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**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**
Every Student Succeeds



**ASPEN
GROVE
SCHOOL**



.Message from Administration:

Sending you our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Whatever is meaningful and brings you happiness, be it yours this holiday season.

As we head into the new year, we would like to thank our students, staff, and parents for the many contributions you have all made to make the start of the 2023-2024 school year successful. Students, thank you for your hard work and for striving to do your best. Our school has had many changes in the past three years and you continue to grow and adapt to the situation around you. We are proud of each of you and look forward to your continued growth and success in the New Year. To our staff, thank you for always being there for our students, for the efforts you put forth daily to inspire and engage our students, supporting both their academic growth and social-emotional wellness. "To teach is to love" the genuine care and passion each of you brings into your classrooms and into our building does not go unnoticed. Our school is an exceptional place for our students because of you! Finally, to our parents thank you for entrusting us with your most precious treasures. Thank you for your continued support of our school and staff, and for your continued belief in us to guide your children's educational journey. It goes without saying that our school and system success is complemented by the positive partnership between school and home.

Students, staff, parents...THANK YOU!

December Virtue - RESPONSIBILITY

Being responsible means that others can trust you to do things with excellence. It means that others can depend on you to do the things you say you will. A responsible person is accountable for their actions, and will make amends rather than excuses should things go wrong. Responsible means to "respond ably". Responsibility is a life skill that all individuals practice throughout their lives. Direct teaching and the daily practice of our virtues of the month support the social and emotional growth of our students and empower them to become responsible, caring citizens.

School Council -

The next school council meeting is on **Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:30 pm**. We are always seeking new individuals to become a member of the Council. Being a member of the school council is one way to gain a better understanding of the leadership and direction of the school, and being a part of the process for providing input into the variety of programs we offer students. If

you would like to get involved with a great group of parents, we welcome all parents and would love to see you join us.

School Council/Foundation Members:

School Council Chair - Andrea Willman

School Council Vice Chair - Tina Shaw

School Foundation Chair - Tina Shaw

School Foundation Vice Chair - Andrea Willman

School Council/Foundation Secretary - Jomahna Cheikh and Nikki LaValley

School Foundation Treasurer - Shannon McLean

Virtues of the Month

January - Perseverance

February - Trustworthiness and Kindness

March - Sportsmanship

April - Self-Control

May - Fairness

June - Citizenship

Important dates to remember

Dec. 13 Musical performance by grades 5&6 plus JH band & orchestra students

Dec. 18 Spirit Day - Wear your crazy Christmas sweater, socks etc

Dec. 18 Christmas Musical Performance by the band The Yes Dears

Dec. 18 School Council Meeting @6:30

Dec. 19 Spirit Day - Dress like an elf, reindeer, Mrs. Claus etc.

Dec. 19 Caroling in the gym @ 9:20am

Dec. 19 Candy Cane Walk

Dec. 20 Spirit Day - PJ day

Dec. 20 Winter Carnival 6-8pm

Dec. 21 Dress like a Christmas tree (Nothing Breakable)

Dec. 21 Caroling in the gym @1:00pm

Dec. 22 Spirit Day - Holiday Headwear

January 8 - Classes Resume

Updates and Weekly reminders of these events and dates are also posted on our Facebook page weekly. Please like us on [Facebook](#) and be sure to check out our "Gators at a Glance" post every Friday.

Mr. Humbke and Mrs. Elliott



YEAR AT A GLANCE 2023-2024	
<p>September</p> <p>5 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>13 Welcome Back/Meet the Teacher Evening</p> <p>16 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>19 School Council AGM (6:30 pm)</p> <p>20 School Pictures</p> <p>21 School Pictures</p> <p>21 Mom’s Pantry Orders due</p> <p>23 SPIRIT DAY – School Colors Day</p> <p>29 Orange Shirt Day - RECONCILIATION AWARENESS</p> <p>30 National Day For Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>October</p> <p>6 Turkey Trot</p> <p>9 Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>13 SPIRIT DAY – Hat Day</p> <p>16 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>27 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>31 SPIRIT DAY – Halloween Dress Up Day</p> <p>November</p> <p>4 Grade 5/6 Triple ball tournament</p> <p>10 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>17 SPIRIT DAY – Pajama Day</p> <p>20 School Council Meeting (6:30 pm)</p> <p>24 Report Card Day</p> <p>28/29 PTI from 4pm-7p m</p> <p>December</p> <p>1 NO SCHOOL</p> <p>7/8 Casino Fundraiser</p> <p>15 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>18 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>22 SPIRIT DAY – Christmas Hat Day</p> <p>23 Christmas Break – Classes resume Jan. 8</p> <p>January</p> <p>8 Classes Resume</p> <p>12 SPIRIT DAY – Camouflage Day</p> <p>22 School Council Meeting (6:30 pm)</p> <p>26 SPIRIT DAY – Favorite Book Character Day</p>	<p>February</p> <p>2 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>12 School Council Meeting (6:30 pm)</p> <p>13 Nitehawk Ski Day grades 4-8</p> <p>14 Spirit Day – Pink/White/Red Day</p> <p>15 Random Acts of Kindness Day</p> <p>16 NO SCHOOL</p> <p>19 Family Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>23 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>28 Pink Shirt Day - ANTI-BULLY AWARENESS</p> <p>March</p> <p>1 SPIRIT DAY – Gator Pride Day</p> <p>2 5/6 Basketball Tournament</p> <p>7/8 Teacher’s Convention – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>14 Pi Day</p> <p>15 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>18 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>28 SPIRIT DAY – Tie Dye Day</p> <p>29 Spring Break -NO SCHOOL</p> <p>April</p> <p>8 Classes Resume</p> <p>19 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>22 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>26 SPIRIT DAY – Jersey Day</p> <p>May</p> <p>10 SPIRIT DAY – Wear a Tie Day</p> <p>13 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>15 JH Track and Field Day</p> <p>17 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>20 Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL</p> <p>24 SPIRIT DAY – Western Day</p> <p>28 5/6 Track and Field Day</p> <p>June</p> <p>7 SIP/PL Friday – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>14 SPIRIT DAY – Twin Day</p> <p>17 School Council (6:30 pm)</p> <p>21 Indigenous People’s Day</p> <p>26 Last Day of School for Students</p>



