



# September/October Newsletter



## Message From The Principal

### Welcome to the new school year!



Tracey Thiemann  
Principal

As the new school year is now underway, I am thrilled to be serving as your Principal and to be part of the vibrant Avondale community. It has been wonderful seeing our students return and begin their learning journey with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Avondale School continues to be a special place dedicated to our mission: "To learn and succeed together." We take immense pride in our diverse learning environment and are committed to ensuring success for every student.

Parents and guardians, your involvement is key to our success. We encourage you to join our School Council volunteer, and partner with us to foster a vibrant and inclusive school culture.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Best wishes for a fantastic school year!

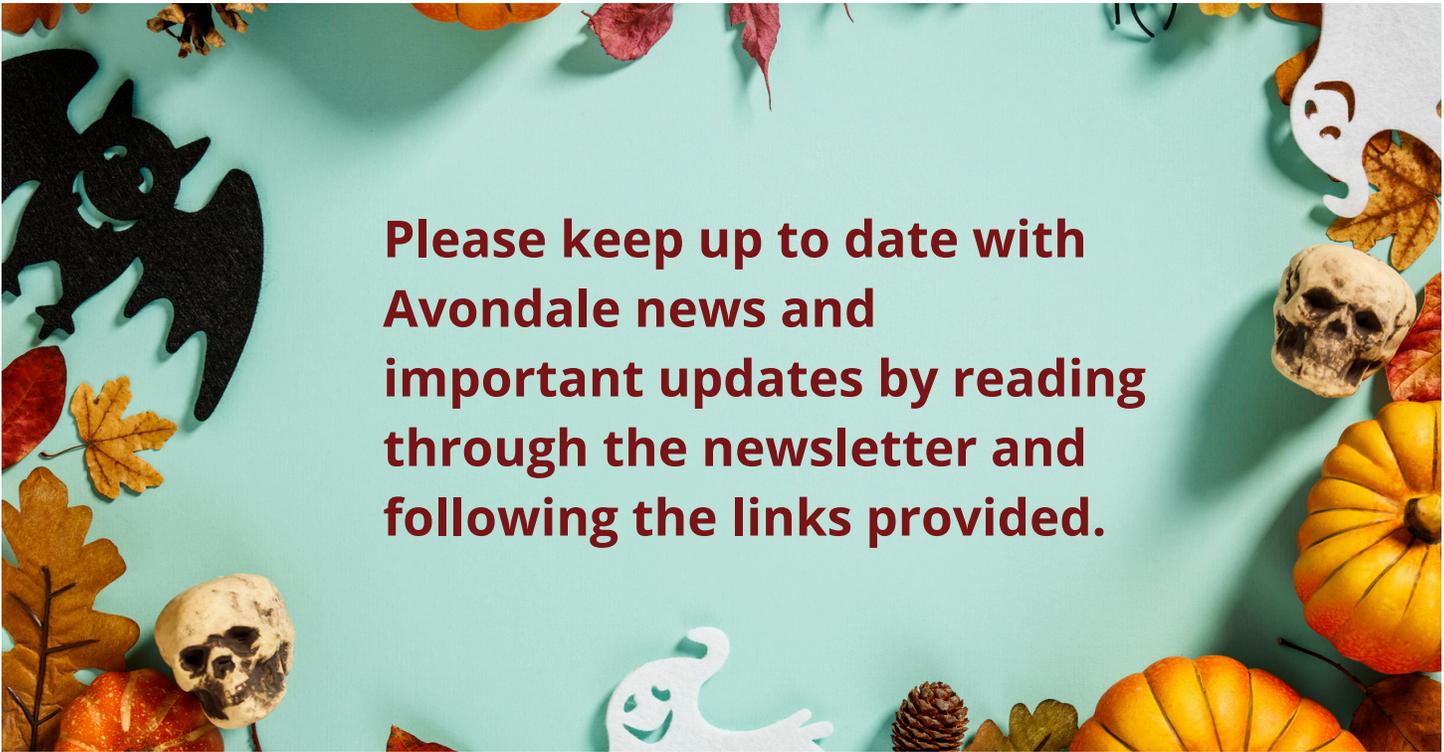
### IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 18** - Parent Council AGM
- Sept. 19** - School Spirit: Crazy Hair Day
- Sept. 20** - PL Day (No School)
- Sept. 21** - GPPSD Fun Run
- Sept. 27** - GPPSD Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 30** - National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (No School)
- Oct. 14** - Thanksgiving Day (No School)
- Oct. 16** - Parent Council Meeting
- Oct. 25** - PL Day (No School)
- Oct. 31** - School Spirit: Halloween Costumes

