

Principal's Message

Hello Families!

DDS staff are hoping everyone enjoyed the month of October – the Halloween costumes were fun to see!

As we move into November, our dedicated staff are excited to continue enhancing our students' learning experiences. Teachers are incorporating numeracy ideas from Peter Liljedahl's research, *Building Thinking Classrooms*, to foster deeper thinking and problem-solving skills in our students. I encourage you to engage with your child about their learning experiences and the exciting challenges they are tackling!

I'm also thrilled to announce that we will be starting volleyball intramurals for our Grades 4-6 students. This is a great opportunity for them to develop teamwork skills and enjoy some friendly competition. A special thank you to Mrs. McLeod, Ms. Milne, Adam Griffiths, and Cara Van Zeggelaar for coaching our 5/6 volleyball team. Our students had a fantastic time participating in a friendly tournament at R.I. Baker in Coaldale. Thank you to all the parents who drove and supported our teams!

A special thank you also goes out to the Public School Betterment Society of Picture Butte (PSBSPB) for organizing another fantastic Harvest Gala Fundraiser. They raised over \$29,000 for our school, and we are incredibly grateful to all the sponsors, volunteers, and community members who made this event possible. Your support truly makes a difference! Our classroom baskets added an impressive \$2,050 to the total, with Grade 5's basket fetching the highest bid at \$500. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Looking ahead, November promises to be a busy month. We will host in-person Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 28th. There will be picture retakes, several hot lunch days, and the Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser. Additionally, we will attend the Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, November 8th, at PBHS, where our DDS choir will perform. The community is welcome to join us at PBHS at 10:45am.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. I'm looking forward to another month of learning and growth together!

**Warm regards,
Crystal McGregor
Principal**



Kindergarten Corner



As we wrap up another exciting month in our kindergarten class, I wanted to share some of the wonderful activities and learning experiences the kindergarten kiddos have engaged in! Our focus areas this month have included phonemic awareness & phonics, shapes, syllables, counting, wellness, and physical skills. Here's a closer look at what we've accomplished:

***Phonemic-Awareness & Phonics:** This month, we delved into the sounds and letters **C, D, L, and E**. The kiddos practiced recognizing these letters and their sounds through fun activities, including songs and interactive games. We also explored words that begin with these letters, helping to strengthen their phonemic awareness. Make sure to check their agenda bag at the end of this month for their extra writing and coloring pages for these letters!

***Shapes:** Our shape exploration continued with identifying and drawing basic shapes: rectangles, triangles, circles, and squares. The kinder crew learned to name these shapes, count their sides, and even create their own shape art! It was wonderful to see their creativity shine as they incorporated shapes into their projects. I have included a picture of the wall of hidden shapes that they worked really hard on with their Grade 6 buddies!

***Syllables:** We introduced the concept of syllables through the catchy song "Bee Bee Bumblebee." The eager learners had a great time clapping out the syllables in their names and various words.

***Counting to 10:** Our counting journey has been continuing. We practiced counting in a variety of contexts, from counting objects in our classroom to engaging in counting games and songs. We love Jack Hartman :) This foundational skill is so important as we continue to explore numbers in the coming months.

***Wellness:** This month, we introduced the **Worry Woos** to help the kiddos identify and express their feelings. We discussed how having worries can make us feel upset and explored strategies to manage those feelings. The Kinders learned to recognize their worries and share them with a trusted adult, fostering emotional awareness and resilience.

***Gym Activities:** In gym class, we focused on catching and tossing skills. Through various games, the kinders practiced these essential physical skills while also working on teamwork and cooperation. It was delightful to see them encourage one another and celebrate their progress.

As we move into next month, we're excited to build on these skills and explore new topics.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's learning journey.

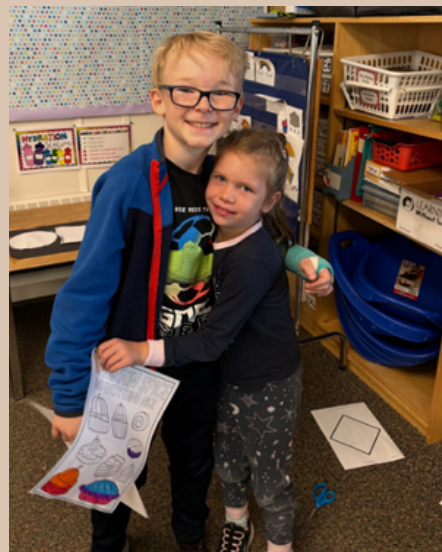
Please feel free to reach out with any questions or thoughts!

