



Important Dates

Oct 1 – Fun Lunch

Oct 5 – **Early Dismissal** for
Afternoon Kindergarten and
Gr. 1 to Gr. 3

Oct 8 – Thanksgiving Day-No
School

Oct 11 – Student Picture Day;
Disciplinary Literacy Parent
Evening 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Oct 12– **Early Dismissal** for
Morning Kindergarten and Gr.
1 to Gr. 3

Oct 15 – School Council /
Fundraising Meeting 6:30 pm

Oct 19 – **Early Dismissal** for
Afternoon Kindergarten and
Gr. 1 to Gr. 3; Snack Day

Oct 26 – **CBE Non-
Instructional Day**-No School
for Students

Royal Oak School

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Newsletter | October 2018

Principal's Message - October 2018

October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames
and sink into a good book.

John Sinor

The “crisp” autumn air and the “cool nights [invites us to take] time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book.” As our seasons rather abruptly turn from the temperatures of cooler autumn to a walloping winter storm contrasting the strikingly, brilliant colours of fall with the white of winter, the Royal Oak School Community continues to focus on intellectually engaging in learning. With the beginning of October, our Canadian 2018 Nobel Prize winner for Physics, Donna Strickland is an excellent role model for our students. She is the third woman in history to win the Nobel Prize in Physics. Donna Strickland was recognized for helping to “pave the way” for the most intense laser beams ever created by humans via a technique that stretches and then amplifies the light beam. She brings honour, integrity and humility to the Nobel Prize for the discipline of Physics. This is a wonderful gift to the citizens of Canada and the world. It is interesting to imagine that perhaps one of our Royal Oak School children will one day hold such a prestigious and influential position.

It has been a great start to the school year and I would like to thank everyone for helping us rapidly refocus our excitement upon the important work of teaching and learning. It was wonderful to see so many people attend our first round of student-centred conferences and the school staff was again impressed at how quickly students have settled in and how committed the entire school is to creating the necessary conditions for successful learning. We have had to remind ourselves on a few occasions that it is just the first month of school.

The **September Safety Week** was positive with our practice of the following drills: fire drill, evacuation and lockdown. The students were extremely cooperative and the staff are confident that if there was an emergency, the students have now experienced the protocols for each drill and how to proceed. Thank you to parents who conversed with their children regarding the importance of these drills. I would also like to acknowledge the professionalism of the ROS staff as they prepared the students and conducted the drills to help ensure the safety of students and visitors to our school. A special thanks to Constable Will Johnson and his police partners for setting the appropriate serious tone for lockdowns in a gentle, friendly and kind manner.

The **Terry Fox Run** took place on **Friday, September 14** and students braved the inclement weather. Royal Oak School students ran with the students from WD Pratt School in an effort to raise funds for a worthy cause. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and energy as we run to complete our .7 K lap route with 1100 students, staff and volunteers. I would like to extend a thank you to Ms. Hennick and the Comprehensive School Health Committee as well as Mr. Howat (PE Learning Leader from Pratt) for the accomplishment of demonstrating solid citizenship through concern for others. It is a very important to support fundraising initiatives that fight a disease that has such an unfair advantage. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who donated **“Toonies for Terry”**.

We held our Royal Oak **School Volunteer Orientation** and if you missed the meeting, please check in with Ms. Jackson or Ms. Braun, our school Administrative Assistants, for the protocols and the “how to” information when volunteering in the school. I would also like to offer another special thank you to parent, **Niki Rickhi, Volunteer Coordinator** for her support and help that evening and throughout the year with our valued volunteers. It is volunteers who make so many, many wonderful opportunities for students possible. If you have not had the chance to either get your volunteer security clearance from the Calgary Police Service, or renew your volunteer security clearance, please see Ms. Jackson or Ms. Braun.

Following the Volunteer Orientation, **our First School Council / Parent Fundraising Meeting** of the year was held on Monday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to participate in the discussions on school issues and give feedback. You can attend as a member of the community and are always welcome to join any of the committees such as Hug n’ Go (15 – 20 min), Fun Lunch and other initiatives set up by our ROS School Council and Parent Fundraising.

Royal Oak School celebrated **Orange Shirt Day** on September 28. We held an assembly with Shane Cunningham, CBE Diversity and Learning Support Advisor for Indigenous Education. Shane Cunningham spoke to the students about the Indigenous connection to the land and why it is important that we honour the land. Also, on September 28 was the Principal’s Gratitude Tea. Thank you to all parents who attended the **Principal’s Gratitude Tea**. I am grateful for your gifts of conversations and support.

