



April 2022

It is amazing how the extra light is bringing so much cheer to our students, staff and families. We do have so much to be thankful for as we enter the month of April. Thank you to our students and families for joining us for the wonderful parent/student/teacher conferences this past month. Please make sure that if you haven't connected with your child(ren)'s teacher, please call the school or email them. They would LOVE to talk to you about your child(ren)!

Thank You Elders

We are so honoured to have the opportunity to have the guidance of Elders: Phillomene Stevens, Tracey Stephens and Virgle Stephens in person! We met on March 15th, 2022, to discuss the importance of attendance and wraparound support for all students and families. We miss all students when they are not in school and want to help each child reach their highest potential. To do that, having students at school 5 days a week helps give them cultural opportunities, academic supports in literacy and numeracy and mental health supports. Exshaw School believes in whole child education and to do this well, we must collaboratively work with families, community, students and staff. It is about doing the best we can for our students. Thanks for being so supportive and working in the best interests of your child(ren) daily. We are aiming to see your lovely child(ren) at least 90% of the time! Thanks for the dedication and support of getting your child(ren) to school each day. We are noticing an improvement in our school wide attendance. Let's do it together!

Photos

Exshaw School continues to learn! Have a look:



Cell Phones

As of April 18, 2022, based on research, support from families, students and staff, we are making a very positive change to our cell phone policy. Students are welcome to bring cellphones onto the buses in the morning but they will need to put them away once they enter their classrooms. Please, if you need to get a hold of your child(ren), contact the school immediately and we will make sure that contact with family and child is made immediately. Did you know that research from the University of Alberta, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School show that digital technologies, particularly cell phones, are a growing distraction in the learning environment? Students' ability to focus on educational tasks has decreased, anxiety has increased and students are coming to school tired, according to the research.

At the start of the school day, students will be asked to place their cell phones away at the beginning of our school day at 8:27 a.m. until the end of the school day at 3:05 p.m. This includes the morning and lunch breaks as well.

Students will be given a gentle reminder the first time that they have not placed their cellphones away. However, the second time this happens, the cellphone will be held in the office for the remainder of the day. The student may pick up their device in the office at the end of the day (3:05 p.m.) On the third time, the cellphone will be held in the office and the student will let their families know to pick up the device during school hours (8:27 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.) If a student continues to need reminders and their cellphone is in the office, a family meeting will be arranged to determine next steps. Working with families and school to support students is the aim to develop healthy relationships where students can be interacting outside with each other rather than on their cell phones.

Thank you so much for your support by reviewing this at home with your children, especially, your junior high students. Again, students are always welcome to use the school phone to call home and that families are welcome to call the school office if they need to get an important message to their child throughout the school day. In case of an emergency, please do not hesitate to phone the school so that we may assist your child as needed. We encourage all families to ensure that after-school plans and early-dismissal pick-ups are well communicated to your child(ren) before the school day. Students may check their cell phones at the end of the school day at 3:05 p.m. and families can communicate with them at that time if necessary.

Yours in education,
Nadine Dack-Doi (principal)

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



Community Connections

Did you know we have a number of community connections? We are so lucky to have the support of Îyârhe Nakoda Youth Program, Our Wonderful Elders, Canmore Rotary Club, Local Reading Volunteers, Spirit North, Biogeoscience Institute, Lafarge and the Breakfast Clubs of Canada to name a few. Exshaw School is very lucky to have so many supports for our students. Thank you so much as it makes a huge difference!

Nearing the end of the school year

Students are very excited to celebrate their growth in learning! Can you believe that once we come back from spring break, we only have 53 days left with students? We want to do the very best for your child(ren). Let's see them each and every day so that we can provide the best programming in literacy and numeracy for all.

Registrations

Did you know that our kindergarten registrations are now open? If you have a child that is turning five as of December 31, 2022, we would love to have them join our Exshaw family. Please go to our website and register online! Please spread the word to families and friends.

There have been calls coming in asking about registrations for grades 1 through 8. Please continue to watch our Exshaw School website at exs.crps.ca and our Exshaw Facebook page. Stay tuned. We can't wait to welcome even more families for the 2022 - 23 school year!

Lost & Found

Our lost and found is continuing to grow! We would love all of the wonderful belongings to find their way home. Please come pay us a visit and look through the lost and found bin at the main entry and see if your child(ren)'s belongings are there. Thank you. Plus, we would love to see you!!!

Thank You

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child(ren) each day. We love seeing the growth in their skills and working in collaboration with families and support to do the very best for the whole child.