Warm Regards,

Miss Babe



Kindergarten and Grade Six Buddies!



Grade One Focus

October was filled with activities for Grade 1! To start off the month, we recognized Orange Shirt Day and got to watch some videos and read some books to help us understand this part of our history. Then we were so fortunate to have our Artist in Residence, Meghan Cooper, come in to teach us about printmaking. We created works of art that represent “Canada...Coast to Coast”. It was so much fun to be able to learn how to make prints. We finally got to see the teachers get “pied” for all of our amazing efforts in our Terry Fox fundraising. Way to go Rylee, for pie-ing Mrs. Nish, not once, but TWICE! Mrs. Pittman hosted another incredible Scholastic Book Fair for us, and we had so much fun choosing new books to take home. A huge thank you to Mrs. Pittman for always helping cultivate a love of reading! Halloween is always a favourite time of year in Grade 1. The students were so proud of their costumes and bringing treats for their classmates. We have been staying busy continuing to learn more “Secret Stories” in Literacy, and we have moved onto our Patterns unit in Numeracy. In Social, we have wrapped up our unit on Geography and Mapping, and will be starting our unit on Community. In Science, we are continuing to work our way through our Scientific Methods unit. Starting on November 6th, we will have Miss Tracey Vossebelt joining us for 5 weeks as our PS1 student teacher. She came in on October 28th for her orientation and made an instant connection with the students. We look forward to having her with us. Mrs. Nish would like to thank all of the parents that were able to donate to our Harvest Gala Classroom Basket! Our basket sold for \$300! That is AMAZING! Well, here is to November which is quickly creeping up on us!





Grade Two-Three Scoop

We have had a great start to the year and we are really enjoying getting to know the grade 2 and 3 students!

In language arts we are wrapping up our unit on reading genres. Students learned about a variety of genres under the heading of fiction as well as some nonfiction texts. We also continue to develop our “reading strategies toolbox” by practicing a variety of word solving strategies that students can use when reading independently. In writing we have been working through the writing process, to improve on our stories and elaborate with details, including story beginnings that grab our readers’ attention and endings that tie our stories together. We are extremely proud of the hard work that students have put into their personal narratives! Currently, we are sharing our writing in class so we can celebrate everyone’s growth!

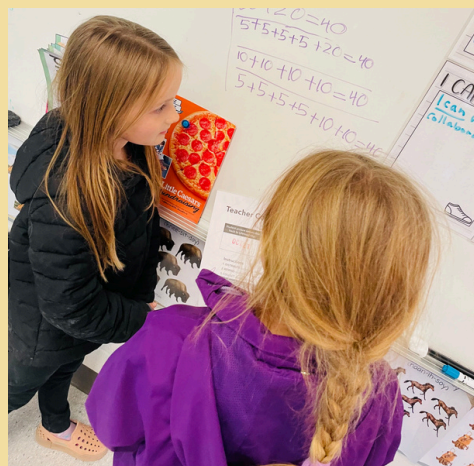
In math we finished our place value unit and have started addition and subtraction. Students will explore different strategies to see what makes the most sense to them in terms of building number sense. It is always so interesting to see how we all think differently in math and sharing those strategies can really help some students to see other ways of connecting numbers. We are also working through the outcomes in our geometry unit and our next ‘bonus math’ unit will be time.

We recently finished our first science unit on scientific methods and have started learning about states of matter. We will have some opportunities in this unit to do experiments to compare solids, liquids and gases.

In social studies we are learning about Peru and how it is the same or different from our life in Canada. Students made passports to “travel” to the new country and we are enjoying learning about a different culture.

- Thanks to Mrs. Pittman and Mrs. Neufeld for all of the extra assistance they offer during math each day!
- A big thank you to Mrs. Pittman for putting on another amazing Scholastic book fair!
- Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put on a fabulous Gala fundraiser for our school! It was a fantastic event and we sincerely appreciate all of your hard work to make sure our children are given more learning experiences throughout the year!
- Thank you to all parents for helping your child practice spelling words and reading each night. It really makes a difference!
- Thank you to all the parents who sent in treats for our Halloween celebration!

★ A HUGE congratulations to Sam, who got 100% five times in a row on his spelling tests. As a result, Sam got to pick a new name for his group! Fantastic work, Sam!



