



Grouard School Times

WELCOME BACK!

I'd like to welcome everyone back! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer.

I'd like to introduce myself. I am Karen Lemay and I am the new principal here at Grouard School. As some of you may know, I am not new to the area having grown up in Big Meadow and attended school at St. Andrew's and later E.W. Pratt. For the past 8 years, I worked at Hillview School in East Prairie and was principal for two of those years. Prior to that I taught at Driftpile Community School. I am committed to continuing the good works that have been a part of Grouard School with a particular interest in continuing to improve literacy and attendance.

I am really excited about the opportunity to work in your school and community. I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year!

Have a great school year!

Ms. Karen Lemay

WELCOME TO OUR STAFF

Welcome back to Rachel Starr as our Cree and Jr. High teacher. It is great to have you here!

A great big welcome back also goes out to our returning teachers: Mrs. M. Deering, Ms. P. Chalifoux, Ms. W. Calahasen, Ms. C. Matthews, Our support staff: Ms. B. Anderson, Ms., S. Auger and Ms. A. Halcrow, our custodians, Norbert and Art and our bus drivers Ray and Kevin.

We are looking forward to a great year with you and your children!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 6—Back to School
- September 12—LSBC meeting -5:00pm
- September 14—Meet the Staff—5-7pm
- September 19—PD day—no school for students
- September 26—PD day—no school for students
- September 28—12:30 dismissal—staff meeting/PLC



TRIBES: INCLUSIVE LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Once again, we are implementing Tribes at Grouard School. Our staff has been trained in the process and it will be an integral part of our school culture.

The clear purpose of the Tribes process is to assure the healthy development of every child so that each one has the knowledge, skills and resiliency to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

Students achieve because they feel included and appreciated by peers and teachers, are respected for their different abilities, cultures, gender, interests and dreams, are actively involved in their own learning,

and have positive expectations from others that they will succeed.

You will hear your child talking about the **Four Agreements** They are :

1. Attentive Listening
2. Appreciations—No Put-downs
3. Participation and the Right to Pass
4. Mutual Respect

These are the main ground rules of the process and we will be working to maintain these agreements.

*“It should not matter how slowly some children learn as long as we are encouraging them not to stop.”
- Robert John Meehan*

NEWSLETTER

CHALLENGE

In this issue of Grouard School Times there will be three spelling errors throughout the newsletter. Look for the errors, circle them and return the newsletter with your child (please indicate if you would like it returned). Your child will then be entered into a draw for a small prize each month. The draw this month will be held Friday, September 16.

Good luck!

EVERYDAY COUNTS!

Our goal is that every child attends school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student’s academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year.

Research shows:

Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade

By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school

By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just 2 days every month!!

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school every day and on time. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact the school.



**Do the right thing,
even when no one
is watching.**

It's called integrity.

Lessons Learned in Life https://content.xx.fbedn.net/t/11.0-9/13240535_1209509009120803_8005691414861800772_n.jpg?oh=f057f486788813281e88ce333dd5a4880e=583876EG

Addiction Services, High Prairie

DID YOU KNOW..

There is an Addictions Counsellor that travels to your school. This Addictions Counsellor is available to provide addictions counseling to students, parents and family member's seeking help in overcoming or coping with addiction concerns. This service is confidential and free of charge.

Addiction Services also provides information, resources, and educational programming on topics dealing with alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and gambling.

Addictions Counsellors are available for the above services at your school, at our area office in Peace River, or at one of our satellite offices in Fairview, Manning or McLennan.

Gail Michaud is the Addictions Counsellor at your school.

Please contact us at:

780-523-6490

Alberta Health Services—Addiction Services

High Prairie Health Complex

Alberta Health Services

**For more
information please
contact, Addictions
and Mental Health,
Addiction Services
at 780 - 523 - 6490**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

MULTI-GRADE CLASSROOMS

We at Grouard Northland School are dedicated to providing the best possible learning environment for your child. We provide differentiated instruction to your child which means we work with your child at his or her ability level in order to strengthen the skills necessary to be successful. This will look different for every child, so it may look like your child is not working "at his grade" but in fact, he is using strategies and materials to best suit his needs to cover the content of his grade.

Because we have combined grades, we may also do something called "cycling". Due to time restrictions, it is very difficult to cover every topic in every subject for every grade. This may look different in each class. Also, it is important to note that this would be used only for Science and Social Studies. One example would be to teach a few units from one grade and a few from the other grade in the split. Then, the following year, the units not covered in the previous year will be covered. Another method that may be used is to teach the topics from one grade this year and switch for next year, ensuring that all topics are covered by the time your child leaves that class.

I understand that having a child in a split class may be of some concern to some of you. If you have questions about how this will look for your child, please make arrangements to speak with your child's teacher.

Northland School Division

No. 61

Our Mandate

The Northland Board is responsible for ensuring that all students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of their individual communities and the larger society .

Vision

Every student is a lifelong learner and successful in life.

Mission

Northland School Division will provide quality educational experiences and opportunities for all students.

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School Vision Planning

Grouard Northland School, our Local School Board Committee and Northland School Division are committed to providing the best educational experience possible to our students. In order to guide this process we would like to host a School Vision planning session in which interested stakeholders would have an opportunity to contribute to the Mission and Vision statements and goal planning for Grouard Northland School. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact the school. Your voice as parents and community members is vital to the ongoing success of Grouard Northland School. We look forward to hearing from you!

ODDS AND ENDS

Here are a few things that we'd like to inform you of...

- If your child is going to be absent, please call the office to let us know
- **If your child is going to be late, please call the office by 10 am so he or she can be counted for lunch**
- Students are to turn in all electronics, cell phones, iPods, etc. to the office upon arriving at school. Better yet, would be to leave them at home. This is to prevent distractions in class and damage/loss/theft of the device. The school is not responsible for any devices that are damaged, lost or stolen. If you need to contact your child throughout the school day, please call the office.
- If you choose to send a snack with your child, please ensure that it is healthy.
- A pair of **non-marking**, comfortable inside shoes, suitable for gym, is required
- If your child is to go somewhere other than home after school, please make sure to call the school **before** 3pm. If we don't hear from you, your child will be sent home.
- Junior High students are able to leave the school grounds at lunch provided they have written permission from a parent/guardian and return by 12:30 for their afternoon classes. Failure to be on time will result in a loss of the privilege.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.