



# The Steffie Scoop

# NOVEMBER 2024



## Personal Devices at School

As you may have heard, on June 20, 2024, the Government of Alberta Ministerial Order (#014/2024) was signed which changed the use of personal mobile devices in all Alberta schools.



In the order, Section 1 (a) states: "personal mobile device" means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet, such as a cellphone, tablet, laptop, or smartwatch."

Section 2 states: "A school authority is required to, at a minimum, limit the use of personal mobile devices and restrict access to social media as follows: 2(a) "Children and students may not use personal mobile devices during instructional time. If children and students have personal mobile devices with them during instructional time, they are required to keep these devices on silent or powered off, and stored out of view."

With this order, students are not allowed to wear smartwatches at school. The order does represent a significant change in the province as they seek to limit distractions and help students focus on learning!

## Library News



Our Book Fair is Back!  
November 4 - 7

The Book Fair will be in-person shopping. Scholastic is not offering online shopping for this school year. Classes will be shopping during their regular scheduled library times. **The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in the gym.** There is no shopping before school or during lunch or recesses. Both English and French selection available.

Parents may shop after school and during parent teacher conferences on the evenings of Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7. Hours for the book fair are:

Monday, November 4- 8:40-6:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 5- 8:40 am-7:30 pm  
Wednesday, November 6- 8:40 am- 7:30 pm  
Thursday, November 7- 12:25-6:00 PM \*Book Fair is closed this morning for the Remembrance Day Assembly.

Scholastic sends limited copies of books, so popular titles sell out quickly. However, the library keeps a display copy for everyone to see so items may be ordered. Delivery time for items is quick as items ordered arrive when the book fair is sent back to the warehouse. Items ordered at the bookfair should be in classrooms by Tuesday, November 19.

## Principal's Message

October has been a busy month at Steffie Woima! Our students have enjoyed inline skating and it has been great to have so many parents volunteers helping out! Also, a huge thank you to our parents for helping us keep both the front and back loops as safe as possible. Please do not walk your students through the driving lanes and use the sidewalk instead. The back loop is for dropping off or picking up only and if you wish to come into the school, please park on the street. Lastly, there is no parking on the left side of the back loop. Parking on the left side creates a safety issue as kids may run between cars and across the traffic lane to get to the vehicles. Thank you again to everyone for your efforts to keep the kids as safe as possible.

During this past month, our teachers have been assessing where students are with their reading, writing, and mathematics skills so we know how to best help students move forward in their learning. Teachers are working with their students to ensure that they have 'good fit' books to read. To improve their reading skills, our students need to be reading books at their own level. The books should be ones that they can read successfully with a high rate of accuracy in recognizing words. Reading is an essential foundational skill for success in school and the world of work. I can't emphasize enough the importance of ensuring that your child is reading every night as it makes a huge difference in the development of their literacy skills and long term academic success.

Parent and teacher conferences are coming up on November 5 and 6th! We are looking forward to seeing all of you. We truly appreciate your support and help as our partners in the education of our students! While attending the conferences, please check out the Book Fair in the gym! Your support helps us purchase more books for our library.

As a staff, we will be organizing a 'Christmas Store' (White Elephant Sale) in the gym in December during the last week of school. Students can purchase gifts for their parents or siblings with all items being under \$5.00. We will be looking for donations of gift items for our Christmas Store throughout November and early December. If you have some items you would like to donate, please drop them off at the office. We will be needing some volunteers to work at the Christmas store during class time. Our Environment Club will be helping with this project as it is all about regifting and reusing! Thank you in advance for all of your support!

Have a great month of November!  
Ms. Eadie-Gyori—Principal





## School Council News

Hello Steffie Parents,

In September we decided to change the format on how our Council meetings would be held, and we were able to successfully give those changes a try this month! From here forward, our Council meetings will be held at 6:30pm in the Steffie staff room, and will be followed by our Fundraising meeting at 7:30 pm. Parents have the choice, as always, to attend one or the other, or both if they wish. There will also be a google meet link for those parents that want to be involved, but can't make it in person. We understand that our meeting times may interfere with important family time, so adding this option will allow more freedom for parents to listen in if they wish.

This month's meeting provided a lot of useful information on how the school board and our administration are working hard to build our students' education and set them up for future success and had a chance to see how our students are doing in comparison to the rest of the district and what the plans are to increase grade average throughout the school. We also touched on the subject around the new law on personal devices in schools, and how our administration is handling it with our own students.

If you wish to see further information, our meeting minutes are posted in the parent section of the Steffie Woima website.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 19, @ 6:30 - See you there!

Megan Weiskopf - Head Chair of Council  
[meg.weiskopf@gmail.com](mailto:meg.weiskopf@gmail.com)

## Fundraising Society

We have exciting news to share! Thanks to the initiative of our wonderful new music teacher, Mr. Armitage, and the generosity of our excellent community, we have been able to purchase 35 ukuleles to augment the music program at Steffie Woima! Our students will now have the opportunity to learn this fabulous instrument as part of their schooling experience.

We want to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to all donors of this fundraising campaign and a special thanks to House of Music, the Sylvan Lake branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and Joel Sinkwich & Century Wireline for their generous contributions.

