

# Thompson Telegraph

*At Sarah Thompson School we nurture relationships, agency, belonging, and inclusion to cultivate academic success and personal wellness for everyone.*

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! It was awesome seeing the kids again and meeting many students and families that are new to our school community. The smiles, energy and enthusiasm of students and staff today was outstanding. If today was an indication of how the year is going to be... it's going to be amazing!

## Parent Survey states parking is an issue! (Student Drop-off/Pick-up)

Based on the results of a parent survey completed at the school in the spring, parking remains a concern at the school. As a reminder, the front loop of the school is a 'Kiss-n-Drop' area only. If you need to park, please use the parking lot; however, unless you are volunteering at the school or have a meeting in the school we ask you limit your time to **5 minutes maximum**. Designated Handicap stalls are **not** to be used at **any time** unless you have the necessary permit. If dropping off in the loop at the back of the school, please ensure you are parking adjacent to the grass and are walking your child on the grass. For the safety of everyone do not park or walk through the middle of the loop. Lastly, please remember to follow all 'traffic flow' and 'right-turn' only signs. Let's keep everyone safe and be courteous about sharing the parking lot!

## Welcome Back BBQ!

All families are invited to our 'Welcome Back BBQ' on Friday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>,  
11:45-12:45!

More information about the event will be sent home soon. Thanks to  
School Council for hosting this event!

## Volunteer Orientation

Many of the activities that happen at the school could not be possible without the wonderful support of our volunteers. If you will be volunteering in any capacity (Hot Lunch, milk, field trips, etc.) you will be required to participate in a 'Volunteer Orientation' session which will provide you with the necessary information, Occupational Health and Safety guidelines and confidentiality requirements. If you have previously completed the session your 'training' is good for 3 years. However, you are required to sign an Annual Declaration form declaring nothing on your Criminal Record Check has changed. These forms can be picked up at the office. Each session should take less than 30 minutes. **The first Orientation Session will occur Friday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:15...** just before the Welcome Back BBQ! In addition, don't forget you also need a signed Criminal Record Check. Stop by the office to get an application for the record check and then take it to the local Langdon RCMP detachment. Thanks in advance for volunteering!!!



SARAH THOMPSON  
SCHOOL

Date: September 3, 2024

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Please follow us on  
Twitter

@SarahThompsonSc

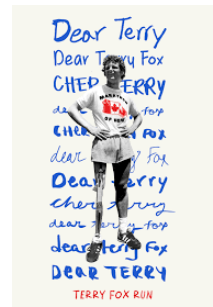
Like us on  
Facebook

@SarahThompsonRVS



## Terry Fox Run

Grades 1-5 will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run on Friday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Kindergarten classes will have their run September 19<sup>th</sup>. More information will come home soon on how you might be able help our run be successful and support Cancer research.



## Grade Configuration and List Creation

Over the years many families have asked us how grade configurations are determined and how class lists are created. To begin with, schools have to balance the needs of their students with the staffing levels they are provided as well as consideration of enrollment levels. When placing students in classes several considerations go into the decision-making process to create **all** classes, whether straight grades or split classes (a combination of two grades). Administration, learning support teachers, CDA, and current grade teachers meet in June to discuss where students will be placed for the following school year. Often times frequent meetings are held to ensure the lists reflect this collaborative process. Students need to be placed in an appropriately balanced classroom using such criteria as age, range of ability, special learning needs, gender, social groupings, and support staff recommendations. There may be a perception by some that in split classes the more academically capable students in the lower grade are placed with the less academically capable students in the higher grade. This is not the case when creating classes at Sarah Thompson. The children in all classes will represent a wide range of abilities and will be at different levels in their growth and learning and their teachers will be providing instruction and curriculum to meet the child at their learning level.

## Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30<sup>th</sup> marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We are encouraging everyone to wear an Orange Shirt on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, and as a reminder, there is no school Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> in honour and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation.

*'Orange Shirt Day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.'*

*(Govt. of Canada)*



## Staff Updates

We are very excited to welcome back Mrs. Crooks to STS who will be fulfilling the role as our music teacher! Welcome to Miss Badiou who is teaching grade 1 and Ms. Newby who is teaching grade 4 while Mrs. Lamirande and Mrs. Mcleod are both at home taking care of their babies born this summer. We also have a few short-term leaves so we welcome Mrs. Diegel filling in for Mrs. Wycoco until Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Magnus who is filling in for Mr. Cove until the middle of Oct. and lastly Ms. Sekhon will be filling in the role of our full-time learning support teacher as Mrs. Winkler is off until the end of October.

## Tiger Talk

Staff and students spent much of today going over our school's 'Tiger Talk' which includes behavioural expectations under our three pillars of 'Respectful', 'Resilient', and 'Responsible'. Examples of topics covered included being 'respectful' when listening to our teacher and peers by not interrupting, being 'resilient' when trying something new and not giving up if the work is difficult and being 'responsible' by walking safely in the hallways and safely playing soccer at recess.



# Sarah Thompson School

## Respectful

Everyone is valued



Care for others



Care for our communities



Kindness matters



## Resilient

Be flexible



Keep trying



Seek help



Courage matters



## Responsible

Be safe



Honour space and time



Make good choices



Honesty matters



In order to achieve this, we are asking for your support at home. This includes using the language from the pillars to reinforce positive behaviour at home and when assisting your child work through difficult or challenging choices or behaviours. Other areas we would appreciate your support is encouraging a love of reading by **reading with your child** or listening to stories together, playing games that **reinforce basic numeracy skills**, and engaging in activities that **promote critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving**. Ensuring that your child has **nutritious snacks/lunch**, and **adequate sleep/bedtime routines** will aid in their personal wellness. **Regular attendance** is also a vital component to both academic success and personal wellness. In addition, we would appreciate if you would check your child's agenda daily, read monthly newsletters, and check the school calendar to keep up to date with important events.

