

# Woodhaven Middle School Newsletter

**February, 2024**

## **Leadership Message**

It is honestly hard to believe that we are already 1 month into 2024 and in the blink of an eye we were snapped back into what it should actually feel like to live in Alberta in January! Despite the bus cancellations and indoor recesses, we continued to grow and do great things here at Woodhaven!

## **Report Cards**

Your child's report card is now available on Powerschool. You will notice that the comments on the report card are generally quite brief. This is intentional as the comments are actually attached to the assignments that your child's teachers have put into Powerschool. This is where you will find individual assignment marks, missing assignments and comments about how your child is doing in different areas of the curriculum in each subject area. **We will be hosting our second round of Parent/Teacher Interviews in March, please plan to attend.**

## **Attendance**

This month we will again be reaching out to families of students with declining or low attendance to see how we might assist in improving student attendance. We know, and research supports that when attendance dips below 85%, graduation rate falls below 50%. When we calculate attendance, we remove the days that the buses don't run, so that does not negatively impact a student's attendance rate. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need support with helping get your child to school.

## **Crosswalk Safety**

Our students' safety is our top priority. Please ensure you slow down in the school zone, and use extra precaution at crossing locations. Please also remind your children to ensure it is safe to cross before stepping onto the road. Pedestrians also need to remember to take the road conditions into account to ensure a vehicle will be able to stop for them.

The month of February is going to fly by as it is a short month, with many days off for students. Before we know it we will be welcoming spring!

## **Key dates this month:**

- **Feb. 5th, 12th and 26th**- Ski Club
- **Feb. 8th & 9th** - Teacher's Convention - **NO SCHOOL**

- **Feb. 12th** - Online Registration Opens
- **Feb. 15th** - SGCHS Open House for grade 9's
- **Feb. 16th** - PD DAY - NO Students Attend
- **Feb. 20th** - Family Day - NO Students Attend
- **Feb. 21st** - School Council Meeting
- **Feb. 28th** - Pink Shirt Day

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or concerns.  
Take care,

Nealle Dickson, Principal

## Woodhaven Career Fair

### We are SEEKING PARENTS!

Woodhaven Middle School is planning a **Career FAIR** on **Tuesday, April 30th**. We are inviting parents, community members and friends to come in and speak about their career choice and give students an insight to a career that they may have never heard of before, or already have an interest in.

If you would be interested in being one of our presenters, please email Janie Scheidl at [janie.scheidl@psd.ca](mailto:janie.scheidl@psd.ca) with your name, career title, a brief description of what you do, and a phone number/email address at which you can be contacted. You can also leave a message with reception in the general office. Your help and support during this event would be greatly appreciated.

Woodhaven's Career Fair Team

## General Information

### Parent Handbook

Please click [here](#) to view our Parent Handbook for the 2023/2024 School Year

### Reporting Absences

To report an absence for your child, please email [woodhaven@psd.ca](mailto:woodhaven@psd.ca) or call and leave a message at the school office (780-962-2626). Please include the student's name, teacher (or grade), and reason for the absence in your message.

### Drop-Off & Pick-UP

Our doors open to students at 8:15am when outside supervision begins. If students arrive prior to 8:15, there is no outside supervision. After school supervision is from 3:05 to 3:15pm.

**When dropping off your child, please keep the right lane free to allow buses the right of way when entering and exiting the parking lot and do not leave your vehicle unattended in the pickup/dropoff**

lane.

### Visiting Woodhaven

We are happy to welcome you to our beautiful new school. When you arrive at the school, please check in at the office.

### School Fees

Please login to the Parent Portal to view and pay your child's school fees. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

## 2023-2024 Bell Schedule

Our attendance calls go out automatically at 9:35am. If your child will be late or absent, please let their classroom teacher or the office know.

Bell Times	Breaks and Periods
8:15 - 8:23	Student Arrival
8:25	Students arriving after 8:25 require a late slip
8:30-9:10 am	Block 1
9:10-9:50 am	Block 2
9:50-10:05 am	Recess
10:05-10:45 am	Block 3
10:45-11:25 am	Block 4
11:25-12:05 pm	Block 5
12:05-12:35pm	Lunch Recess
12:35-1:05 pm	Lunch
1:05-1:45 pm	Block 6
1:45-2:25 pm	Block 7
2:25-3:05 pm	Block 8
3:05 pm	Dismissal

## Athletics

**Physical Education** - January was a busy month in all PE classes. We started the month with a variety of team games and finished the month with the social dance unit! Students in all grades participated in a variety of social mixers and line dances. The gym was filled with lots of positive energy and positive social interactions.

