



December
16-20

Joseph Welsh Parent Newsletter

Principal's Message

Hello JW families!

We are very excited for the Winter Concert on Wednesday! Our students having been working very hard during their music time and can't wait to perform. Thank you Ms. Kreil for all your work!

A big thank you to our School Council who have organized the Christmas Market for our students and their families. This takes place on Tuesday this week.

We want to wish all of our Joseph Welsh families the very best as we head into the holiday season. This time is all about family, and I hope that you all get an opportunity to spend precious time with family and friends. All the best for 2025!

Kevin Robertson
Principal, Joseph Welsh



Around the Community

Dec. 17 - Christmas Market

We are excited to host the School Council Christmas market. Thanks to our School Council and volunteers and all of our JW families.

Dec. 18 - Winter Concert

We are excited to host this year's concert on Wednesday - please see later in this newsletter for more info!

Dec. 20 - School movie (AM) & pajama day!

****Note that Friday we have an early dismissal @ 2:00 pm**



WINTER CONCERT - December 18th

We are excited and looking forward to hosting our Winter Concert. Our students, under the guidance of our music teacher, Ms. Kreil, are working hard and they are excited and eager to perform. We will be hosting two performances at our school on the evening of December 18th. In order to accommodate as many spectators as possible, we are going to have two presentations during the evening.

Pre-K students: Both our **AM and PM** Pre-K students will come only for the **first** presentation (starts at 5:30 PM). **Mrs. Chin will communicate specific drop off and pick up times with families.

Kindergarten students: **AM** Kindergarten students will come only for the **first** presentation (starts at 5:30 PM). **PM** Kindergarten students will be here only for the **second** presentation (starts at 6:45 PM). **Mrs. Curran will communicate specific drop off and pick up times with families.

Grades 1-5 students will be here for **both** presentations. We ask that all grades 1-5 students arrive at the school between 5:10-5:15. Students will meet in their classrooms with their teachers.

PRESENTATIONS:

Please understand that we can only accommodate a maximum number of spectators in the gymnasium at a time due to our seating capacity. Therefore, we are hosting two shows so that our families can come and watch.

Spectators will be determined by student last name:

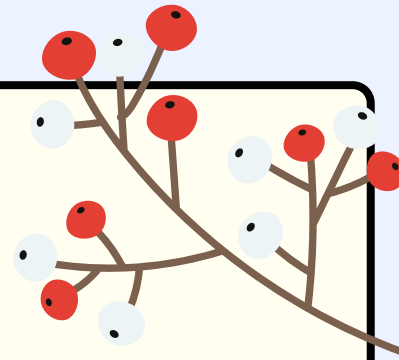
- **Performance 1 - 5:30-6:15** - PreK (AM & PM), Kindergarten (AM), all grades 1-5 Parents/guardians of students with last name A-L
- **Performance 2 - 6:45-7:30** - Kindergarten (PM), all grades 1-5 Parents/guardians of students with last name M-Z

SEATING CAPACITY: To ensure we remain within our legal capacity, each student can have 2 people come to the performance.

If you are unable to attend the evening performance, we can invite parents/guardians to attend our dress rehearsal in the gym at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, December 18th. If you would like to attend our dress rehearsal only, please email jwelsh@rdpsd.ab.ca. We can only accommodate a total of 150 spectators for the dress rehearsal.



School Council News



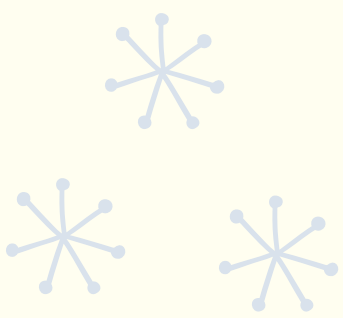
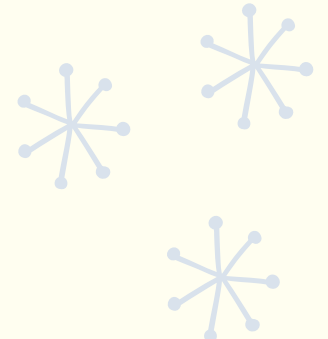
Joseph Welsh Families

Another month that is just flying by... and with a busy week ahead it is sure to be a good one before our Break.

We have our Market set up on Monday, and on Tuesday our kids get to go shopping. Look out for all the gifts making their way home that day. This year marks our second year running this event and we really couldn't do it without all our parent donations and Volunteers - so thank you to everyone for pitching in!

Wishing all a joyous Christmas/Winter Break,

Kyla Rollinson
School Council Chair



Joseph Welsh Staff Wishes

To our Joseph Welsh Families

*On behalf of our entire staff,
Happy Holidays to you and all
the very best for 2025!*



Joseph Welsh School - Family Resources

Red Deer Family Recreation Passes

The City of Red Deer has graciously shared the opportunity for our Joseph Welsh families to access the School based Recreational Family Pass through an initiative to allow families to utilize the Recreation Centers in Red Deer. Families can access these passes through Miss Lindsay Stanton, our Family School Liaison Counsellor.

