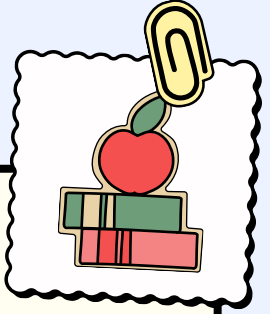




# Joseph Welsh Parent Newsletter

SEPT. 29, 2025

## Principal's Message



### PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS - **Next Week!**

We are looking forward to Parent-Teacher Interviews, which take place on Thursday, October 9th from 1:00-7:30 PM. Thank you for making your child's learning important.

#### **We will offer two options for parents/guardians:**

- In-person interviews in the school
- Phone call interview with your child's teacher

Detailed information for how to sign up for a time slot will come to parents via School Messenger on October 2nd. **The site will go live for signing up at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If anyone does require some help, please call the school at 403-346-6377 - we are happy to help!

Kevin Robertson  
Principal, Joseph Welsh

## Around the Community

### **Choir @ JW**

Choir is up and running for grades 4 and 5 students. Ms. Kreil will be hosting choir practice on Wednesdays at lunch recess this year. All students are welcome to join!

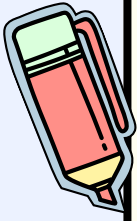
### **Online Forms in School Engage**

The School Neighbourhood Walk Form and the Technology Use Agreement Form are available in School Engage. Parents, please log in to PowerSchool and complete these forms by OCTOBER 10th.

➔ Here is a ["How To" document](#) for your reference.



## School Council News



This past week saw our first School Council meeting of the year. Thank you to those parents who came out. If you weren't able to make it, please consider coming to the next one on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 3:20 pm in the library.

Fall is on its way and what better time to indulge in some fall food! Our librarian Mrs. McEachern is spearheading a "taste" of harvest soup for all our grade 1-5 students. Volunteers will be needed - stay tuned for more information to come!

If you would like to Volunteer and have not completed a Volunteer Application in PowerSchool for Joseph Welsh Elementary you can find the application by scrolling down to School Engage.

Kyla Rollinson  
JW School Council Chair



# Staff Learning Days @ JW

**Ever wonder what happens on Staff Learning Days? Well, here is an inside look at what we do at Joseph Welsh. This information was shared at our September School Council meeting.**

## September Staff Learning Day:

- Our staff has been leaning into High Impact Teaching Strategies to build our collective efficacy and improve learning in our classrooms. In reviewing our journey, we have focused on several high impact strategies, as you can see in the accompanying graphic of our school's year plan. This past month we shared best practices for clear learning targets, rubrics, and exemplars. Our staff also previously identified several key learner characteristics that we strive to build in our students and came to a consensus on a "top five" for what we want to see in our JW students as learners - being "curious, independent, resilient, cooperative and imaginative".

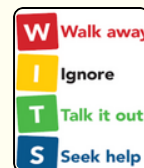
We also had several staff presentations and opportunities for collaboration during our staff learning day:

- Learning Team presentation
- Student Support Room presentation

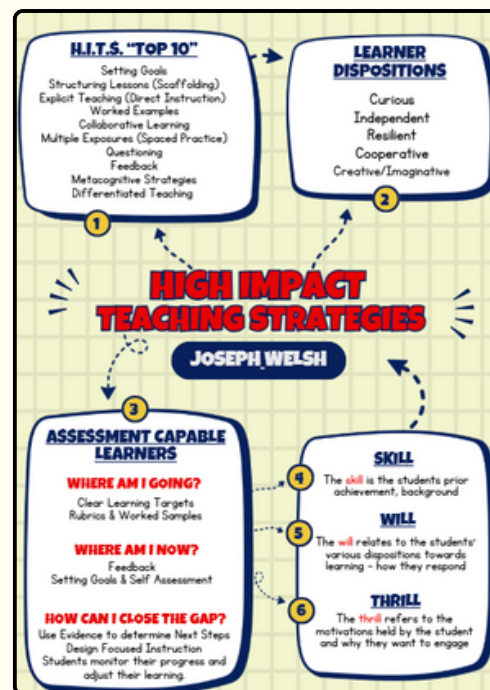
Our staff spent time collaborating and planning for our school's "WIN Time". "WIN" stands for "What I Need", referring to the learning intervention blocks we incorporate four times each week to focus on Literacy and Numeracy supports for every student. This started for us last year and we are excited to continue to build on it further this year. Our goal is to share a little more about our progress at each of our Parent Council meetings throughout the year.