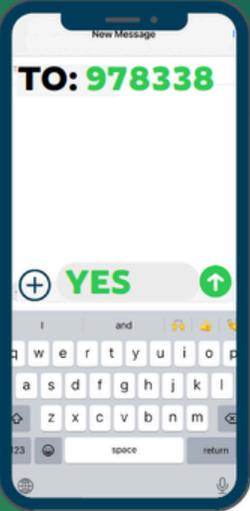
[School Division Calendar](#)

[Avondale Calendar](#)





**Please keep up to date with Avondale news and important updates by reading through the newsletter and following the links provided.**



**OPT-IN TO OUR TEXT MESSAGE SERVICE**

Our school uses the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages to legal parents' and guardians' mobile devices.

**TEXT "YES" TO 978338 OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



**SMS TEXT OPT-IN**

Legal Parents and Guardians can participate in this service by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to **978338**.



**WHY OPT-IN?**

Get the latest information from our school, wherever you are. This is the best way to stay connected with us.



**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

At a minimum, we recommend setting your SMS text messages preference for emergency communication, then adding on your additional preferences.



**SCHOOL MESSENGER**

Keep up to date on our school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.

**See pages 3 and 4 to create your account and how to report absences.**



# CONNECT WITH US! SCHOOLMESSENGER

As part of the Grande Prairie Public School Division, our school is using SchoolMessenger to improve communication with you, our parents and guardians. **Keep up to date on our school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.**

SchoolMessenger is limited to legal parents or guardians and delivers emails, text messages and phone calls directly to your email and phone number associated with your PowerSchool account. Once your account is created, set your preferences for general communication,

**STAY CONNECTED WITH US!**

Receive phone calls, emails and/or text messages regarding school events, newsletters, student attendance, emergency information and other important news.

- DOWNLOAD THE APP OR CREATE ONLINE ACCOUNT
- OPT-IN FOR SMS TEXT MESSAGES
- SET PREFERENCES FOR NOTIFICATIONS

VISIT [GO.SCHOOLMESSENGER.COM](http://GO.SCHOOLMESSENGER.COM)

## CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

**CREATE YOUR SCHOOLMESSENGER ACCOUNT**

- Step 1 – Download the mobile app or create your account online at [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)
- Step 2 – Set your SchoolMessenger preferences
- Step 3 (optional): Mobile app users can opt-in for SMS Text Messages by texting “yes” to our division shortcode: 978338.

Need help? Click on the links for detailed instructions:

- [How to Set Preferences](#)
- [How to Create Account](#)

Learn more about SchoolMessenger [here](#).

# Reporting and Scheduling a Student Absence

## SchoolMessenger

Beginning September 2024 the Grande Prairie Public School Division is now using SchoolMessenger to improve communication with parents and guardians.

To simplify reporting and responding to student absences we are using [SchoolMessenger](#)'s reporting system called SafeArrival.

Reporting student absences can be done in three ways, choose the most convenient for you: mobile app, email or phone call.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been reported in SchoolMessenger, SafeArrival will contact parents/guardians by automated phone call, text message, email or mobile app push notification (depending on how you have set your preferences in SchoolMessenger- Attendance) for you to indicate a reason for the absence.