2
1
3

2
1
3



Grade Four Features



Time flies when you're having fun! We have had such an amazing time in our classroom and there is always so much to celebrate. Each day the students in our classroom show up to school ready to learn, always giving their best effort. I am so proud of each and every student in our room.

In Literacy, we have been working on proper sentence structure, different types of sentences and personal voice in our writing. We finished the month off with a descriptive writing activity where students had to try to sell their haunted houses they created during our art class.

During our Numeracy block we have been exploring a variety of addition and subtraction strategies and adding and subtracting numbers up to 10,000, including decimal numbers. All of the students should be proud of the strides they have made this month in math!

In Science, we are continuing to learn about Matter, more specifically Hazardous Materials. In the next week or so, your child will be going on a scavenger hunt around your home to find examples of hazardous materials.

In Social Studies, we have been learning about Alberta's location in regards to other provinces, the 6 natural regions in Alberta, and the National and Provincial Parks that are located in Alberta. We have been doing a lot of project based learning and exploring during this unit.

To wrap up the month of October, we participated in our Halloween celebrations. All of the students looked amazing in their costumes! We had a lot of fun participating in our school dance and Minute to Win It games. A big thank you to Mrs. Milne for organizing such a fun event! The Grade 4 class would also like to send heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Pittman for organizing and hosting our school Book Fair! She always does an amazing job!

Mrs. McLeod



Grade Five is Fantastic!



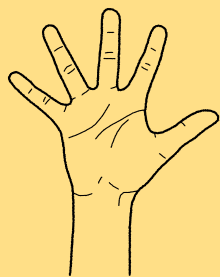
What a beautiful month October was, with only a couple of tough days to be outside for recess.

In **Language Arts**, our daily Teacher Read Novel “Resistance” by Jennifer A. Nielsen continues to thrill us with the fictional accounts of a young Jewish teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Despite her ongoing trials and setbacks, she continues to try and make a difference in the lives of the oppressed every day. Our weekly focused “Word Work” time is an ongoing spiral of spelling, punctuation, morphology, and word types that progress throughout the school year. As a class, each student has shown a real improvement in reading comprehension.

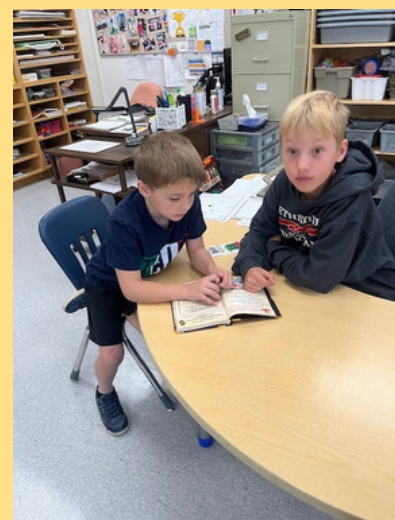
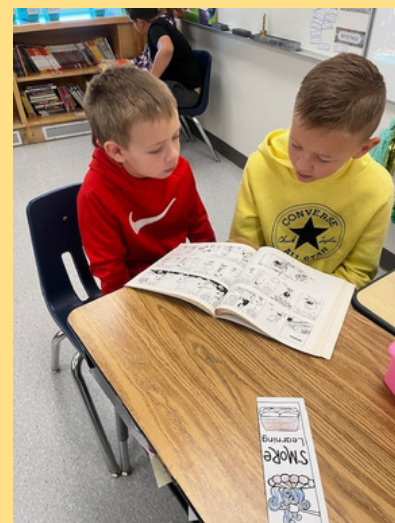
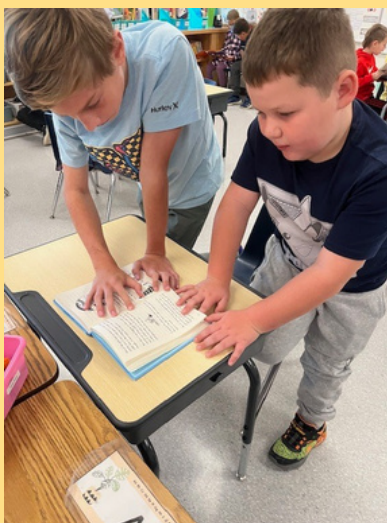
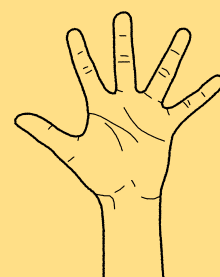
In **Math**, we moved confidently through addition and subtraction of two, three, and even four-digit numbers. We also successfully tackled multiplication and division of single, double, and triple-digit problems. Our weekly Math Games class reinforces the teacher-led lessons and basic skills.