These can be signed out and used by a family, generally for the duration of a week. If you would like to inquire about using the Joseph Welsh Family Pass, please contact:

Miss Lindsay at lindsay.stanton@rdpsd.ab.ca



RED DEER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Little Learners Pre-Kindergarten at Red Deer Public Schools provides welcoming, play-based programs for children of all abilities to grow, play and thrive. Through fun, hands-on activities, our supportive classrooms focus on developing curiosity, creativity, independence, and a sense of belonging.



SCAN ME!

Scan the QR code to learn more about this program and find your school.

Applications open January 13, 2025!

Funding is offered for children with diagnosed delays, and paid spots are open for those who don't qualify.



Kindergarten at Red Deer Public Schools



It's an exciting time and a big step for children and their families. It's a time for learning and discovery, making new friends, preparing for success.

We offer a variety of programs including:

- Half and full day options in English programming
- French Immersion programming
- Spanish bilingual programming
- Kindergarten Academy of Discovery

Registration opens January 13



SCAN ME!

RED DEER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Master two languages in one classroom

We live in an increasingly interconnected world and becoming proficient in a second language is an exciting choice for many families.

Red Deer Public Schools offers French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual Programs

Want to learn more?

CLICK HERE



Want to learn more about RDPSD French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programs?

CLICK HERE: <https://www.rdpsd.ab.ca/>

RED DEER COMMUNITY AGENCIES & RESOURCES

YOUTH HQ



TORCH CLUB

EASTVIEW bgc

October 8-May 13
Join Anytime of the Year

All Youth Aged 10-12
Tuesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm
Eastview Club House, 4030 Embury Cres

WHY JOIN TORCH?

1. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS
2. LEARN AND TRY NEW THINGS
3. CLUBS ARE FREE TO JOIN
4. DROP IN WHEN YOU CAN

LEARN MORE AT YOUTHHQ.CA

Register Today
Spots are limited

YOUTHHQ.CA
BGC@YOUTHHQ.CA
403-342-6500

YOUTH HQ



ZAP

EASTVIEW bgc

October 8-May 13
Join Anytime in the Year

Youth Aged 7-9
Tuesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm
Eastview Club House, 4030 Embury Cres

WHY JOIN ZAP?

1. FUN AND GAMES
2. ARTS AND CRAFTS
3. DROP IN WHENEVER
4. CLUBS ARE FREE!!

LEARN MORE AT YOUTHHQ.CA

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YOUTH HQ

RED DEER COMMUNITY AGENCIES & RESOURCES

- SPARC -



Ways to Build Assets During the Holidays



The goal of SPARC Red Deer is to educate and excite our community on building blocks that all children and youth need in order to thrive, which includes the 40 Developmental Assets.

The holidays are a great time to reconnect as a family. These small, but meaningful connections can help build assets in your child.

The 40 Developmental Assets are building blocks that children and youth need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

Strong family relationships are the very heart of asset development.

Here are some ideas to help your family grow closer and maintain a positive atmosphere at home.

Have your child teach you something new.

Talk about family traditions & explore those of others.

Plan and cook/bake a holiday recipe together as a family.

Build a snowman together, then warm up with some hot chocolate.

Make holiday crafts together.

Have a screen free day - get active.

Shovel your neighbours' driveway together.

Curl up as a family and watch a favourite holiday movie.

Merry Christmas

Walk around the neighbourhood to look at festive lights. Say hi to the neighbours that you see.

Get to know your kids friends an invite them along to one or more of your great holiday activities.

Volunteer together with your kids.

Go tobogganing or skating.

Celebrate your spiritual values with seasonal practices or gatherings.

Read Christmas or winter stories together as a family.



ATTENDANCE

Here are the Red Deer Public Schools attendance codes, which are standard for the entire district. This should provide clarity for families with students in different grades at various schools within the district.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V-I - Verified Absence Illness | Used when a guardian verifies a student's absence is due to illness. |
| V-O - Verified Absence Other | Used when a guardian verifies a student's absence for a reason other than illness. |
| A - Absence that has not been verified by a parent | Used when a student misses an entire class/attendance period and has not been verified by the guardian. |
| L - Late | Used when a student arrives after the start of the school day. |

VERIFYING ABSENCES

When verifying your student's absence, you can do so by email or phone.

- Email: jwelsh@rdpsd.ab.ca
- Attendance Phone: 403-346-6390

When leaving a message, please clearly state the following information:

- Your Name
- Your Student's Name
- Your Student's Teacher
- Reason for Absence (for example, if illness, please share details)

Attendance will be entered daily from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm throughout the day. Thank you for your patience, as we receive a large daily volume of attendance requests each day.

ON THE CALENDAR

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------|
| DEC. 16-20 | CHRISTMAS MARKET Set-up | CHRISTMAS MARKET | WINTER CONCERT | | Early Dismissal @ 2:00 PAJAMA DAY |
| | **RETURN TO SCHOOL: January 6th | | | | |

READ MORE AT:

SCHOOL WEBSITE LINK: www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh

SCHOOL CALENDAR LINK: www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh