



# DECEMBER 2021

The last month of 2021 is upon us! Happy December to everyone. As the festive season is just around the corner, I want to take a moment to thank all parents/guardians and staff for the support and dedication in giving our students the best educational experience. I wish all of you a very happy and restful holiday season and look forward to seeing you virtually at our Christmas concert on December 16th, 2021. It will be shared on our Exshaw School Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ExshawSchool>) and our Exshaw School Website (<https://exs.crps.ca>). It is a wonderful opportunity to share the students' strengths and musical gifts, under the guidance of Mr. Sand.

## 6 Facts About School Attendance

1. Did you know that the absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2 - 4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Building good habits in school attendance starts early. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. That is why it is so important to make sure your child(ren) attend each and every day of school. We want all of our students to be the best they can be in all aspects and attendance is key.
3. Poor attendance can influence whether children are able to read grade level materials. This causes challenges for children in the areas of self esteem and academic achievement. We want our students to have even advantage possible and do not want our students to struggle.
4. Did you know that missing 10% of school year, which is about 18 days, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absenteeism.
5. Research shows that chronic absenteeism becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. We want all students to be able to complete high school as we know all Exshaw students are capable of it! We just need students to be here each day.
6. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduation. All of our staff wants to celebrate the graduation of all students that have attended Exshaw School.

Thanks so much for working with us to ensure that your child(ren) are attending school as much as possible. We thank you for communicating with us and working as a team to support your child(ren) to reach their full potential. With home, school and community working together, it makes a huge impact in the lives of our children. Thank you!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- Friday Dec 3 - **Early Dismissal**
- Thu Dec 16 @ 5:30pm **Christmas Concert** (join us online)
- Friday Dec 17 - **Early Dismissal**
- **Dec 18 to Jan 2 - Christmas Holidays**
- Monday Jan 3 - **School Resumes**

## Clothing

As the cold weather is upon us, the school is asking parents to ensure that students are dressed properly for the cold weather. Recess will be outdoors unless the temperature and wind chill equal  $-20$ , or below. Hats, mitts, scarves, boots, ski pants and coats will help students enjoy their recess. It is also a good idea to pack an extra pair of mitts and socks as they can become wet from playing in the snow.



## Elders

Exshaw School wants to thank our Elders Attendance Support Team of Phillomene Stevens, Tracey Stevens and Virgle Stephens for helping to collaborate with families and the school community to support improved attendance. We truly believe in a wraparound approach to support our students! Thank you so very much!



## Spirit North

At Exshaw School, we are incredibly lucky to also have opportunities for our students in grades 6 and 6/7 to engage with Spirit North. They have had the opportunity to be involved in Dryland training and were on skis in our school yard! We are so thankful for great community connections to support the experience of our students!



## Exshaw School Loves to Read!

Here are some tips for home reading with your child(ren)!

- Have a home reading routine. Read aloud with your child(ren) everyday. Ten minutes for each child around a book of their choice. Talk about the pictures and share where you can. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.
- The reader holds the book! There is a lot of power and control in the world of reading. The reader needs to have the power.
- During home reading time, turn off electronic devices and give each child ten minutes of your undivided attention.
- Before you read a book, set your child up for success. Reading is not a test! Reading time is only ten minutes so do some of the following: Keep the introduction short - one minute is enough. Talk about the pictures and the title. Talk about the author, talk about any unusual words, read a page here and there as your child flicks through the book and discuss the characters. This is a short introduction and should be fun! If the book is already a familiar one, then this step is unnecessary.
- If reading time is stressful, move the reading to a new location. Instead of sitting at the kitchen table, move to family room, or go outside or take the books to a favourite place to read.
- Find a reading time that works for your family. Limit the time and set the timer if reading in the past has always been difficult. It is better to have an enjoyable ten minutes than a difficult thirty minutes where everyone is left feeling frustrated.
- At the end of the ten minutes, ask questions that encourage discussion, for example: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? What did you think about that setting? What do you like/dislike about this book? Make it a comfortable conversation.
- Encourage your child(ren) to read independently. A bedside light is one of best items for your child(ren) to have to encourage reading before going to sleep. After the ten minutes of reading with you, the child can continue reading independently.
- The less you interrupt the ten minutes of reading, the more you are supporting the readers independence, resilience and confidence. Just enjoy listening to your child(ren) read.
- Enjoy your child(ren) as they are reading. Celebrate them by saying things about the strategies they are using while reading such as: "I like how you read on when you came to that difficult word." "I like how you changed your voice to be the voice of the character in the story." "I noticed that you reread the bit that did not make sense."
- Model what it means to be an enthusiastic reader. Create a home of readers where everyone reads - It is just what we do in this house! Talk about what you have read. Read aloud what makes you laugh and share it with your child(ren).

Yours in education,  
Nadine Dack-Doi (principal)

Please follow our Exshaw School Facebook page, Twitter feed and website for updates:



## Learning Needs

Did you know that all of our staff are designing learning activities to ensure that they are addressing the learning needs of each individual student's needs in the class? Our wonderful teachers and educational assistants, identify exact needs and design activities that are motivating and fun to help students reach their highest potential. Our staff is using every moment to support students in the best way possible to improve literacy and numeracy challenges.

## Cultural Learning

Did you know we embed cultural learning opportunities that link to our learning outcomes for students at Exshaw School? We had the opportunity to do the scraping of hides with our students in grades 7/8 and 8, alongside Knowledge Keeper, Daryl Kootenay? As well, our next step is tanning of the hides with Elders, Phillomene and Tracey Stevens. We believe in honouring the whole child. Learning experiences such as these nurture the physical, cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual development of students. In turn, this supports the development of a child who is healthy, knowledgeable, motivated and engaged.

## Happy Holidays

As we enter the holiday season, the staff at Exshaw School wishes our students, families and community a healthy, rejuvenating and safe holiday. We can't wait to see all our students back in school on January 3, 2022!

- "It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters but who's around it." – Charlie Brown
- "Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand." – Dr. Seuss
- "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others." – Bob Hope
- "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Will Ferrel, 'Elf'

