

November 30, 2020 Newsletter

Message from Principal Pfannmuller:

As we are approaching winter break, I would like to thank students, staff, and parents for contributing to the Sangudo Community School during these challenging times. We have had an outstanding first term with many opportunities for our students to demonstrate their amazing talents and learning. Thank you to all of the staff who have adjusted their teaching and learning during this time and made these opportunities possible.

Sangudo Community School students and staff are once again participating in the annual food drive organized by SANG (Ste. Anne Natural Gas) *Stuff A Truck*. Large gift boxes have been placed in each classroom for students to place their food items over the next couple of weeks. All food collected will be donated to the local food bank. In these times where many families are struggling and accessing the food bank, this is an excellent opportunity for us to give back to our community. If you are able to make a donation, please send it with your child to school. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Mrs. Hagman is well into working with her Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) groups. Small groups of students (in their designated cohorts) work with Mrs. Hagman weekly on reading to boost literacy skills! Students enjoy their time with Mrs. Hagman!

The staff and students are brainstorming ways to promote the Christmas spirit with some kind of online presentation for students and their families. Please watch for correspondence in the next few weeks as we spread some holiday cheer!

With the government announcements earlier this week, we once again, are facing changes with how we deliver programs to students. It is with the utmost confidence that I know that we, our staff and students, are prepared for these changes. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or myself should you have any questions or require support.

We have all been enjoying this extremely mild fall. Hopefully these temperatures will continue for us as we enter into the month of December. As always, I am open to communication from our parents and community members. Please call or email me if you have something to discuss.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and in good health.

Principal Pfannmuller

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 2 - Picture Orders Due

December 18 - Last day of classes

December 25 - Merry Christmas

January 1 - Happy New Year!!!

January 4 - Classes Resume Online

January 11 - Classes Resume In-Person

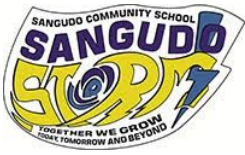
Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair held in early November was a huge success. We were able to set up the Book Fair in the school and students were able to still tour through while following cohort rules and COVID protocols. This year we were also able to offer an Online option for ordering, which was a huge success in earning the school more rewards. Our school was able to earn \$888 in rewards to purchase books and items for our school. Thank you for all of your orders and support! We look forward to hosting another Scholastic Book Fair in the spring!

We Are All In This Together

Please take a moment to read the latest article from our Northern Gateway Public School Student Support Facilitator, Tammy Charko. *We Are All In This Together*

Please refer to the NGPS website at ngps.ca for up-to-date information.



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To run or not to run?

School bus transportation and inclement weather

Winter weather and driving conditions bring questions about school bus transportation. Are the buses running today? Should the buses be running today? Why aren't the buses running today? Why are the buses running in Onoway when they are canceled in Valleyview?

The decision to run or cancel school bus transportation due to weather concerns or road conditions is made by the Director of Transportation, Mr. Rhett Czaban. It is not a decision that is made lightly. There are a number of factors considered, and a number of people who are consulted, prior to making the call. In addition to travelling and scouting the roads himself, Mr. Czaban has a number of local contacts in all NGPS communities with whom he is in contact with in the early hours, between 4:00 am and 6:00 am. He is also in contact with NGPS school bus drivers who may already be on the road.

Environment Canada, 511 and satellite cameras located up and down Highway 43 are also consulted throughout the day. The initial determination to run or not run buses is made between 6:00 am and 6:30 am and is communicated directly to our parents in the following ways:

- via the Bus Status tab on our website at www.ngps.ca
- on our Facebook page @northerngatewaypublicschools
- on school websites – look for the Bus Status section
- on Twitter @ngpschools
- via local radio station announcements
- via phone calls to parents by bus drivers (circumstances permitting)

Every effort is made to communicate with parents directly regarding changes to bus transportation; however, phone calls home are not always possible given the situation the bus driver is dealing with at the time.

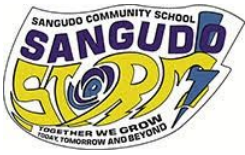
If you do not see a cancellation message on the NGPS website, Facebook page or Twitter feed, buses are running.

What Guides Us? Administrative Procedure 131 (<http://bit.ly/AP131>) refers to -40 degrees Celsius, including wind chill, as one determination factor in canceling buses. This point is based on area data, not specific site information. For example, while individual homes may have thermometers indicating a temperature below the specified -40 degrees Celsius, the data that is collected for each area is the evidence that is used to support the decision to cancel bus transportation.

The Director of Transportation utilizes his best judgment, based on the combination of temperature, visibility, road conditions and consultation within our communities when making the decision to run or not to run buses. The primary consideration in the event of severe weather conditions is whether it is SAFE to be transporting children. The expanse of the Division (375 km along Highway 43) means that running buses is not an all or nothing response as the conditions can vary greatly from school area to school area. NGPS is committed to be reasonable, responsible, and attentive to the information that is available throughout the day in all areas.

It's Always Your Call! Parents are reminded that the final decision to send a child to the bus stop or to school always rests with the parents, even though buses and schools may be operational. Don't forget to dress warmly!





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P.A.S.S. Fundraisers

We would like to thank everyone who supported the latest fundraisers organized by PASS. Happy Hippo and Sweetsmith Candy Co offered a lot of great options for gift giving. All funds raised that will go back to support great activities/events for the students of Sangudo Community School!

SNOWSHOES

Northern Gateway
Public Schools

The staff and students at SCS would like to extend an enormous thank-you to the County of Lac Ste. Anne for the Recreational Facility and Program Assistance Grant, as well as our amazing Parent Association. With the funds received we were able to purchase snowshoes! These will allow our students to get outside and experience great fun and exercise!

Learning at Home Internet Checklist

Troubleshooting - NGPS technology department suggests following this checklist to minimize potential problems with learning at home.

- You will require an Internet connection from an Internet Service Provider (ISP). If you currently don't have an Internet connection in your home please contact an ISP for your area.
- You may qualify for the [Telus Internet for Good](#) program. Contact your school principal for a code to use the program.
- Choose the physical student workspace in your home. Ideally an area that is quiet and free of distractions. Ensure the area has good WiFi signal strength to your device.
- Test your Internet bandwidth. From your device perform a speedtest. Go to <https://www.speedtest.net/#>. Click go and after the test is completed note the download and upload test results (shown in Mbps).
- You should have at least 10 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload for each student device.
- Google Meet is the video conferencing platform NGPS staff and students will be using.
- Before you use Google Meet, you should confirm no one else in the house is streaming data over Internet/wireless. Streaming Netflix or other video services will use up WiFi and ISP bandwidth.
- Students should already be familiar with Google Meet settings. Here is a [video](#) with some troubleshooting tips for Google Meet if you have low bandwidth.
- A last resort troubleshooting tip is to reboot your ISP router and modem.



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Merry Christmas!	

Retake Picture Orders Due (Wednesday, Dec 2)

Stuff-a-Truck 16 Donations Due (Wednesday, Dec 16)

CHRISTMAS VACATION (December 22-24)

Classes Resume on January 4 - Online (January 4)

Classes Resume on January 11 - In-Person (January 11)

Last Day of Classes (Friday, Dec 18)

