read the latest Board eNews, please visit our [website](#).



Mission:

Chinook's Edge School Division will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them.

Vision:

Chinook's Edge School Division will be universally recognized as a collaborative learning community where learning is personalized for all students to achieve success as compassionate and innovative global citizens.

Accountability Pillar Survey Information

As an annual check-up on the education system, the **Accountability Pillar** provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

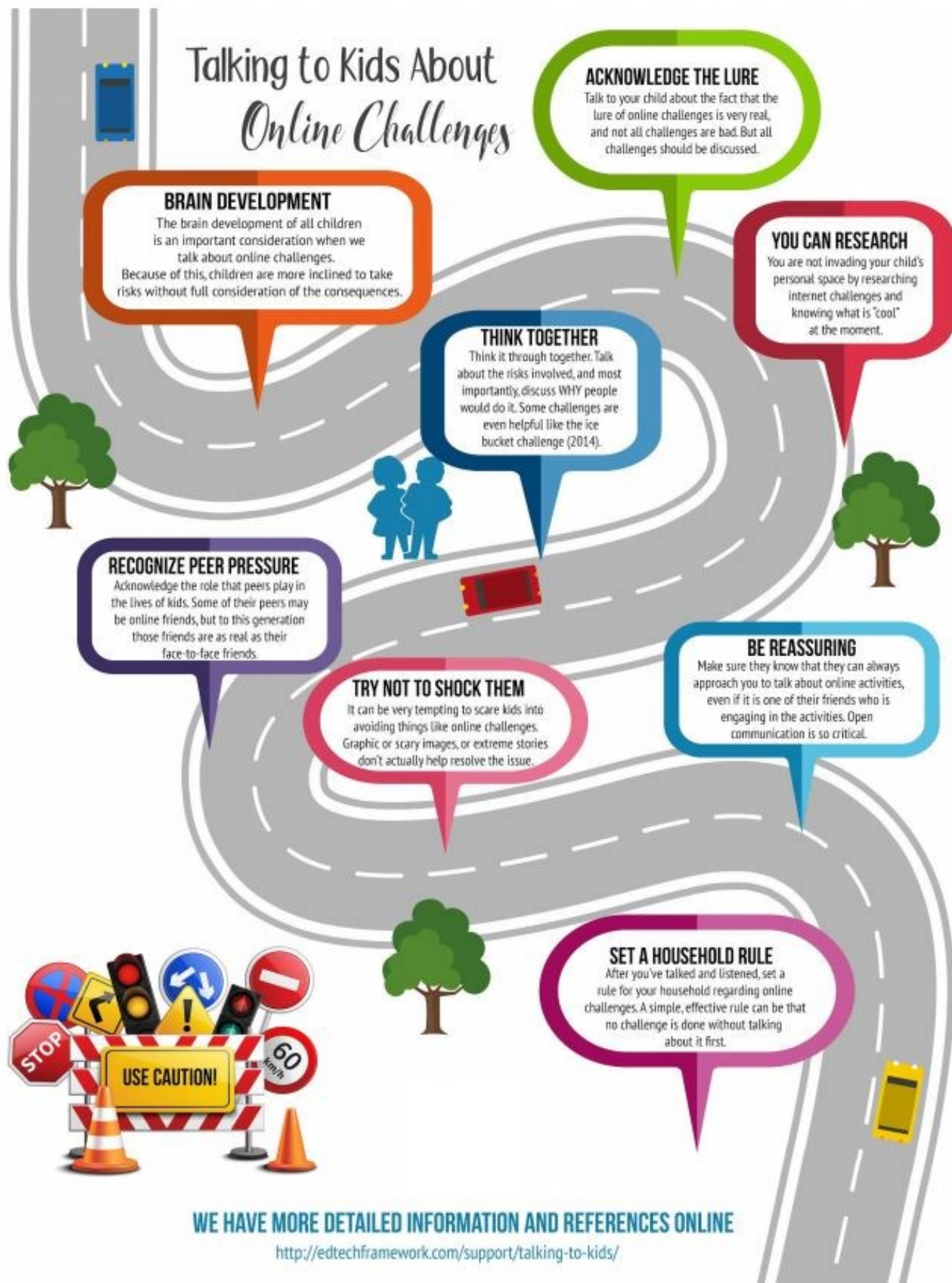
From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2021, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

Talking to Kids About Online Challenges



Talking to Kids About Online Challenges

Talking to kids about their online life and social media usage is not always easy. We offer these 8 tips to help understand online challenges, and the lure of them for both children and teens.