In **Social Studies**, we have finalized the major partnered research & presentation project of several ancient civilizations including artifacts, maps, images, and a clear timeline that places the student's chosen civilization with its spot on that line from BCE (Before Common Era) to CE (Common Era), our time.

In **Science**, we have worked our way through the vital systems within the human body. This has led us to a similar look into the living systems of simple organisms including plants.



Grade Five Fun



Grade Six Spotlight

It's been a whirlwind month - lots of activities, and lots of wind! Grade 5 & 6 students participated in a triple ball tournament at RI Baker. We hosted a few assemblies. Teachers were pie-ed for the Terry Fox fundraising. We did printmaking with our Artist in Residence. Grade 6 students are becoming pros at morning announcements, and enjoying setting up for events such as the Harvest Gala. Students are learning about War and Remembrance this month.

A big thank you to...

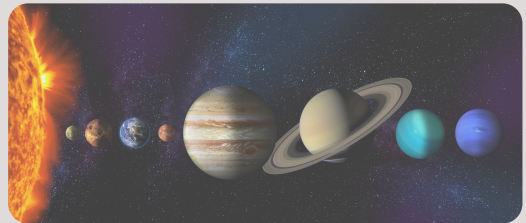
Thank
you!

- *Cara and Adam for coaching Volleyball with us:)
- *Mrs. Pittman for throwing another fantastic Book Fair
- *Parent counsel for the excellent Harvest Gala and raising funds for DDS!
- *Savhana for doing such a great job with Breakfast Program

In **Language Arts**, we are now writing suspenseful stories. The writing focus we are working on includes using a strong narrative voice, and very specific word choices in order to create an eerie mood. Using dialogue is another skill that we are learning in order to bring characters to life in this creative writing mini-unit. We have also started a storyboarding project that includes learning about various film shots: close-up, medium range, long range, extreme close-up, panning, and zoom outs/ins to create a storyboard that could be brought to film. Students are choosing a short story that we have studied this year and turning it into a progression of visually stunning story slides.

In **Mathematics**, we have launched into a study of decimals and are looking at the concept of base ten. Positive numbers are multiplied by tens to produce hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, etc. Whereas when working with decimals, the base ten principle applies, only numbers as divided by increments of ten to produce tenths, hundredths, thousandths, etc. We'll be working on converting decimals to fractions and vice versa. We're also reviewing recently acquired skills such as working with: exponents, integers, multiplication, division with remainders (and decimals!), subtraction with regrouping across zeros, and prime factorization. Students are starting to embrace vertical spaces and collaborative problem solving.

In **Science**, we have started our Solar System unit, and we're using creative acronyms to learn the planets in order. We'll be looking at celestial bodies such as meteorites, asteroids, stars, planets and moons in the coming week.



We continue the year-long study of democracy in **Social Studies**. We have taken a close look at the Canadian Charter of Rights of Freedoms, and now students are starting a comic strip activity depicting a violation of a person's Rights and Freedoms.

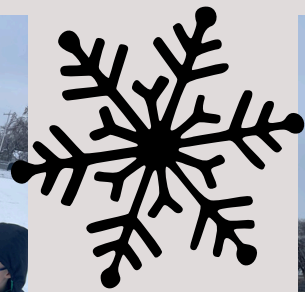
A few reminders...

I've been sending home Math practice sheets. They are not homework, just extra practice. Have your kiddo show you what they can do:)

Reading at home really helps students to develop greater fluency and comprehension, and it's a calming and healthy habit.

“The difference between try and triumph is just a little umph!” -Marvin Phillips

Stay healthy!
Ms. Milne





Music Class News

October has flown by and we have had so much fun singing about fall themes...especially falling leaves and pumpkins!

In Kindergarten, we have continued to focus on finding our singing voice as well as the different types of speaking voices we use. We have also enjoyed exploring different ways to move depending on the unpitched percussion instrument sound we are hearing.