**Basketball** - Basketball season is now in full swing. This year we have 5 teams playing in the PCAA league. Our senior boys and senior girls have participated in a few tournaments as well. The senior boys had a great start in the STA tournament, while the senior girls won the STA tournament and finished 2nd in the SAPEC tournament in St. Albert. Our junior A team hosted their home tournament called the Woodhaven Junior Jam and both teams won the gold medal! February continues with a variety of basketball games and tournaments. Our junior B boys team is playing in the PCAA division 2 junior league and closing the gap on much older teams each game. It is always great to see so many students and families out watching our student-athletes compete.

**Indoor Games Running Team** - Our indoor games running teams continue to practice in preparation for the Running Room Indoor Games competition in late February/early March at the Butterdome in Edmonton. Woodhaven will have both a grade 5-6 team and a grade 7-8-9 team. Good luck runners!

**Ski/Snowboard Club** - January is the kick off to our Ski and Snowboard club. After school on Mondays for the next 5 weeks our Ski and Snowboard club will be sending a bus load of students for some excellent Ski and Snowboarding.

**Instagram** - Follow us on our Athletics Instagram Account @WoodhavenAthletics  
<http://www.instagram.com/woodhavenathletics/>

## Performing Arts



Woodhaven Performing Arts is excited to announce our next drama production will be “Screenagers!” Woodhaven classes will have the opportunity to see the show before our performing arts students take the show to the Zone II West One Act Play Festival in Westlock, AB April 25-26. Auditions for students in grades 7-9 will take place on Thursday, Feb 1st. See Mrs. Refugia for more information.

*In this fast-paced, technology-saturated world, can teenagers really survive without laptops, i-pads, cell phones and other mobile devices? Has high-speeding texting replaced face-to-face communication? Do apps substitute for thoughtful conversation? From breaking up on Facebook, to in-class research, to real-time dating advice, this play delves into the world of teens to see how they navigate with (or - gasp! - without) technology. "Screenagers" is a humorous look at how technology is shaping the way we socialize, communicate, and—hang on, I've got a call coming in.*

## Calendar

Our School Calendar has changed from last year...and boy is it more user friendly than the previous calendar. As it is no longer a google calendar, all you have to do is go to the [calendar on our website](#) and click on one of:

[Download to iCal](#)   [Add to Google Calendar](#)   [Subscribe to Calendar](#)

located at the top of the calendar on our website. You can then search by grade level, event or topic to find information you are looking for as needed.

## School Council & Parent Association

### WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!

#### School Council News

Please email: [woodhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:woodhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca) if you are interested in joining our school council committee as our secretary or if you have any questions.

#### Woodhaven School Council Secretary – Vacant

- Please email [woodhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:woodhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca) if you are interested in joining our school council committee as our secretary, or if you have any questions.

#### Woodhaven Parent Association News (Fundraising)

We really need parent support to help start up and keep our fundraising programs running. The time commitment really can be as much or as little as you can give. Please consider coming out and joining us!

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School Council Meeting & Parent Association Meeting:  
Wednesday, February 21st @6:00pm at Woodhaven School.  
Come and meet fellow parents and learn what is going on in our school and Parkland School  
Division!

## Message from our Counsellor

### **COUNSELLOR'S CORNER- MRS. SCHEIDL**

**Let'sTalk Mental Health Day** was Wednesday, January 25 and Woodhaven classes joined in to help drive meaningful progress in mental health. Many grades continue to focus their health class conversations around Mental Health check ins and coping strategies.



**Pink Shirt Day** is Wednesday, February 28th! Students and staff will be wearing pink and showing acts of kindness. By wearing pink it reminds us to practice kindness, empathy, compassion, and to speak out against bullying!

Help For Hard Times - [click here for support numbers](#)

Parkland School Division - [Stronger Together Newsletter](#) for families

## Parent Learning Opportunities

Check out this month's [Newsletter from AHS](#) Caregiver Education Series. Sessions are virtual and timely - registration is required. Some sessions are for adults and some are for youth. See link above for more information and registration information.

### **Understanding Anxiety**

Part 1: An Introduction - Thursday, February 1 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 2: Calming our Bodies, - Thursday, February 8 12:00 – 1:00 pm\

Part 3: Settling our Minds - Thursday, February 15 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Part 4: Overcoming Avoidance, - Thursday, February 22 12:00 – 1:00 pm

### **Substance Use - A Harm Reduction Approach**

Wednesday, February 28 6:00 – 7:30 pm