## Our School Vision

For all students to achieve academically, emotionally, and socially to their highest potential and to become active, engaged citizens.



Download the [SchoolMessenger](#) app on your smartphone or tablet. The app is compatible with Apple and Android devices.

*If you have created your account on the website your login information on the app will be the same.*



<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>

Log into the SchoolMessenger website: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca). You can set up your account using this website to report and schedule absences using the SafeArrival feature.

*You must set up your account to use this website to report absences*



Call your school, and press "2." or  
Call our toll-free attendance line directly:  
**1-844-352-4191**

# Reminders

As partners in creating a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment at our school, we want to ensure our school community is familiar with our student safety procedures.

## Drop Off & Pick Up Doors

- To help us manage students arriving in the morning and leaving after school, students are to use the exterior doors designated as their entrance where their boot racks are located.
- In the morning and afterschool, Parent/guardians are asked to pick up or drop off their child at the designated exterior door.



## Leaving School Early

- If students need to leave school during the day, please make sure you have come into the office, through the main doors to sign them out.

## Visitor Sign In

- All visitors, including parents/guardians, are required to check in at the office upon entering the school; therefore, we ask parents and guardians to only use the main doors enter or exit the building.

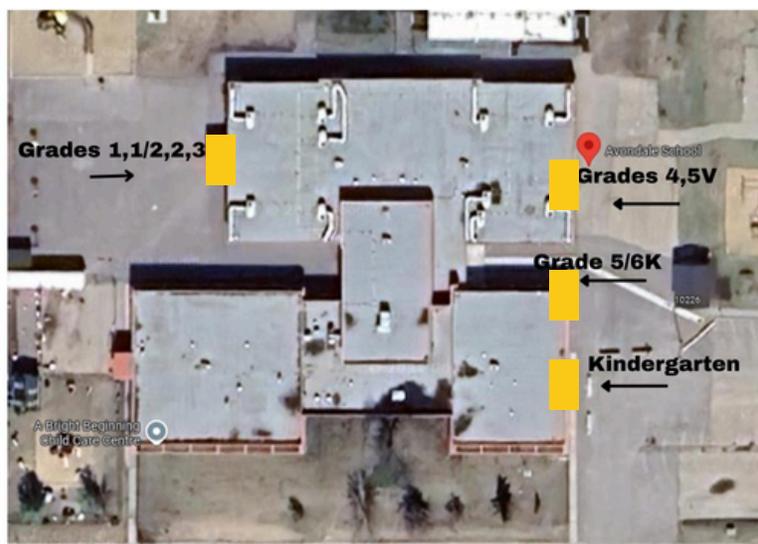
## Parking

Please keep everyone safe by following the parking lot rules at our school. See map to right. →

**We appreciate your cooperation and support as these measures are essential for maintaining a safe school environment. For a more detailed traffic plan click below:**

[Traffic Plan Document \(gppsd.ab.ca\)](#)

Student School Entrances



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# Reminders

## Citrus Catering

Citrus Catering will be providing hot lunch options to our students. To see the menu or order, please visit:

<https://www.citruscatering.ca/school-orders/avondale>

There are special dates and daily menus. Order cut off is 8:30 am daily.

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## Munch-a\_Lunch

Once a month, students also have the option to take part in ordering Munch-a-Lunch. Funds raised go towards School Council initiatives.. Visit:

<https://munchalunch.com/>.

Teachers will send reminders.

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## Volunteers Wanted

We are always looking for volunteers! From school council members to field trips, please contact your child's teacher to learn more.

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## Report a Student Absence

To simplify reporting and responding to student absences we are using [SchoolMessenger's](#) reporting system called SafeArrival. See pages 3 and 4 to learn more.