The Grade 1 class has continued to participate in our body warm-ups to help us learn Italian words to describe aspects of music such as “staccato” and “legato”. We have also explored phrases and are learning about rests in music. Listening to selections of Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint Saens has also allowed us to begin recognizing different instruments with high and low sounds.

In Grade 2/3, this group of enthusiastic singers has enjoyed a variety of singing games with actions and moving with scarves to focus on keeping or moving to the beat. We also had a lot of fun adding instrumental sound effects to the story “Run, Turkey Run”. This group has been exploring Italian terms for changing tempos in music using a variety of songs or listening selections and are becoming very proficient at echo singing solfege patterns.

The Grade 4 class has had a lot of fun learning the partner/line song Alabama Gal. They have also been practicing writing 4 beat rhythm patterns on white boards. We recently began learning a Maori (New Zealand Aboriginal) stick game called Maku e that involves a partner stick pattern to accompany the singing.

The Grade 5 students are enjoying adding the Orff instruments to a variety of songs and have also been practicing different body percussion patterns.

In Grade 6 we have been focused on learning many different note values through a hula-hoop game and a “Basketballs to the Beat” activity - thankful for the beautiful October weather we enjoyed!

I hope you have all had an opportunity to hear your child sing or share something they have learned in music class. Please note, the DDS lunchtime Choir Club has again started every Thursday from 12:00 - 12:20 for Grade 1 - 6 students and we will be performing a special song for the Remembrance Day Assembly on Nov. 8th at PBHS!

*If you received the note about your child joining choir, just a reminder that they will need to dress in a dark or black shirt (no print or logo) for the performance. Please contact me if you have any questions.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

October 1, 2024



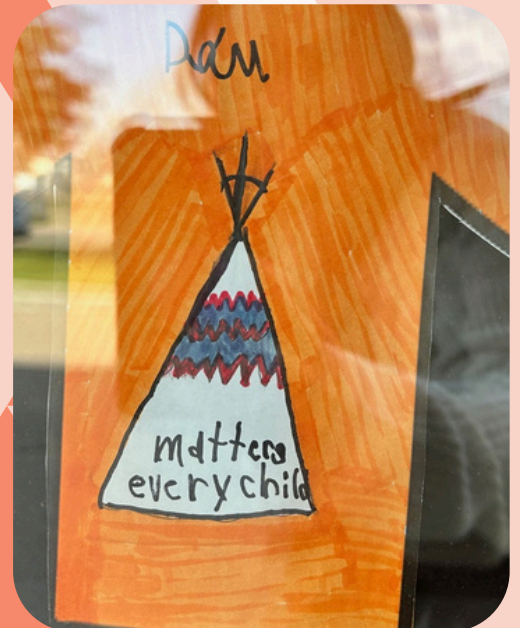
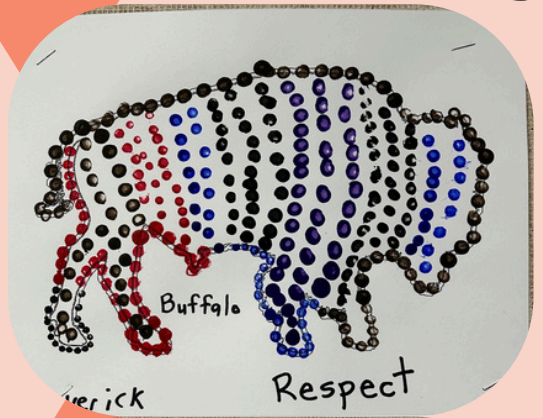
Finnick (K), Emma (K), Claire (1), Lee (2/3 A),
Charlotte (2/3 B), Hannah (4), Maddyn (5), Brody (6)

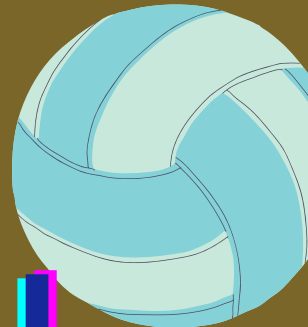
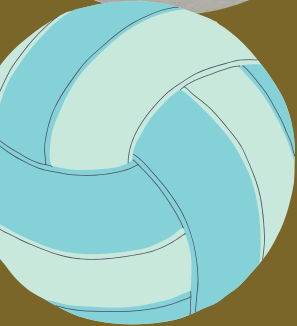
October 18, 2024



Charlie (K), Emily (K), Frankie (1), Allison (2/3 A), Oakley
(2/3 B), Holdyn (4), Jani (4), Abby (5), Makayla (6)

Truth and Reconciliation Day





VOLLEYBALL





We raised 2287.10\$ for 'The Terry Fox Foundation'...
then we got to pie our teachers!!!