2023-2024 GPPSD Division Calendar

Striving for Excellence



Our school mission statement, "Striving for excellence in education and nurturing responsible, caring citizens" serves as the foundation for all of our actions and decisions. We envision and strive to be a school where staff and students:

- are challenged to excel in all areas
- are willing to take risks in a supportive and encouraging setting
- foster a love of, and a positive attitude towards learning
- are encouraged to commit to being the best that they can be

On our Professional Learning Fridays, our staff are genuinely committed to improving student learning. Collaboratively, we discuss and share innovative best practices to help engage students and reflect on effective teaching strategies.

Citizenship

At Aspen Grove School, we encourage our students to be active citizens. Active citizenship is about getting involved in our school and displaying values such as respect, inclusion and helping others. Each month our teachers recognize the hard work of students and honor them with awards for Striving for Excellence, Most Improved and Citizenship.

Congratulations to all of our award winners for the month of November .







Continuous Improvement

Our school 3 year plan was developed collaboratively with staff and school council input and is now posted on our school website.

<https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/aspengrove/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

This plan outlines our two main priorities as 1. TEACHING & LEARNING and 2. INCLUSION. Within these two priorities, as a staff, we are focused specifically on

improving practices related to:

- (a) teacher planning,
- (b) student assessments,
- (3) Social Emotional Wellness, and
- (4) meeting the diverse learning needs of all students.

Please take a moment to read through our 3 Year School Plan (link below) and reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

<https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/aspengrove/Documents/AG%203%20Year%20Education%20Plan-School%20Plan.pdf>

Student Experiences

Aspen Grove Athletics

A very successful volleyball season has wrapped up. We would like to thank all of our coaches for their dedication and for providing our young athletes with the opportunity to play this season. Congratulations to all our athletes for being positive ambassadors representing our school. We are extremely proud of all that you do!

Volleyball Coaches

Gr 5 - Mrs. Morris-Blackburn, Mrs. Cheikh, Mrs. Ross

Gr 6 - Mrs. Barkemeyer

JH boys - Mr. Bishop and Mrs. Perry

JH girls A - Mrs. Scully

JH girls B - Mrs. Vigen and Mrs. Zaichkowsky

JH Basketball

Our Junior High Boys and Girls Basketball Teams have started! Both teams will have league games on Tuesday, starting January 16th. **We are desperately searching for a boys 'B' coach.** If you can help the team out, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school at 780-538-3009 for more information.

Thank you to all our coaches for their time and dedication to our aspen athletes!

Go Gators!



Student Engagement at Aspen

Amazing Aspen Art



Amazing Attendance





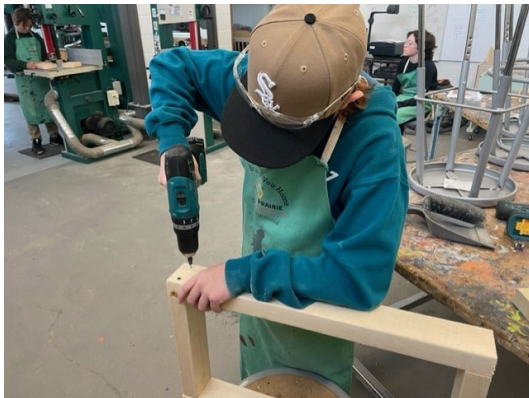
These students won tickets to the Battle of the Badges hockey game. They all had between 95% and 100% attendance.

Grade 2 Building Instruments in Science

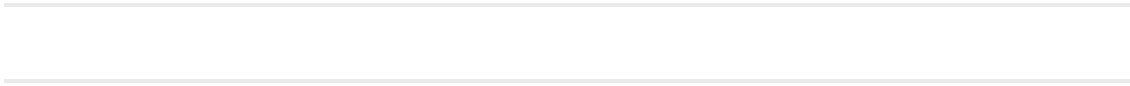




Construction And Design



We are super proud to recognize our AMA Patrollers of the Month. Thank you for helping our students safely cross the road.



Parent/Community Connections



Nutrition for K-8 Program

**If your child needs a lunch,
we can help.**

Funding from Alberta Education allows GPPSD to support students in kindergarten to grade 8 who are in need of a lunch.



No explanation required. Email us and your child will discreetly receive a healthy, home-made lunch while at school.

**To sign your child up for this program,
send an email to:**

agrove@gppsd.ab.ca



**Grande Prairie
Public School Division**



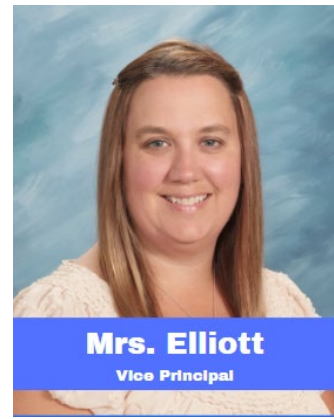
[Citrus Catering Information, School Menu and Order Placing](#)





Mr. Humbke
Principal

Email me



Mrs. Elliott
Vice Principal

Email me



Aspen Grove School
9720 63 Avenue, Grande Prairie, AB, T8W 1K3



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