

September 8, 2025

Issue 11, Vol. 1

BLUFFTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



School Phone: (403) 843-6528 Fax: (403) 785-0727 E: bluffton@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year! - From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Bluffton School! We are so happy to see our students returning, ready to learn and grow. Bluffton is a small with a big heart, and we are proud to continue building a safe, caring, and inspiring place for every child.

This year, we are fortunate to welcome some wonderful new educators to our team. Colleen Wilson and Joel Longard will share the grade 4/5 classroom. Tommi Christiansen is returning to teach Kindergarten and we are happy to have Debbie Matson helping out in Kindergarten as well. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives will bring great energy to our classrooms and strengthen the learning experiences for our students.

We also recognize that, provincially, there are a great many uncertainties and concerns in the news and weighing heavily on our minds.. Please know that, at Bluffton School, our focus remains steady and clear: providing your children with the best possible education, while supporting them in every way we can.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all parents and guardians to join us for our first **Bluffton School Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm**. At this meeting, members will be asked to consider the following resolution:

Be it resolved that all previous iterations of the Bluffton School Council Bylaws be repealed in their entirety and restated and replaced with the Bluffton School Council Bylaws Drafted September 2025.

We will also be holding our School Council elections during this meeting. More details, including an agenda, will be shared soon.

We look forward to working together with you this year. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—it truly makes Bluffton School a special place.

Warm regards,
Ian McLaren
Principal, Bluffton School





Bluffton School Terry Fox Run 2025

Families and community members are invited to join us for the 44th National Terry Fox Run (Bluffton School's 46th) on Thursday, September 18th.

Please note that the Terry Fox Run pledge sheet, consent form, merchandise order form and information letter will be sent home with your child on the first day of school. T-shirt orders are due this Thursday, September 11th.

Please join us on September 18th at 12:40 pm if you can and help us meet our goal of \$4,000!



*Michael's Studio will be
at the school on*

Tuesday, October 7

to take K-9 Individual



Bluffton Playschool

Registrations for the 2025/26 playschool year are being accepted for a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning program. Please contact Ashley Harrowing at 403-506-7036 for more registration information.



Sign-In Policy

As per Wolf Creek Administration Policy 156 “Visit Protocol” all visitors are to make their presence known. Therefore, we ask all visitors to the school to sign in at the office upon entry to the school regardless of the duration of their visit. This is to ensure the safety of all students and allow staff to be aware of who is in the building at all times. **Also, for the safety of students—we will remain locking the doors and having visitors ring the doorbell to enter the school.** If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Mr. McLaren at 403-843-6528

Welcome back!

Bluffton Staff 2025-2026

Principal —Mr. Ian McLaren

Kindergarten—Mrs. Tommi Christiansen

Grade One/Two—Mrs. Shelley McFadden

Grade Three/Four– Mrs. Kaylin Pankiw (previously Miss Ackerman)

Grade Four/Five—Mr. Joel Longard & Mrs. Colleen Wilson

Grade Six—Mrs. Allison Howdle

Grade Seven/Eight Homeroom—Mrs. Mairead McLaughlin

Grade Nine Homeroom—Ms. Kim Wiggins

Admin. Assistant—Mrs. Sally Tennant

School Social Worker—Mrs. Nicole Chodak

Custodian—Ms. Kyli Haggkvist

EA— Ms. Jelayne Dubielew

EA—Ms. Lyla Ritter

EA— Mrs. Cali Hansen

EA– Mrs. Debbie Matson

Bluffton Playschool—Mrs. Ashley Harrowing



Welcome Mr. Joel Longard

My name is Joel Longard, and I am very excited to be joining the community at Bluffton School! I have fifteen years of experience teaching grades 4, 5, and 6 in the Rimbey and Ponoka area. As a teacher, I am passionate about life-long learning, making my classroom fun, and getting kids excited about reading! I live with my wife Carol and our two children and cat on an acreage west of Rimbey. I grew up in the Winfield area, and I love the familiar atmosphere and close-knit community that only a small rural school has.



Welcome Mrs. Colleen Wilson



I grew up on a mixed family farm east of Drumheller and went to a small rural school in Delia, AB. I have two adult children and while they were young, I received my post secondary degree in Education at the University of Lethbridge. Upon completion, I worked for the federal government teaching English as a Second Language for two years to adults from Bosnia, Russia, Herzegovina, China, and El Salvadore. Since then, I have taught for 25 years in three different school boards: Chinook's Edge, Rockyview, and now Wolf Creek and also as an Educational Assistant instructor to adults at Red Deer College and at Sunchild O'Chiese. I later earned my Masters in Educational Studies in K-12 leadership at the University of Alberta.

This past year my partner and I both semi-retired and moved from Calgary to return to a more rural atmosphere. In my spare time, I love to garden, read, bake and spend time with my 5 grandchildren whenever possible.

I am very excited to be part of the Bluffton School Team and love teaching and learning in this small school atmosphere.

I look forward to meeting you.

School Fees

Kindergarten– \$40.00

Grade 1-6 - \$40.00

Grades 7-9– \$125.00

Please pay by Sept,30, 2025.

