



**Ponoka Secondary Campus**  
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## **April 1, 2020 - Principal's Message, Mrs. Kathy McTaggart**

Well, what an interesting, upside down few weeks we have all had. This pandemic has certainly come with its share of challenges and changes. I know that the government and many groups are working hard to ensure that families have their basic needs met. Our school social worker, Carmen Rodwell, is still working and available for phone calls (403-783-4411) or emails ([carmen.rodwell@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:carmen.rodwell@wolfcreek.ab.ca)), if you have an urgent need or concern, please reach out to her and she can point you in the right direction and provide you with resources.

Having said that, I always try to look for the silver lining in every situation and I do see those silver linings in this pandemic. It is a wonderful chance for parents to see more of their children and to become more involved in their education. I encourage you to engage in family game nights, cooking meals together and other opportunities to connect with each other. It is appropriate to have 'tech free' times throughout your day, where everyone puts their phones and devices away for a while and spends time together without the distractions of social media and the news. It is a wonderful time to clean out junk drawers, repaint pantries, refinish coffee tables or pick up an art project or hobby you have been neglecting. I encourage families to try and look for those silver linings and keep a positive attitude in the days ahead. It will help your children and yourselves cope with these difficult circumstances.

In terms of school:

1. Your child's teacher advisor should have reached out to you on Monday or Tuesday to explain how we are moving forward and where to go to access this learning. Those parents who we did not connect with are being followed up with yesterday and today by our admin assistants.
2. By today (Wednesday) at noon every class has posted some sort of school work for your child to begin.
3. The school webpage <https://psc.wolfcreek.ab.ca/> is the place to begin for everyone. On the left hand side of the screen a tab has been created called: Covid Classroom Supports. Click there and follow the links to your child's grade and class. From there you will see assignments and resources posted or links to google classroom or hapara which are online learning platforms.
4. Remind your kids to check their wolfcreek emails on a daily basis as teachers are using email to communicate.
5. I have been told that FREE WI-FI is available through the town of Ponoka in the parking areas of the Arena, Aquaplex, the old library and the old firehall if you require some extra.

The rest of my message is regarding further information moving forward, I apologize in advance, it is vague and not a lot of answers will be concrete as so many things are in a wait-and-see phase right now.

**Lockers** - if your children have not collected their belongings from their lockers, please give the school a call and make arrangements to come sometime soon.

**Chromebooks** - the division office sent a survey last week for parents to indicate if they required a device. For all parents who filled out the survey and indicated they needed a device, 1 device per household is being offered for pick up on Friday from 3-6pm in the front driveway of the school.

If you did not fill out the survey but have communicated to us during your TA phone calls in the past couple days that your child does require a device, we have compiled a list and are working with our division office to see if there is a way to fulfill these additional requirements.

If your child does need a device and we have been unable to contact you, please call the school (403) 783-4411 and let us know.

**Course Selections and Planning for Next Year** - we will be moving ahead with course selections for next year but it will look very different than in the past. Our academic advisor will be reaching out to parents and students later in April to have a conversation about courses moving into next year so that we can begin our timetable. The one-on-one meetings with your child's teacher advisors will be postponed for now.

**School Fees** - I have had a few inquiries about refunding school fees, no decisions have been made in that regard yet, I will let you know when I know.

**Info about Clubs and Sports** - all of our spring sports and clubs are suspended until further notice. The Alice in Wonderland play has also, unfortunately, been delayed for now.

**Information to Our School Community** - we will continue to do our best to give information as we get it. I do know there have been many long email communications in the past couple weeks, and as things change, you will see more of these as things continue to progress.

My funniest moments on Monday, we were calling parents of students in my TA and as people picked up the phone call they would not say 'Hello' as they were waiting for the auto dialler to give them an automated message. Many parents were surprised when they got an actual person to talk to. 😊

From Ponoka Secondary Campus, we will continue

1. Teacher's communication with phone or email
2. I will continue to send emails via our 'swiftreach system' when needed
3. I will continue to send a principal's message every so often
4. Our office is open for now, so reach out to us via phone or email when needed.

Take Care of yourselves and each other, and remember, this too shall pass.

*Kathy*