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## Emergency Preparedness

In case of an emergency, our school follows our school division's Emergency Preparedness Administrative Procedure. Please take the time to read it. [Click here.](#)



### 3 Ways to Report Absences

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Download the <a href="#">SchoolMessenger</a> app on your smartphone or tablet. The app is compatible with Apple and Android devices.</p> <p><i>If you have created your account on the website your login information on the app will be the same.</i></p> |  <p><a href="https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home">https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home</a></p> <p>Log into the SchoolMessenger website: <a href="https://go.schoolmessenger.ca">go.schoolmessenger.ca</a>. You can set up your account using this website to report and schedule absences using the SafeArrival feature.</p> <p><i>You must set up your account to use this website to report absences.</i></p> |  <p>Call your school, and press "2" or<br/>Call our toll-free attendance line directly:<br/><b>1-844-352-4191</b></p> |
|--|---|--|



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

LET'S MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

Research shows that students in any grade, including Kindergarten, have difficulty catching up if they miss too much school. We are here to support your child's success. Click to [read more](#).

## TRIPLE BALL PRACTICE

Grade 5 & 6

Practice Started Monday September 16th during lunch recess. We will be announcing the times and dates during morning announcements at the school and will post on Facebook.



## GPPSD ANNUAL DIVISION FUN RUN

Kindergarten - Grade 6

Students and their families are invited to join us for this free fun event focusing on school spirit, building community, and promoting wellness—all while having fun!

Show your pride and wear your school colours or gear! Registration is not required. Come and enjoy the free hot chocolate! [Read more](#).

**Grande Prairie Public School Division**

**GPPSD Annual Division Elementary Fun Run**

**Sept. 21 at Legion Field**

8:30a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Family walk-a-thon followed by student races.

# Avondale's Learning Corner

## KinderPAL: Update From Our Littlest Learners

### We're off to a Fantastic Start!

Our early learners are diving into their surroundings, fostering curiosity, and building essential social skills. They are discovering how to be good friends, show empathy, and practice compassion.

We're making the most of the beautiful fall weather with lots of outdoor activities and creative projects.

Recently, the kids made unique, textured fall trees using broccoli and had a blast drumming with pool noodles, adding a fun and rhythmic element to their play!

Brett Cramer,  
KinderPAL Instructor



# KinderPAL Registration is Open

## What is KinderPAL?

Our school is proud to provide KinderPAL Play and Learn experience as a Program of Choice for our families of Kindergarten-aged children.

Children experience full school day learning with Kindergarten programming for half their time, and the other half is KinderPAL. A certified teacher provides provincial Kindergarten curriculum instruction, and a KinderPAL instructor provides KinderPAL programming.

KinderPAL's peer-based play helps children continue developing and growing their knowledge; increasing readiness for Grade

Registration is still open  
for the 2024-2025 school  
year. Call our school today!



## KINDERPAL AT OUR SCHOOL

- Program Fees: \$350 per month.
- KinderPAL does not qualify for childcare subsidy
- For busing options, please contact our school directly
- 

Your child is ready for KinderPAL if:

- 5 years old as of December 31st of this year
- Able to self-toilet
- Able to communicate wants and needs
- Developed in the areas of self-help, play and behaviour

**KinderPAL!**  
Play & Learn  
Full School Day Learning Experience



## Full day, every school day.

KinderPAL is a Program of Choice for  
Kindergarten-aged children at our school.

# Indigenous Programming

## Orange Shirt Day - Sept. 27

Across Canada, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR) is officially recognized on September 30th each year. As part of our commitment to Reconciliation, our school division is hosting an Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 27, giving students and staff an opportunity to honour Survivors together.

## History of Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. Today, Orange Shirt Day events continue to commemorate the residential school experience, witness and honour the healing journey of the Survivors and their families, and commit to the ongoing process of Reconciliation. Read more: [www.orangeshirtday.org](http://www.orangeshirtday.org).