I would like to extend a special thank you to ROS parents, **Ms. Caitlyn Wood**, and the members of School Council for organizing the celebratory community gathering of **the Fall Fair for October 4**. The plan was for a great, vibrant community gathering with so many of the ROS families out and enjoying the games, food trucks, laughter and great conversations with neighbours. Unfortunately, the winter’s early and unexpected arrival caused the cancellation of this wonderful ROS event. We look forward to the magnificent Fall Fair next year.

As we continue to strive for excellent **communication** with you, please ensure that you have subscribed to receive email messages from the school. The **blue icon envelope that says, “Subscribe” on the Calgary Board of Education website near the bottom of the main website** is how you subscribe and give approval. Our parent survey showed that most parents feel that communication is best served by receiving **email messages**. We

would like to give just a gentle reminder to parents continue to check **your child's teacher blog daily** for information on the events and upcoming activities in the classroom and school. Also, I would invite you to start checking into **Iris** to see some of the important work that your child has been completing in school. In addition, parents have asked to have a paper copy of the calendar and the Principal's message to further enhance communication. More detail on the events in the school can be found in the school newsletter which is also posted on our website. Finally, check our Twitter Account @RoyaloakCBE for daily updates of school events. Please let us know if there is a better way to communicate with you about upcoming school events.

We are having a **new Artist in Residence** in Physical Education called **Dance PL3Y from October 15 to October 23**. The dance group will be working with all students from K – 3. The students will be focusing on their "dance moves" and we look forward to inviting parents in to dance with your children during their PE class. So, "get your dancing shoes on" and look for be more information coming to you soon regarding the invitation to participate with your children. Our returning **Artist in Residence, Sharon Fortowsky**, will be visiting from **October 29 – November 15** to work with students on visual art connected to the discipline inquiry of historian, artist, geologist and illustrator and the Alberta Education Program of Studies. Sharon Fortowsky, an artist and former teacher, will be working this term with the Grade 2 and 3 students. The Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will have the opportunity to work with Ms. Fortowsky later in the school year. We are very excited to see the artist endeavors that the students create under the guidance of Shannon. Our **Artist in Residence Programs** sponsored by School Council and the Parent Fundraising Society are hosting our visual artist, **Sharon Fortowsky**. Sharon is working with the students and teachers on their inquiry work.

Our **Student Photo Day is on Thursday, October 11** in the Learning Commons. The **Re-take Day for student photos is on Wednesday, November 1**. **Any parent volunteers that are available we would welcome your participation provided you have security clearance.**

We will be hosting a **Costume wearing Halloween on Wednesday, October 31**. Participation is optional. While wearing a costume to school is exciting and creative, we have a few requests to ensure costumes are safe and our focus is on teaching and learning. To make the day as success we would ask that students do not bring masks, weapons, or wear violent costumes. Also, other paraphernalia that is sharp, cumbersome or valuable should not come to school. Please look for further details regarding Halloween.

While the work in our school is constantly evolving, the early fall is traditionally a time where we create and formalize our School Development Plan. When we do this work, we review the data from multiple sources in order to set the goals and learning targets for the upcoming year. This plan is shared out at our School Council meetings on an annual basis but we do not always have the time to share and more importantly, celebrate these results. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of that data that helps us recognize what a great school we continue to have. Some highlights from the June 2018 Royal Oak School data will be shared at the School Council/ Parent Fundraising meetings.

We look forward to sharing more of this data at our **October School Council/ Parent Fundraising Society meeting Monday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.** and in future newsletters including highlights from the Parent Survey, Student Survey and Teacher Survey. Please join us. We welcome your participation.

Lynn Sparks
Principal, Royal Oak School

In the second week of September all students visited the learning commons as a class for orientation and first book exchange. During that time, we talked about some of the expectations of the Learning Commons.

We discussed the importance of keeping the books free from damage. Some of the points discussed were:

Please carry your books to and from school in your back pack! This way you know they are safe.

Please keep books in a food and drink free spot.

Enjoy reading your books and store books away from pets.

Enjoy reading your books with your younger sibling with an adult supervising. They put your books away in a safe place to protect them.

Designate one particular place in your house to store library books and return your books there after reading.

Take pleasure in reading the book yourself or have someone read it to you.

Students can sign out 2 books (one book for Kindergarten) and the maximum loan period is 2 weeks.