1. Child development and the human brain development is a complicated topic. As parents it seems we just get our child kind of figured out and they change. Things that a few short months ago were so important to them suddenly become "babyish" and we are back to the drawing board to adjust parenting techniques!! It's a never-ending process.

Children, as we all know, have brains that are still growing, developing and learning, and it's important that we talk to them about online challenges when they appear in the media. (The Tide Pod Challenge presents a good opportunity to talk to little ones about how silly that challenge is, and gives a chance to start the conversation.)

Teens enter into a new phase of brain development that Psychologists have termed "The Personal Fable", (it's very interesting. We do recommend googling it as it will apply to many situations, not just online challenges). The bottom line is that they are in a stage of development where they are **more willing than the average human to take risks**, and this can come into play with online challenges.

2. **Acknowledge** with your child that some challenges can be very tempting. The cinnamon challenge a few years back seemed harmless, but it actually came with some pretty significant health risks depending on the person.
3. You can **research online challenges**. You are not invading your child's privacy by googling the term "online challenges" and knowing what is out there. Some challenges, like the "mannequin challenge" are harmless and just good fun. Others like the ice bucket challenge (2014) are positive. That particular "challenge" raised a lot of money for ALS research. Others like the Tide Pod Challenge sound silly to some ears, but can actually be deadly.
4. Bring up the topic of online challenges and **think it through together**. Talk about the risks involved in some of the challenges. Discuss WHY someone would do the challenge. Encourage your child to think critically about some of the challenges that have occurred previously and then discuss the actual results with them. You might have to do #3 on our list so that you can talk about how they actually turned out. The cinnamon challenge is a good one to use, as it sounds so harmless when it is first presented to a child's ears.
5. **Recognize peer pressure**. Show them that you understand that their peers play a role in their lives, and acknowledge that sometimes it's hard to not do something that it seems like "everyone else is doing". Further, talk about peers from online. In a globally networked world, your child will likely have friends online - perhaps from a game like Fortnite, Roblox or Minecraft, or from streaming services like Twitch or YouTube. In the life of your child, those are peers too. Talk about them all. Talk about the pressure. Talk about how to respond to the pressures they may be facing already.
6. Try not to shock them. As a parent, it can feel really frightening to analyze all the "what-ifs" of online life. Showing a child graphic images, or taking measures to scare them doesn't actually help the situation. Continue to keep yourself informed about online challenges so that you can continue to talk over time with your child. It doesn't have to be a one-time-only conversation. Keep the conversation going.
7. **Be reassuring**. Make sure your child knows that they can always talk to you. In order to have communication, both parties need to feel safe. Tell your child that if they are worried about a friend doing a challenge, they can come to you and you will help them sort through the risks and the rewards of doing the challenge.
8. **Set a household rule**. After you've listened, and you've talked and you've listened some more, set a household rule regarding online challenges. Give your child the opportunity to make the rule. The more input they have, the more likely they are to follow the rule. A positive rule could be that no online challenge can be done without having a conversation first that discusses the benefits of doing the challenges as well as the risks. Two heads thinking about a challenge are always better than one!

Valentine's **@ DHS**

Matchmaker Quizzes

"Secret Admirer"

Valentines and Chocolates

For Sale February 8-11 Delivered February 12

"Shoe Game" and Kahoot
Valentine's Quiz

February 12 @ lunch

Made with PosterMyWall.com



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Didsbury No. 514

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All appointments will take place
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1914 - 20 Street in Didsbury, AB



***Parenting
is my
superpower***

Parent Support Series!

We are in this together!! Take a look at these webinars that are geared towards parents on helping your children at home during these unprecedented times.