Our holiday fundraisers are right around the corner! This year we will be doing a couple of new fundraisers for the holiday season that should appeal to both kids and adults! More information and order forms will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Our next meeting is November 19th at 7:30pm with an online option available. Everyone is welcome! For any questions, please contact [steffiefundraising@gmail.com](mailto:steffiefundraising@gmail.com).

Thanks,  
Kate Martin - Fundraising Chair

## Safe and Caring

Telus Wise Footprint talks about 3 key things to keep in mind when online:

**Make a good impression**

Careful what you say or do online

Do the right thing

Think before you say, do, or post online. Everyone online has feelings just like you.

Keep safe

**Keeping Kids TECH-SAFE**  
Kindergarten to 5th

**Screen Time**

- Screens include televisions, computers, iPads, tablets, iPhones and SmartPhones
- Create **screen-free zones** in the house
- 1-2 hours per day of high quality content screen-time
- Eliminate** all screens in kid's bedrooms
- No multi-tasking (i.e. iPad while watching TV)
- Check reviews and ratings on [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org) for TV shows, apps, movies and video games
- Turn on **Guided Access** on iPhones and iPads to lock one app at a time to limit distractions
- Watch exposure to ads on TV and internet

**SECURE INTERNET**

- Have a **parent-only password** for every computer
- Install parental control software like [spendto.com](http://spendto.com) or [Norton Online Family](http://Norton Online Family)
- Turn on **Safe Search** on Google for every computer and device
- Use **bookmarks** for safe websites that kids like
- Use web security to block inappropriate websites

**Online Safety**

- Establish rules for appropriate instant messaging and chatting online
- Limit **online talk** to friends and family your child knows well
- No private information** given out online
- Be a **trusted adult** your child can come to if something inappropriate or creepy happens online
- Avoid **banning** them from the computer because they will be less likely to come to you again

**Digital Footprint and Privacy**

- Establish a **datakeeper** for all online forms and downloads
- The internet is written in **pen, not pencil**. Things stay forever.
- Use the **Golden Rule** online - Choose words carefully
- Never give out full name, social security number, birthdate or address
- Three rules for their digital footprint:
  - Be nice to others
  - Don't say mean things
  - Think critically about information
- Teach kids that advertising online is targeted

**FIND A BALANCE**

explore, enjoy, communicate & create

safety & protection

**Family Media Contract**

- Printable contracts by age available at [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)
- Sign contract for **each child**
- Rules apply at **other houses, as well**

Remember to **join the fun!**  
Watch, listen and play **with** your kids!

© Preschoolers.com  
Information from Common Sense Media and American Academy of Pediatrics

## Hot Lunch

Thank you to Leah Inkster for her partnership in coordinating hot lunch days!

Thank you to this month's volunteers:

Keely Grant & Lauren Johnson

Deadline to Order December Hot Lunch is

November 19th!

If you need a hand finding where to order hot lunch, please contact the office.



## Parking Loop Safety



We kindly ask that vehicles do not double park in our back loop. Please ensure all vehicles are lined up single file along the right side of the loop. If there are no available spots, we ask that you park on the street.

To maintain a smooth flow of traffic, the loop is designated for drop-off only. Drivers should remain in their vehicles at all times. We understand that you may want to walk your child to the door, so please park on the street if you'd like to do that.

If you drop your child off on the street, please remind them to use the crosswalk and/or sidewalk when walking around the traffic loop. It's important for both parents and children to stay on the sidewalks and avoid walking through traffic or between vehicles. We've also shared this information with the students.

We want to ensure everyone's safety!

Thank you for your cooperation! The safety of our students is our top priority.

## Attendance Matters

### DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that missing 10% of school negatively affects a student's academic performance.

Attendance in school is compulsory in Alberta for everyone between the ages of 6 and 16.

Students who attend school regularly have the opportunity to participate more fully in learning activities which increases the likelihood of successfully completing high school.

Missing 2 days of school each month or 20 days each year starting in Grade 1 is equivalent to missing a full year of schooling by grade 10.

Find out more at our [Chinook's Edge website](#)

### Attend today, Achieve tomorrow



Regular school attendance is **critical** for student success. Good attendance is important for a child's ability to learn, grow and develop social skills. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about themselves and school.

We share your priority to ensure the best learning experience each day for your child.

If your child's attendance is becoming a concern, please contact your child's teacher. They are your partner in helping your child succeed in school!

### TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Prioritize school!
- Communicate the importance of regular school attendance.
- Have regular evening and homework routines.
- Schedule family events with our school calendar in mind.
- Try to make appointments during non-school hours when possible.
- Reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns about attendance.

*We understand your child will be away at times because of illness and other reasons.*

*Our priority is to eliminate unnecessary absences so that your child can learn, connect and succeed in school!*

### Learning Underway!

Students are hard at work starting at 8:35 am. We want to minimize interruption of learning and you can help!

- ➔ If your child will be late, please drop your child at the office to check in and we will make sure they get to class.
- ➔ If you have items to drop off during the school day please leave them at the office and we will get the item to your child at break.

A friendly reminder that parents are asked to drop off and pick up at their child's school entrance door or at the office. If you would like to speak with the teacher, please schedule a meeting time via email or classroom communication tool.

