

NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Welcome Back!

September has arrived at Thickwood Heights and we are excited to welcome back our Thunderbirds for another exciting school year. All families are welcome to join us between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Tuesday September 3rd to meet their teachers and enjoy a free BBQ.

Our first official day of school for all students is Wednesday, September 4th. Our Welcome Back Assembly will be held on Thickwood Thursday, September 5th at 9:00 am and all families are welcome. Our full staff will be introduced to kick off the school year.

Assessment Update

Alberta Education announced over the summer that students between kindergarten and Grade 3 will undergo new proficiency assessment tests. Students in grades 1-3 will have numeracy and literacy assessments in September and January, with additional May testing for students deemed "at risk". Kindergarten students will now be assessed on literacy in January. Grades 4-6 remain the same as last year, with both literacy and numeracy being assessed in September and May. Proficiency assessments help to identify students that require extra support in these areas.

Mobile Devices Update

Starting September 1, 2024, a new ministerial order will restrict the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time. This new order will not have a significant impact on our Thickwood students as it has not changed our current cell phone policy. Our policy states that students are not permitted to use cell phones while in school or on the school grounds. Although students may have a cell phone in their possession, it must be kept in a locker, backpack, etc., and must be turned off. They must not be brought out in the open or they will be confiscated for a period of time, which will increase for repeat offenders. This policy can be found in our handbook along with all important information and dates pertaining to our school.

Important Dates in September:

- Sept 3 - Grade One and Kindergarten Orientation
- Sept 3 - Meet the Teacher Barbeque 5:00 pm
- Sept 4 - First Day Back for K - 6 Students
- Sept 5 - Welcome Back Assembly 9:00 am
- Sept 5 - ECDP Orientation
- Sept 5 - FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7:30 pm
- Sept 10 - Metis Bev Workshop
- Sept 13 - International Dot Day
- Sept 18 - Terry Fox Run
- Sept 23-27 - Garth Prince Residency
- Sept 23- 27 - Truth and Reconciliation Week
- Sept 30 - No School - National Holiday



Thickwood News and Updates

School Council

Our First School Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5th at Thickwood Heights School at 7:30 pm. There will be a virtual option to join sent out to all families before the meeting. School Council supports programs like Alien Inline, transportation for field trips and our annual production school.

Student Counsellor

Our school counsellor, Annan Slattery, will be at the school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and alternate Fridays. Email annan.slattery@fmpsd.ab.ca to connect with her or ask questions. We have a new practicum student working at our school this year who will be supporting with counselling - welcome to Mitch Bancroft.

Hot Lunches

Orders can be placed by creating an account at the PAC Website: Thickwood Hot Lunches (password TWHL) for October. These lunches would not be possible without our amazing PAC volunteers. Special thank-you to Miki McNaughton for taking over the organization of Hot Lunch on our School Council.

Leader in Me

Each month we will feature one of the Seven Habits in our Assemblies, Announcements and Newsletters. More information on the Leader in Me can be found through this [link](#).

Seven Sacred Teachings

The Seven Sacred Teachings are a form of Character Education through our health programming. The first teaching is the Eagle teaching for "love."



Congratulations 2023-2024 Award Winners!

We wrapped up the 2023-2024 school year with our End of Year Celebration Assembly - including some special awards. This year we will continue celebrating our Thunderbird of the Month in each grade at our Monthly Assembly.

Education Updates

Apple Schools

All Elementary schools at FMPD are Apple Schools, which is a school-focus preventative health initiative. We now have a monthly APPLE Slice for parents/families! Parents can sign up to receive the newsletter [here!](#)

5/6 Soccer & Volleyball

Students interested in 5/6 Soccer and Volleyball will have an opportunity to try out for after school teams this month. Coaches will send emails home later this month with more information and visit classrooms.

Intramurals

Full-school lunchtime intramurals will be held twice a week this year during lunch recess in the gym with Mr. Sullivan. Sign-ups and schedules will be shared later this month.



Student Council

Teachers will be nominating students for Student Council this month in grades 4-6 based on Thunderbird Citizenship, Leadership qualities demonstrated in class and student interest. Student Council will begin meeting weekly at the end of the month to plan fun school events and activities for our Thunderbirds, including an October Spirit Week.



THICKWOOD PRESENTS OUR



BACK TO SCHOOL



MEET THE TEACHER
BBQ

HAMBURGERS &
WATERMELON

TUESDAY,
SEPT 3RD

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

DROP OFF
INDOOR
SHOES IN
YOUR
CLASSROOM

Students can check out their new classrooms and find their desk for the first day!
All students are back on Wednesday, September 4th.



THICKWOOD HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Thickwood Heights

2024-2025 ENTRY DOORS

Field between Thickwood and St.Paul's School



YMCA
Daycare



SILIN FOREST ROAD

Thickwood Construction

Fall 2024





Fort McMurray
Public Schools

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT

Monday

2

LABOUR DAY

No school for staff or students.

SEPT

Tuesday

3

ORIENTATION DAY

Orientation Day for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 7 students only.

SEPT

Wednesday

4

FIRST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

First day of school for all students and all grades (including Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 7 students).

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ECDP)

Families will be contacted to come in for meet and greets Sept 4-6

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION HIGHLIGHT: *NEW SCHOOL YEAR*

Children are continuously learning to keep their personal belongings organized, manage their emotions, stay focused during instruction, manage time effectively and solve problems. Parents and educators need to support them in these areas!

Strategies for executive function development:

- Create morning and evening routines at home
- Teach and model routines to promote independence
- Talk about executive functioning skills
- Provide time to organize belongings at school and home
- Encourage problem solving discussions
- Create a space for homework completion
- Limit screen time and encourage physical activity
- Read daily with your child
- Make time for brain breaks
- Support emotional well-being
- Keep a calendar visible with important dates listed
- Teach your child how to use a planner
- Open and consistent communication between school and home
- Involve your child in the planning process
- Check in with your child
- Set goals and prioritize tasks
- Learn to tell time with an analog clock
- Practice time management
- Discuss coping strategies that work for your child





**Fort McMurray
Public Schools**

**ECDP
IMPORTANT DATES**

Orientation

SEPTEMBER 4-6

*(varies by class and school;
teachers will contact parents)*

First Day of School

SEPTEMBER 9