

## **Message from the Principal**

Dear Students and Parent/Guardians,

Welcome to Dr. Ken Sauer School! We are a school of about 300 students in our third year of operation.

As a school we are committed to Alberta Education's Ministerial Order (#001/2013) which seeks to develop students who are engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. To do this, we believe that inclusion, inquiry, integration and cooperative learning are essential pillars to be established in our learning environment.

Our instructional planning is designed to create learning experiences that acknowledge our students as capable thinkers who have a voice in their learning. This means that instructional planning honours the diverse needs of our students as we try to plan for each child's success. You will see that we value learning as a life-long process that involves students, parents and staff as active learners. Lessons/Projects are thoughtfully designed to focus on curricular outcomes that are communicated clearly, with many opportunities for strategic feedback and assessment. This places reflection as one of the key elements of a growth based approach to learning.

Within our classrooms you will see a blend of individual, small and large group instruction that take place within and across curricular/subject areas. Students will be supported in gaining independence, through opportunities to engage both their critical and creative thinking capacities, along with building collaborative skills as they work with a variety of students.

We believe that learning is best achieved in an environment based on respectful, open and meaningful relationships; this is foundational in creating an effective learning space. True partnerships between and among staff, students, parents and community members are integral to supporting students' academic learning, fostering collaborative skills and creating responsible and independent learners.

Students and parents are encouraged to read the information thoroughly in our school handbook as it is an important information tool for you throughout the school year. A copy of the most up to date handbook will be available on our school website. If you have questions about anything in our handbook, please contact your child's teacher or school administration.

Mrs. Carla Carrier



**Dr. Ken Sauer School Staff**

<b><i>Teaching Faculty</i></b>	<b><i>Position</i></b>	<b><i>Phone extension</i></b>
Carla Carrier	Principal	4202
Jennifer Nicoll	Vice-Principal	4203
Rachel Dale	Classroom Support Teacher	4204
Christina Konrad	ELP AM	4214
Natalia Wenzel	ELP PM	4214
Krista Bartman	Kindergarten	4219
ECE classroom	Amitty McBride/Brooke Stork	4215
Hailey Gale	Grade One	4221
Sonia Leahy	Grade One	4220
Dorlisa Prior	Grade Two	4216
Catherine Donner	Grade Two/Three	4217
Mercedes Greeley	Grade Three	4239
Colton Sutter	Grade Four/Five	4237
Allyson Hall	Grade Four	4236
Jennifer Hay	Grade Five	4235
Tammy Bryan	Grade Five	4234
Nicole Hall	Grade Six	4232
Cassidy McKelvey	Grade Six	4231
Samuel Poole	PE	4209
Brianne Greenlay	On Leave	

***Support Staff***

Hope Schick	Administrative Assistant	4201
Frances Anheliger	Library Technician	4230
Michelle Nolan	EA	
Candace Dawe	EA	Becky Klaiber PE EA
Deb Benson	EA	Lana Bilokraly EA
Brandy Callan	EA	Shandi Hurlburt EA
Penny Corbett	EA	Nicole Simpson EA

***Custodial Staff***

Warren Osmond	Head Custodian	Tracy Lawson, Rod Leibelt	Custodians
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September 1, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**Re: Fair Notice and Process, Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)**

In Medicine Hat Public School Division, the safety of our children is a top priority. Along with our community partners, we are committed to keeping our schools safe for students and staff. The community partners as members of the Southeast Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) committee have developed a plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others, which includes all staff must report all threat related behaviours.

**What is the purpose of a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)?**

The Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) is designed to be proactive in developing intervention/safety plans that address the emotional and physical safety of those involved; to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat; and to begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat-maker's behaviour.

**What behaviours warrant a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) to be initiated?**

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Every threat must be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated and a response and follow through completed.

**What is a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Team?**

Each school has a multi-disciplinary VTRA team that includes the school administration, school based counselors and support staff, and may also include district resource staff and community partners (i.e. police, mental health practitioners). It is important for all parties to engage in the VTRA process. If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat-maker or the parent/guardian, the threat assessment will still continue to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

**What happens in a Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)?**

The process of a VTRA begins when threat making behaviours are reported. The VTRA protocol is then activated. Interviews will be held with the student(s), the threat-maker, parents, and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. An intervention plan will be developed and follow-up meetings will occur, as deemed necessary, to ensure that interventions are supporting all those involved.

This letter is intended to serve our community with fair notice that we, as a school district, will not accept "no response" to a threat in our schools. We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and we are fortunate to have the commitment of our community partners. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact your school administrator, or further information can be found on the district website.

Sincerely,



Mark Davidson  
Superintendent

*The model presented reflects the thinking and work of J. Kevin Cameron, Director of the North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response [www.nactatr.com](http://www.nactatr.com).*

# 2019-2020 School Year



<b>Month</b>	<b>Dates</b>
September	3—1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School 20—No School – Teacher PD 27—Terry Fox School Run
October	1—Catalogue Fundraiser starts 14—No school – Thanksgiving 16 – Picture day for M/W Kindergarten group - PM 17 – Picture day 24—Catalogue Fundraiser over 25—No school – Teacher PD 31—Halloween Activities – PM only
November	14—Picture retakes 11—No school – Remembrance Day 22—No school – Teacher PD
December	9-12 – Scholastic Book Fair 11, 12 – Student Led Conferences 13—No school—Teacher PD 20—12:05 dismissal Dec 23 – Jan 5 Christmas Break (inclusive)
January	6—Classes begin
February	7—No school—Teacher PD 17 – 21 –No school—Family Day, Days-in-lieu, Teachers’ Convention
March	20—No School – Teacher PD
April	1, 2 – Student Led Conferences 10 – 17 - Easter Break 20—Classes begin
May	18—No school Victoria Day 29—No school – Teacher PD
June	26—Last day for students – 12:05 dismissal