During our startup, our staff built on prior learning in the area of Restorative Practices:

- Restorative Principles
- Restorative Circles
- Review and sharing our year plan focused on W.I.T.S., an RDPSPD Division initiative to reduce bullying and enhance students' skills with conflict.



Finally, our staff spent time working and collaborating on their own Professional Learning Growth Plans, as we look ahead at an amazing year of learning and growth here at Joseph Welsh! As you can see, it was a very jam-packed day for staff!



## Orange Shirt Day - September 29th

On Monday, September 29th, we will be recognizing and honouring National Day of Truth & Reconciliation by hosting an Orange Shirt Day.

A reminder that there is no school on September 30th.

There will be a number of other lessons or activities that will take place in classrooms as well.

**NATIONAL DAY FOR  
TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION**  
#OrangeShirtDay



# School Pictures are Ready!

Dear Parents & Guardians,

School pictures are ready! To order, log in to your account on [mylifetouch.ca](https://mylifetouch.ca) or create an account using your student's school ID number.

\*For detailed ordering instructions, please see this [LINK](#) to Lifetouch information.

## Accessing Your Child's Images Online:

Families can now access photos securely using their student ID number.

Steps:

1. Go to [www.mylifetouch.ca](https://www.mylifetouch.ca)
2. Sign in or create an account
3. Select "Student ID" tab
4. Enter student information to view photos

**Free shipping is available if orders are placed prior to September 29th**

**Lifetouch**





# INFORMATION FROM RED DEER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**THE FOUNDATION**  
For Red Deer Public Schools

**LIFE CHANCES CASH LOTTERY**  
**WIN UP TO \$25,000**

Lottery Licence # 743973  
Must be 18 or older. Alberta residents only  
20,500 tickets printed  
1 for \$10, 10 for \$25 or 25 for \$50  
Draw location: Red Deer Public Schools Schools  
4747 53 Street Red Deer Alberta

50/50

Download icon

## Red Deer Public School District Foundation LIFE CHANCES 50/50 Raffle #5

WINNER GETS HALF

Get your tickets now to be in the draw before sales end on October 7, 2025

CLICK HERE: [Get Tickets](#)

Thank you for your support. GOOD LUCK!

License: 743973

# 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.

<b>V-I - Verified Absence Illness</b>	Used when a guardian verifies a student's absence is due to illness.
<b>V-O - Verified Absence Other</b>	Used when a guardian verifies a student's absence for a reason other than illness.
<b>A - Absence that has not been verified by a parent</b>	Used when a student misses an entire class/attendance period and has not been verified by the guardian.
<b>L - Late</b>	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](mailto: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
SEPT 29 - OCT 3	Orange Shirt Day	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation  NO SCHOOL	Oct. 1		Parent- Teacher Interviews <b>**SITE OPENS FOR PARENTS @ 9am</b>
OCT 6-10				NO SCHOOL  Parent- Teacher Interviews 1:00-7:30	NO SCHOOL  Staff Learning Day
OCT 13-17	NO SCHOOL  THANKSGIVING		Picture Retake day		

## READ MORE AT:

SCHOOL WEBSITE LINK: [www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh](http://www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh)

SCHOOL CALENDAR LINK: [www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh](http://www.rdpsd.ab.ca/josephwelsh)