

February
2022



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 a staff we were very pleased with our student's attendance and promptness for final exams in January. A clear majority of students were on time and came prepared for their exams. I still think that beyond the exam mark itself, the process of writing and preparing for exams is a good life skill for students. It seems life after school has a series of "tests" that come our way, whether that is in the form of university/college exams, job interviews, presentations for employers, etc. I hope that students learn that it is okay to be somewhat stressed and anxious leading up to the exams; as the old saying goes, "it's okay to have butterflies, you just have to get them flying in formation."

One of the things we will be stressing this semester deals with students who are absent for classes. It is understandable that students will miss school due to illness, extracurricular activities, field trips, appointments, buses not running, etc., but how they handle the miss is important. Some of our staff have noted that students who are absent have not taken the steps to catch up with the material they missed. Our expectation of absent students is that they take on the responsibility of catching up with the work done in class. A good approach would be to have a friend pick up any handouts, write the assignment down, share their notes, etc. The absent student should make an effort to work on this material on their own and then see the teacher for help. Missing a class for a good cause does not mean they are exempt from learning a concept! As a parent, if you can help reinforce that your son or daughter take on the responsibility of getting their missed work completed, that would be very helpful.

One more thing to mention is that parents of students in grade 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Learning very soon. This is the only survey I will ask you to complete on behalf of DHS as we do get the results summarized and returned to us in May. Although we see many parents around the school for such things as band concerts and band society, athletics, school council, orientation, awards night, grad meetings, school council, etc this is a formal opportunity to offer your perspective of DHS.

Have a great February,

Garth Dagg
Principal



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P 403-335-3356 F 403-335-8036

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

Message from the Superintendent

Sharing our values each day

In Chinook's Edge we are proud of our mission and vision statements, which continue to guide our every effort. This year more than ever, teachers and school staff have relied upon these words that guide our relationships, inform our work together, and impact the potential of each student. We all place a high value on relationships in Chinook's Edge and, although we have been challenged to maintain our usual high level of connectedness, we see many examples of our strength as a connected team of staff, students and families.

With respect to parents, we are proud of a number of ways we are connecting in a meaningful way:

- Despite restrictions in our buildings, many of our schools are seeing strong participation in virtual School Council meetings.
- Schools are also reporting a positive response to the new Parent Teacher Interview module provided through our new websites.
- Grade 5-12 students and parents are accessing PowerSchool to see continual updates of student progress.
- Our bus families are using a new app that allows our Transportation Team to communicate in real time each day – which is particularly vital during a cold season where every minute counts if you are waiting outside on a rural road.
- Collaborating with our Parents Matter Committee continues to provide a meaningful exchange of ideas.

Being connected to our parents and to one another is key to our success in many ways. It has never been more important for us to remain understanding of each other, as we continue reaching towards the aspirations contained within our mission and vision statements so that all students can achieve success.

We would love to hear your thoughts through this month's [parent survey](#) – what word or phrase describes what you value most about your child's school?

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools

For Trustee updates and to read the latest Board eNews, please [click here](#).



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.

Band News

The Gord Bamford concert that the DHS Band Society hosted on January 21st was a huge success, and an outstanding fundraiser for our program. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out during the concert, and special thanks to Erin Enns for all of her work organizing this great event!

You may have heard that CESD has decided not to permit out of province travel this year, so our Grade 9 trip to the Moose Jaw Band Festival and the Symphonic Winds trip to Whistler are canceled.

Although we are all disappointed that our Spring tour plans will have to wait one more year, it does give students the opportunity to pad their accounts by taking advantage of the fundraisers that the DHS Band Society is putting together. I am hopeful that next year's tour for the Symphonic Winds can be one of our more extensive tours (by air) to a festival destination in eastern Canada. I have already started to investigate festivals and potential tour itineraries and will keep you posted as plans develop!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Wassmer at DHS (403.335.3356, ext. 5959).



Community News

A large, stylized graphic in the background of the Carstairs announcement. It features a green and white geometric design, possibly representing a lacrosse stick or a stylized letter 'A', set against a grey background with a subtle pattern of leaves or feathers.

**The Chargers are
moving to Carstairs!**

**We're very excited to make Carstairs Memorial
Arena our home field for the 2022 season!**

**Try it night March 7/14 from 6-8
@ Didsbury Zion Church**

**Early bird registration starts
Feb 15- March 18**

The logo for the Central Alberta Lacrosse League, featuring a red and white design with the letters "CALL" and "CENTRAL ALBERTA LACROSSE LEAGUE".A logo featuring two crossed lacrosse sticks with the letters "L", "A", and "X" positioned around the intersection.

February Fun!

Leadership Lunch:  \$5

February 3rd: Mexi Fries

February 9th: Fettucini Alfredo & Garlic Bread

February 16th: Flat Bread Pizza

Valentines Day Activities:

Create or Buy a Valentine gram to be delivered by Cupid on February 14th. (Feb. 9, 10, 11)

Sign up for the Shoe Game to be played on February 14th.

Valentines Day Kahoot Challenge!!

February 18th - Pink Shirt Day

Brought to you by the
DHS Leadership Team



Grad 2022 Portraits will take place during the week of
February 19th to 25th.

Time slots run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on these days.
See Ms. Lerbekmo for an information sheet from the
photographer that will explain everything.

The next Grad Planning meeting will be
Tuesday February 8th at 7:00 pm via Zoom

The DHS Class of 2022 Student and Parent Grad
Committee will be selling Coco Brooks food items
to raise money for the DHS Grad 2022
Celebrations and to offset individual
graduation costs.

If you are interested in purchasing some Coco
Brooks items, contact any 2022 Grad for a unique
code to log into the Fundraiser!

The fundraiser will run from
January 21, 2022 to March 1, 2022

Delivery date will be
Friday March 25, 2022 for pick up.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
MARCH 1, 2022.**



Pink Shirt Day



*Take a Stand Against Bullying join us on
Friday February 18, 2022
in support of anti bullying by wearing pink to raise awareness*



**ELKS OF
CANADA**

EST. 1912

Didsbury No. 514

GOWNS and SUITS FOR GRADS!

Everything you need for Grad! For *FREE!* NO strings attached!

Hundreds of Dresses/Suits to choose from

Beautiful Shoes, Stunning Jewelry

Open to all Senior High Grads in the County of Mountain View

By Appointment Only

For more information contact
Margo Ward at 403-556-5201

All appointments will take place
at the **Didsbury Elks Hall**
1914 - 20 Street in Didsbury, AB



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!

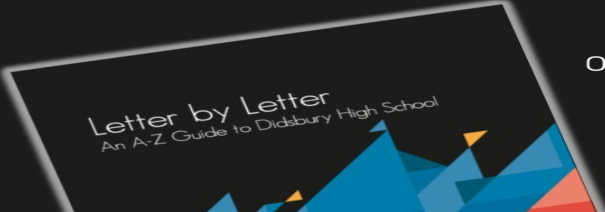


We are currently looking for School bus drivers in all areas. If you are interested in becoming a school bus driver please apply online at www.cesd73.ca under Careers/Casual Support Staff, by email at transportation@cesd73.ca or by calling our office at 403-227-7072


Chinook's Edge is one of the largest school divisions in the province, serving over 11,000 students in 43 Central Alberta schools between Calgary and Red Deer. Our schools are located in 13 small communities that sprawl east and west from the Highway 2 corridor, conveniently providing Chinook's Edge staff and families with the best of both worlds

Don't miss out!

Order your 2022 yearbook today.

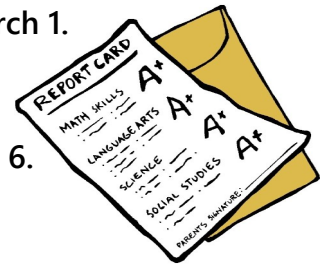


Order online from your school fee account
OR talk to Miss Budd or Mrs. Neilsen.



Semester 2 Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

- ◇ Interim Report Cards - March 14, 2022 (online only through PowerSchool)
- ◇ Virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews - March 24, 2022 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Appointment Required - please call 403-335-3356 to book starting March 1.
- ◇ Report Cards (Paper Copy) will be distributed April 14, 2022
- ◇ Virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews - April 28, 2022 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Appointment Required - please call 403-335-3356 to book starting April 6.
- ◇ Final Report Cards (Paper Copy) will be mailed June 29, 2022



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 4
Interim Report Cards	March 14
Parent Teacher Interviews—Appointment Req'd	March 24
Collaborative Day—No Classes	March 25



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Semester 2 Begins	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Grad 2022 Planning Mtg 7pm	9 Virtual Band Mtg 7pm	10	11 Collaborative Day—No Classes	12
13	14 Valentine's Day Activities 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Family Day Winter Break No Classes	22 Winter Break No Classes	23 Winter Break No Classes	24 Teacher's Convention Winter Break	25 Teacher's Convention Winter Break	26
27	28					

March 2022

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