We encourage Students at ROS to use the Learning Commons regularly. They are allowed to exchange resources as needed with the permission of their classroom teachers. Some teachers may decide to bring their class at a scheduled time each week and we discussed that it's the student's responsibility to remember their library Learning Commons day and return their book so they don't miss the opportunity to exchange books and read even more books.

Mrs. S. Azam
Library Assistant





KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten students have begun their formal education with excitement, smiles and in some cases short-lived hesitation.

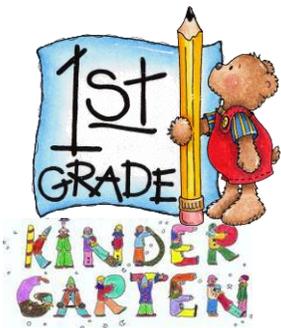
Teachers have designed their spaces to assist children in developing a love of learning, independence, social awareness and inspire the natural curiosity and sense of wonder that is intrinsic in all children.

Through songs, poems, stories, guided activities and thoughtful play, children have begun to learn new routines, meet new friends and take ownership of their learning classroom.

We have already begun to develop our muscles through gross motor games in physical education and our fine motor skills through various cutting and writing activities. Did you know that pre-writing actions such as drawing horizontal, vertical, zigzag, and wavy lines as well as learning the body parts of a person are an important part in our learning? Once we master these skills we feel prepared to see success in other areas such as letter formation.

Throughout the coming months we will be learning what it is like to be an artist, working on becoming kind friends to our peers and developing in so many ways that will amaze you when you come to school for our student centred conferences in November. To keep up to date on what we are doing and to see some of our weekly learning please check out our Kindergarten blog at <https://mscmercer.blogspot.com>

The Kindergarten Team
Ms. Mercer, Ms. Bernard-Dixon, Ms. Sticks!



GRADE ONE NEWS

The first month of school was spent building relationships and setting expectations. Through daily Read Aloud stories, students were exposed to literature which highlighted concepts such as sharing, kindness, and feelings we may have while adjusting to Grade One. Each class created a class promise of expected behaviours at school. Students were provided many opportunities to share information about themselves as we got to know each other.



We are beginning to work through the discipline process of an author/illustrator. We conducted research by examining a variety of alphabet books and looking for common elements. We noticed the following student responses:

- H – "they both have the alphabet"
- L - "it goes A - Z"
- A – "they both have A's"
- A – "pictures all start with the letter"

Through hands-on literacy centres we have investigated different mediums to illustrate the letters in our Alphabet Book. We have used Lego, play-dough, gems, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, and blocks. By building upper case and lower case letters we have begun to notice letters that are straight or curvy, tall or short. This helps us as we practice printing all our lower case letters in the correct formation. We continue to review the sounds each letter makes and brainstorm and search for things in our environment that begin with each letter.

The Grade One Team

Ms. Power, Ms. Plaxin, Ms. Libbey, Mr. Duggan, Ms. Barley, Ms. Daniels



GRADE TWO NEWS

The grade two students have had a busy start to their school year! We have spent the last few weeks building relationships in our classroom community and we have had opportunities to learn about each other and work together.

To start off the year we have examined artifacts. We first had to learn what an artifact is, why we might have them in our families and the cultural significance and the stories they tell. The students have examined each other's artifacts and older photos through the lens of a Historian. We have been working on our journaling techniques, examining how we can 'Journal like Leonardo Da Vinci' and create detailed notebooks filled with drawings, labels, questions and make connections. The students shared their story behind the artifact they brought. It was very interesting learning about where they came from and the significance to their family.

During literacy, we have been practicing our reading strategies and how to pick a 'Just Right' book. When we are picking out a book to read we use the IPICK strategy. I can pick a book thinking about:

Purpose: Why do I want to read it?

Interest: Do I want to learn about this?

Comprehension: Am I understanding what I'm reading?

Know: Do I know most of the words?

When writing, we have been focusing on our writing checklist making sure we always include capitals, punctuation, neat printing, finger spaces and descriptive words. We have been practicing writing strong sentences and checking our work to ensure they make sense.

For art, we created a mixed media portrait of ourselves using a transparent surface, sharpie and paint. The students had to mix colours to match their skin tone and features, they all turned out so well!

In math we have been reviewing concepts from grade one. We are moving towards strengthening our number sense through games, rich problems and finding ways to apply math to the world around us.