**Method of payment can be
cheque (made payable to Wolf
Creek Public Schools), cash or
online (credit card).**



***Our Nutrition &
Breakfast Program
is looking for
volunteers to help out each
morning!***

***If you are interested
in helping out, please con-
tact Sally at the school of-
fice or send her an email!***

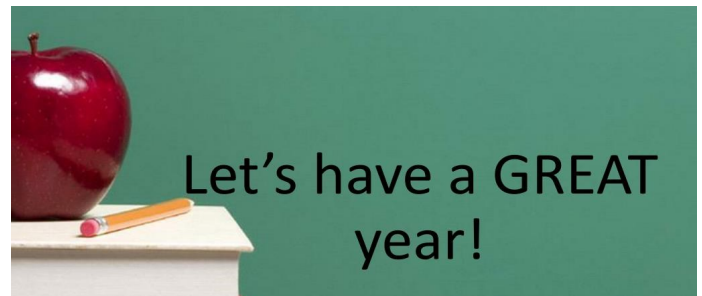


School Hours

Please note that our school
hours are from

8:20 am to 3:25 pm.

Students are not to be in
the school before 8:15 am.



School Council

We welcome your
involvement in our school
council. The first meeting
will be on Wednesday,
September 17th at
7:00pm at the
Bluffton School.

We look forward to seeing
you there!

Welcome back Mrs. Nicole—Our School Social Worker

Hello Bluffton Families,

I am honored to be back at Bluffton School. I have been working with children and families in different capacities for over 15 years and have a passion for working with young people.

I am blessed to have three children of my own and we enjoy hockey, 4H, spending time camping and being at the beach. I look forward to working collaboratively with eh families and students and believe “it takes a village to raise a child”. I am excited to be a part of their journey and looking forward to meeting the families of Bluffton School.

Mrs. Nicole



Junior High CTS Program

We are happy to inform parents that the junior high CTS program in Rimbey will continue. Grades 7, 8, and 9 will attend their first morning class in Rimbey on September 8th. Students will travel by transfer bus as soon as they arrive to Bluffton on their regular buses. They will return to Bluffton by 11:00 am. Students will partake in classes in Metals, Woods & Foods.



Bluffton School Returning Student Demographic Profile Update for New Students AND Returning Students

All legal parents/guardians of registered students, returning as well as new this year, that have a Parent Portal account, at Bluffton School will have received an email with instructions regarding registering and verifying/updating student/parent information online for each student through School Engage. **This is a yearly Alberta Education requirement.**

All WCPS parents are asked to go online through their Parent Portal account and complete the Student Demographic Profile Update form. WCPS parents and guardians are to complete and submit this form by September 15, 2025. There are several essential consents that will not be pre-populated from last year and will require parents to complete as they review and confirm the updated registration form:

- Responsible Use of Technology
- Walking Off Campus
- Code of Conduct
- Acknowledgement of Risk
- Human Sexuality (grade specific)
- Medical Information
- POPA (Protection of Privacy Act)
- Parent Contact and Emergency Contact Information

Please note that until the Student Demographic Profile Update form is complete, your student will not be allowed to access any technology and they will have limited access to physical education activities and will not be allowed to leave school grounds for activities.

Should you not have access to a device for online submission, please call the school office to book an appointment to use a school computer to complete this form.

Instructions for form completion:

Go to Bluffton School website at: bluffton.wolfcreek.ab.ca

Go to Quick Links and select "Parent Portal"

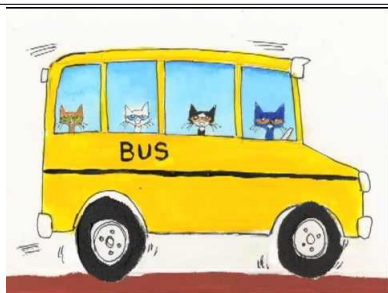
After signing into your Parent Portal with your username & password, you will select "School Engage" from the list of applications on the left side of the screen and by clicking on the notification "You have an incomplete form" - you will be directed to the contents of the Student Demographic Update form where you can begin to edit and submit upon completion. There are no paper copies available for completion.

This is a yearly Alberta Education requirement (not optional).

Should you require further assistance, please contact the school office at 403-843-6528 or sally.tennant@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Thank you very much for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

September 2025 Bluffton School



Wolf Creek School Division

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Bluffton, AB
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Phone: 403-843-6528
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labour Day	2 Staff Planning Day	3 Staff Planning Day	4 Staff Planning Day	5 Staff Planning Day	6
7	8 Grade 1-9 First Day back CTS	9 Kindergarten First Day Back	10	11 Kinder Day	12	13
14	15 CTS	16 Kinder Day	17	18 Kinder Day Terry Fox Walk/Run	19 PD Day No School	20
21	22	23 Kinder Day CTS	24	25 Kinder Day	26	27
28	29 Orange Shirt Day	30 No School National Truth & Reconcilia- tion Day				



Working Together....Reaching Our Highest
Potential