All webinars are \$10 each and run from 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

January 2021

7th: Parent Support Series #1 - Supporting the Emotional Needs of At-Home Learners

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8777>

14th: Parent Support Series #2-Using Positive Reinforcements to Support Children with Diverse Needs

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8782>

21st: Parent Support Series #3 - Attention and Memory Supports

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8781>

28th: Parent Support Series #4 - Handling Meltdowns and Stages of Escalation

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8783>

February 2021

16th: Parent Support Series #5 - Making Math Fun

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8784>

23rd: Parent Support Series #6--Importance of Language to a Child's Success

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8785>

25th: Parent Support Series #7 - How to Read with Your Child (4-6 year olds)

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8778>

April 2021

29th: Parent Support Series #8 - Using Schedules to Support Children with Diverse Needs

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8779>

May 2021

6th: Parent Support Series #9--Supporting Positive Behaviours at Home

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8780>

10th: Parent Support Series #10-Questions and Answers

<https://www.carcpd.ab.ca/programs/details.php?id=8787>





Grad 2021 Photos will take place during the week of February 13th to 19th.
Time slots run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on these days.
See Mrs. Morgan for an information sheet from the photographer that will explain everything.

Grad 2021 Pierogi and Sausage Fundraiser

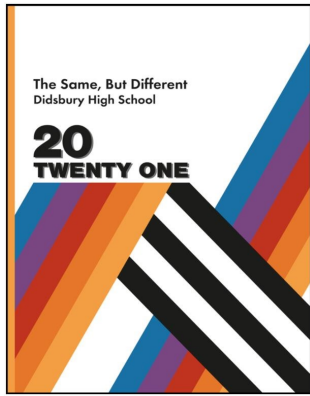
The Grads of 2021 will be having another fundraiser this winter, Pierogi and Sausages. Sales will begin February 8th, orders must be turned in by March 1st. Delivery will be March 22nd.



Pink Shirt Day



*Take a Stand Against Bullying join us on
Wednesday **February 24, 2021**
in support of anti bullying by wearing pink to raise awareness*

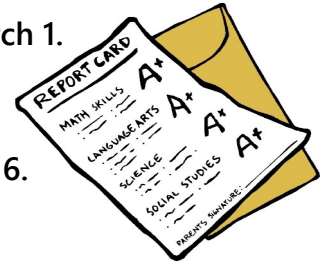


2020/2021 DHS Yearbook

Make sure that you purchase your personalized 2021 Yearbook!
All orders can be placed through the online school fees payment program.

Semester 2 Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

- ◇ **Interim Report Cards - March 18, 2021** (online only through PowerSchool)
- ◇ **Virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews - March 25, 2021 5pm - 8:00pm**
Appointment Required - please call 403-335-3356 to book starting March 1.
- ◇ **Report Cards (Paper Copy) will be distributed April 16, 2021**
- ◇ **Virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews - April 29, 2021 5pm - 7:30pm**
Appointment Required - please call 403-335-3356 to book starting April 6.
- ◇ **Final Report Cards (Paper Copy) will be mailed June 30, 2021**



Library Reminder

Reminder to students that all library books are to be returned before the start of the second semester.

Semester 2 Textbooks cannot be signed out until Semester 1 Textbooks and Library books have been returned.




Looking Ahead

March Dates to Remember

Collaborative Day—No Classes	March 5 & 19
Interim Report Cards	March 18
Parent Teacher Interviews—Appointment Req'd	March 25



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Semester 2 Begins	2	3	4	5 Collaborative Day—No Classes	6
7	8	9	10 Virtual Band Mtg 7 pm	11	12 Valentine's Day Activities	13
14 	15 Family Day Winter Break No Classes	16 Winter Break No Classes	17 Winter Break No Classes	18 Teacher's Convention Winter Break No Classes	19 Teacher's Convention Winter Break No Classes	20
21 28	22	23	24	25	26	27

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Non-Instructional Day - No Classes	6
7	8	9	10 Virtual Band Mtg 7 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Interim Report Cards	19 Collaborative Day - No Classes	20
21	22	23	24	25 Virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews Appt required	26	27
28	29	30	31			