## Survivors' Flag

In the act of Reconciliation, we are sharing information from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's exhibit: The Survivors' Flag. The flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by Survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation. See the flag and read more: <https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>



# Community Events

## Grande Prairie Friendship Centre



### 5 km Orange Shirt Day Walk/Run

The Grande Prairie Friendship Centre is hosting the 4th Annual 5km Orange Shirt Day Walk/Run on **September 30th at 5:00 PM**.

The first 100 people to register at the event will receive a medal!! 🏅

Wear your orange and come together to honour, remember, and reflect. We hope you can join us for this meaningful event.

COMMUNITY CULTURE

GRANDE PRAIRIE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE PRESENTS

# 5 KM

## Orange Shirt Day Walk/Run

### Muskoseepi Park

**30TH**  
**SEPTEMBER**

4:00 PM  
REGISTRATION OPENS  
5:00 PM  
WALK/RUN STARTS

Join us for a special event honoring Orange Shirt Day. Together, we walk and run to support reconciliation and remember that every child matters. First 100 people to register at the event will receive a medal.

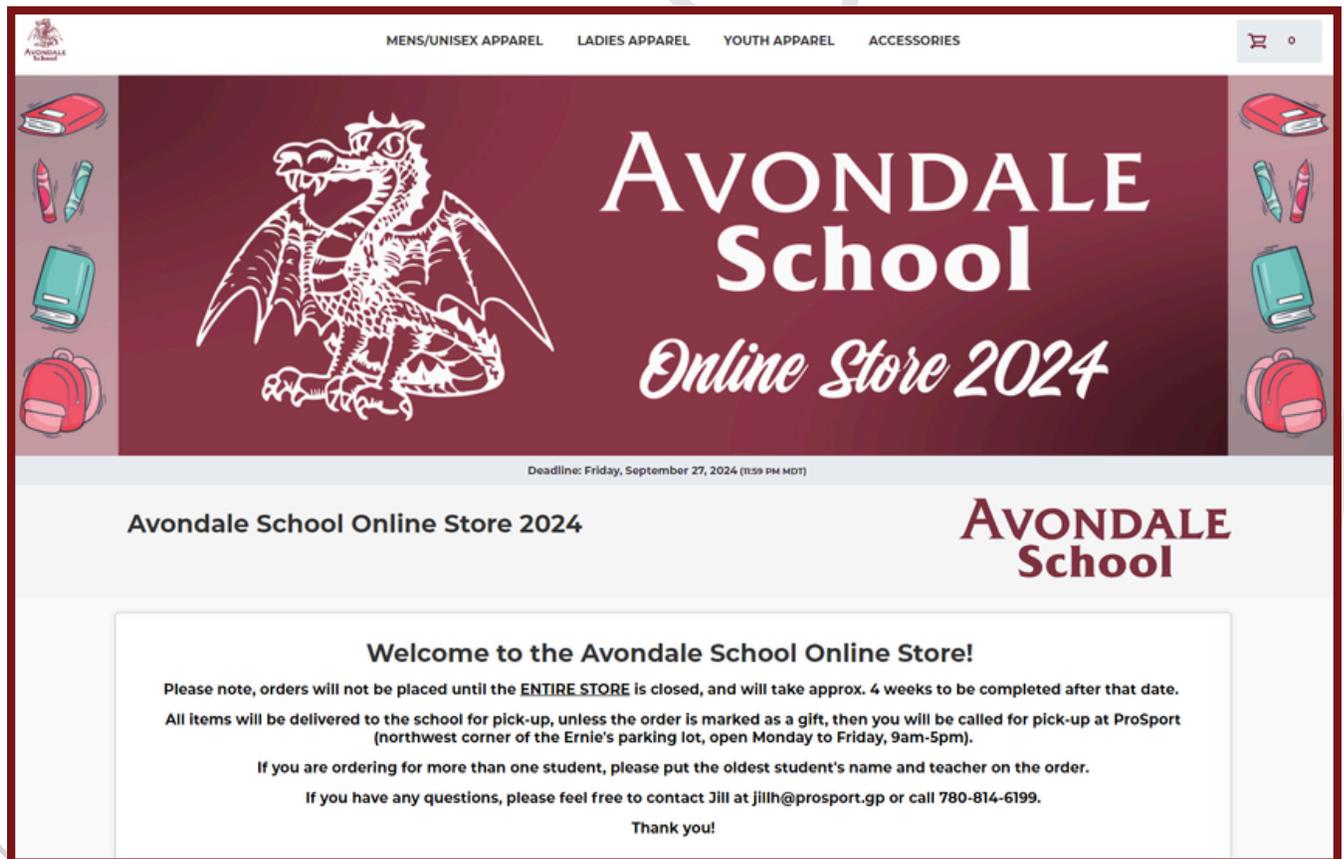
MEDAL  
**\$10**

THANK YOU TO OUR  
WATER SPONSOR  
**MNP**

# Avondale's School Clothing

## Our school store is open!

Open now until September 27, 2024. The store will reopen October 14-November 4. Visit <https://avondalecsaug2024.itemorder.com/>



MENS/UNISEX APPAREL LADIES APPAREL YOUTH APPAREL ACCESSORIES

# AVONDALE School

## Online Store 2024

Deadline: Friday, September 27, 2024 (11:59 PM MDT)

### Avondale School Online Store 2024

### AVONDALE School

**Welcome to the Avondale School Online Store!**

Please note, orders will not be placed until the ENTIRE STORE is closed, and will take approx. 4 weeks to be completed after that date.

All items will be delivered to the school for pick-up, unless the order is marked as a gift, then you will be called for pick-up at ProSport (northwest corner of the Ernie's parking lot, open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).

If you are ordering for more than one student, please put the oldest student's name and teacher on the order.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jill at [jillh@prosport.gp](mailto:jillh@prosport.gp) or call 780-814-6199.