The Grade Two Team

Ms. Shillington-Vogan, Ms. Devereux, Ms. Cook, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Lagrana, Ms. Quesnel

Third Grade

GRADE THREE NEWS

What a wonderful start to the year! We have been settling into our new classes, meeting new friends, and have begun our learning journey.

The grade three students opened the year thinking about the question: *What is life, and who am I in it?* Through the lens of an artist, students created self-portraits

communicating who they are to our learning community. Basic visual arts/math concepts were explored such as shape, space, color, symmetry, and visual representation. This question lends itself to the many disciplines we will be exploring this year, and how each student is connected to our world.



As students in grade three have begun our dynamic process of being open to wonder and puzzlement and coming to know and understand the world, we have begun our inquiry with the question: *How does our land influence how we live?*

Through the lens of a geologist, students have been asking many questions such as:

- How do rocks get their shape?
- Where do rocks actually come from?
- What if the earth didn't have any rocks?
- I wonder if the First Nations people used rocks? And you?
- What is the rarest rock?

Through the lens of a historian and anthropologist, students have taken up the same question by learning about the different Indigenous peoples of Southern Alberta. Students are learning about Treaty 7 and how this treaty impacted indigenous peoples' way of life and culture. They also had the opportunity to engage with authentic artifacts of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) people from a Glenbow museum kit. Through multiple disciplinary perspectives, students will have the opportunity to critically engage and make meaning of how our land influences how we live.



The Grade Three Team
Ms. Bennett, Ms. Fournier, Mr. Sandberg, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Craig



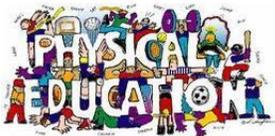
MUSIC ROOM NEWS



The new school year is off to an exciting start with a whole new cohort of kindergarten students! We began our work together by visiting an imaginary farm. Of course, we're always singing as we travel, moving our bodies to show the meaning of the words, as well as keeping a steady beat. So far, we have met some hens and ducks who each have their own special songs – and instruments. Students have been working on playing rhythm sticks and drums like a team to represent the rhythm of language.

Grade One students have been exploring the question of “*What is beat?*” After moving, singing songs, speaking poems and playing instruments, students have discovered that there are many ways to keep the beat. But wherever it is, the beat is always that steady pulse that makes you want to tap your toe. Sometimes it is a slow beat, sometimes it is a fast beat, but it is *always* steady, just like the healthy heart beat in our bodies. Students have also been singing, moving, and playing instruments to create high and low sounds to prepare for their first taste of melodic notation.

Ms. O. Mann
Music Specialist



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Royal Oak students have had an active start to the new school year. Thank you to all students that have shared their activity pictures with me to add to my bulletin board. I am always excited to see what activities our students and staff have been taking part in. It looks like we have all had a super active summer!

In the gym we have been having lots of fun working on locomotor skills includes running, skipping and galloping. We are currently working hard at improving our tossing and catching skills and will be moving into lots of fun activities and games to give us lots of practice. During the month of September, our students participated in our annual Terry Fox Run. As a school, we ran over 1029km and raised \$754.15 to be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. I would like to send out a great big thank you to our students for raising money and participating, to all of our wonderful volunteers for helping out and to the Royal Oak Sobeys for their generous donation of bananas so our students could enjoy a healthy snack after the run.

During the first half of the month of October, we will continue working on our throwing and catching skills. Grade 2/3 will participate in a handball unit while the Kindergarten and Grade 1 students play cooperative games while refining their skills. For the last half of the month we have our dance residency with Dance P13y. Students will work hard to learn new skills and on the final day we will have a parent share. More information on this exciting event will be sent out closer to the date.

Ms. Hennick
Phys. Ed. Specialist

Parking Around Schools: Photo Enforcement



**CALGARY
PARKING
AUTHORITY**

Calgary Parking Authority is helping to make school areas safer for our students and school communities. Here's what you should know.

1 The Calgary Parking Authority is now using photo enforcement in addition to Enforcement Officers in school areas, so tickets may be received in the mail or placed on vehicles that are in violation of parking regulations.

2 You must follow posted signage, even if you remain in your vehicle.

3 Parking responsibly around schools is very important for the safety of the students attending these schools and members of the community.

TIPS: Avoid parking fines

Stay back at least 1.5 metres from entrances to garages or driveways

Watch for "No stopping" and "No parking" zones

Keep school bus zones clear

Leave five metres between your car and cross walks

Park at least five metres from stop signs, yield signs or intersections