## Milk Orders

We are planning to begin offering milk to students on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. To receive milk on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, it must be ordered by September 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents can order milk for the year, or they can order milk weekly. However, if ordering weekly, your order must be placed by Wednesday to receive milk the following week. Purchases will be available on [School Cash](#) soon.

## Yearbook

If you have already ordered a yearbook, they should be coming home soon. If you would like a 2023-2024 yearbook and did not order one last year, we still have a few available for sale. Please contact the front office to purchase last year's yearbook.



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friends of Sarah Thompson Elementary Society (FoSTES)**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

6:30pm in the Learning Commons at Sarah Thompson School and VIA Zoom

*For the upcoming 2024/2025 School year, we would love to welcome any parents that would like to be more involved with fundraising for Sarah Thompson School. Please note, some of the volunteers no longer have children at Sarah Thompson School or it is their last year. This leaves a need for new parents to join in and help keep the society going! It also creates an opportunity to work with current members over the next year to learn the various roles and help the society to thrive. Without the society, Sarah Thompson School would not have the funds for things like replacing old technology in our classrooms, buying new gym equipment, as well as subsidizing activities like swimming lessons and much more. FoSTES is made up of an Executive team, which consists of the following required positions - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, also a School Council Liaison and three Directors. All of these VOTING members are elected at the Annual General Meeting by all attending parents/guardians. FoSTES also welcomes Members at Large that do not have voting powers but are able to attend the meetings and assist as needed!*

*During the AGM, FoSTES executives will go through any old/new business, as well as present the yearly financials. Following the AGM, FoSTES would like to host a short meeting with the new Executive to discuss any other business as well as future meetings, to officially kick off the new year! Please don't hesitate to contact FoSTES by emailing [friendsofstesociety@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstesociety@gmail.com) if you have any questions in regard to the meeting, positions available or the society in general. Zoom Meeting Link*

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77361638567?pwd=6a9rCRXaaHXaQogbgFJIHtwqCy8rDq.1>

Meeting ID: 773 6163 8567

Passcode: 07D11d

School  
Council

Next meeting is Sept. 24th at 8:35 in the Learning Commons or via Zoom!

We currently have vacant School Council positions that we need filled. If you are interested in contributing to our school please join us on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> to find out all about it! Hope to see you there!!



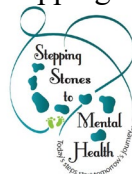
Click [Trellis Commons](#) to learn about all the exciting events happening in the area!



**LANGDON WALK & RUN**

Click [here](#) for more information!

Click [here](#) for FREE Parent & Caregiver Education Sessions (MHCB Stepping Stones to Mental Health)



Family Games Night & Outdoor Movie

Saturday Sept 21st  
6-8pm Games  
8-945pm Movie  
at Langdon Field House  
344 Centre St

**FREE EVENT**



Concession available cash only

[www.goodlucktown.ca](http://www.goodlucktown.ca)





SARAH THOMPSON  
SCHOOL

# Sarah Thompson Schedule

A digital copy of September's Newsletter can be viewed on our website at [thompson.rockyview.ab.ca](http://thompson.rockyview.ab.ca).

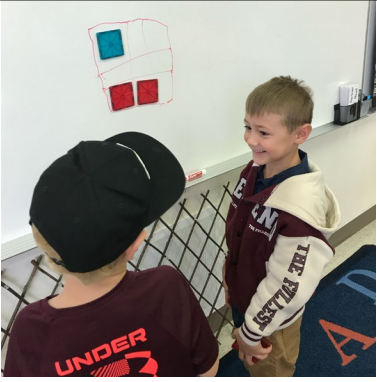
Please follow us on Twitter @SarahThompsonSc  
Like us on Facebook @SarahThompsonRVS

# September 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2	3 First Day of School for 2024/25	4	5	6 No Kindergarten  Welcome Back Assembly	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 No Kindergarten  Welcome Back BBQ @ 11:45am	14
15	16	17	18	19 Terry Fox Run for AM/PM Kindergarten	20 No Kindergarten  Terry Fox Run for Grade 1-5	21
22	23 Milk	24 Milk School Council Meeting @ 8:30am	25	26 Milk	27 Milk No Kindergarten	28
29	30 No School Truth & Reconciliation Day	1 Milk	2 School Photo Day – Class & Individual Photos	3 Milk	4 Milk No Kindergarten	5

**Tiger Talk** 'Kindness matters'!



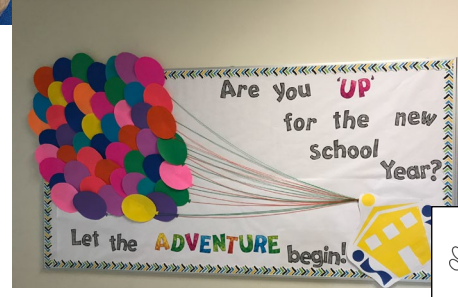
**Tiger Talk** Being 'respectful' by listening to others!



**Tiger Talk** Learning to 'make good choices' by placing shoes on the rack!



**Tiger Talk** Being 'responsible' by carrying shoes in the hallway!



**Tiger Talk** Staff being 'resilient' by being flexible in their thinking!