Thank you!

**ORDER NOW**

# School Council

## Come Join Us!

We are always seeking new individuals to become a member of our School Council. Being a member is one way to gain a better understanding of the leadership and direction of the school and be a part of the process for providing input into the variety of programs we offer students.

If you want to get involved with a great group of caring individuals, we welcome all parents and legal guardians, and would love to see you join us!

School Council Contact Information:

**Chair:** Anna Schulte  
Phone: 587-343-0643  
Email: lanna79@live.ca

**Vice Chair:** Dylan Bressey  
**Treasurer:** Naomi Bressey  
**Teacher Representative:** Lynn Vanderveen

## Upcoming meetings

Meetings are held in the Avondale School gym from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Child care is not provided.

September 18  
October 16  
November 20  
December 18  
January 15  
February 19  
March 19  
April 16  
May 21  
June 18

All parents and guardians are welcome to join, no registration required. You can also follow us on Facebook!



Our school council is a collective association of parents, legal guardians, teachers and our school principal who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning.

# Bell Times

Pre-Warning Bell - Line up outside: **8:17 am**

Warning Bell - enter the school: **8:20 am**

Start of Instruction: **8:25 am**

Lunch: **11:25-11:55 am**

Lunch Recess **11:25-12:55 pm**

School Done: **3:10 pm** (for pickup)

# Supervision Times

**Morning Supervision Begins at 8:05 am**

East and West side of Avondale School. (\*Please do not send you child to school earlier than this time.\*)

**After School Supervision Ends at 3:25 pm**

(\*Please have your child picked up by 3:15.\*)

# Our Administrators

We are happy to connect with you. Reach out by email or call our school.



Tracey Thiemann  
Principal



Jae LeClare  
Vice Principal

E-MAIL |

E-MAIL |

## Our School Vision

For all students to achieve academically, emotionally, and socially to their highest potential and to become active, engaged citizens.



## LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

Avondale School  
Mission Statement