Artist in Residence







We had a fabulous Book Fair!



Thank you so much for
supporting our Fall Fair.

Candy Draw Winners: Paige & Wade

Book Winners: Eidan, Sophia, Oakley, Jani, Decker & Darius

We are so excited for all the new
books we were able to purchase
for the Library.



School Council News

Our bi-annual Harvest Gala was this past Saturday, October 26, and once again we are left speechless by the support shown from our community for our amazing school. We don't have a final number just yet, but it will have raised over \$29,000! Thank



you to our parents for contributing to this event by donating, spreading the word, and attending the evening. Thank you staff for your amazing class baskets! They are always a highlight of the evening, and this year they brought in \$2050, a gala record! Thank you to Prime Catering for the delicious buffet, Cody Hall Band for the great music, Mr. McGregor for MCing, and the volunteers who put in countless hours planning and preparing for this event.

At our meeting on October 21, our trustee Mike Oliver, let us know that Palliser will be sending out a survey in the coming months regarding the potential timetable changes for the next school year. When we have more information, we will ensure it is shared with parents. We also started discussing the Christmas Turkey Dinner which will be held on Thursday, December 19. If you're able to help serve that day, please let us know at dds.hotlunch@gmail.com Our next council meeting will be on Monday, November 18 at 4pm in the project room. If you would like to attend virtually, or have any questions/comments, please contact Michelle at jmmarti@shaw.ca

Hot lunch is off to a great start this year. November 7 will be Taco in a Bag and November 21 will be Beef Stroganoff. We are always looking to add more people to our hot lunch team so if you can help even once every couple of months, please contact Laurell at dds.hotlunch@gmail.com

Thank You to our Harvest Gala Donors

AG EMPLOY, AGROPLUS, ALL STORAGE SOLUTIONS,
HOUWELING FAMILY, ANALOG BOOKS, WEHLAGE FAMILY,
ARUBAH HEALTH SPA, AVISON YOUNG, BERTS AG FOODS,
BERT N MACS, BLACKROCK CUSTOM CLOTHING, ROSS FAMILY,
BRIDGE VAULT & PRECAST, BUTTE HOME HARDWARE, CACTUS,
CALAWAY PARK, CALGARY ROUGHNECKS, SOSICK FAMILY,
CAPSTONE LLP, CAROL ALLEN,
CAROLYN'S COUNTRY PHOTOGRAPHY, CASTLE MOUNTAIN,
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PUTSY'S MANURE HAULING, RICHARDSON PIONEER NOBLEFORD,
ROCKY MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT PICTURE BUTTE,
SHOPPER'S DRUG MART PARK PLACE, SOUTH COUNTRY CO-OP,
THRIVE HONEY, SUNSHINE HOUSEBOATS, T & C LASER DESIGNS,
TIRECRAFT PICTURE BUTTE, TOWN OF PICTURE BUTTE,
ROYAL TYRELL MUSEUM, UFA PICTURE BUTTE,
UPTOWN CONVENIENCE & CAFÉ, WEAR M OUT, WEHLAGE FARMS,
WHIPS, YLOJIA FAMILY, AND ZEINSTRAS FAMILY

THANK YOU PARENTS & TEACHERS
FOR THE FANTASTIC
CLASS BASKETS!

November



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Wellness word of the month:

RESPONSIBILITY



1 **PD Day**
No School

4 Don't forget to 'Fall Back'!



5 Subway



6

7 **Hot Lunch**
Taco in a bag
6A Cattle Co.



Spirit Day
Jersey or Team Day

8 **Remembrance Day**
Assembly @ PBHS



11 **Remembrance Day**
No School



12 Subway



13 **Life touch**
Re-takes



14 **Hot Dog Lunch**

15 **Pizza Kit Fundraiser**
ends on Sunday the 17th!



18 **Home and School Council Meeting**
4pm



19 Subway
Report Cards
Go Home!



20

21 **Hot Lunch**
Beef Stroganoff
Schooten and Sons



22 **Spirit Day**
Clad in Plaid
Kindergarten
Friday

25

26 Subway



27

28 **Parent teacher**
Interviews



29 **PD Day**
No School

