

2024 - 2025



Handbook

Welcome to Tomahawk School

Welcome to Tomahawk School and thank you for being a part of our wonderful school. This handbook is designed with you in mind and will help you learn about Tomahawk School. Students and parents are encouraged to present questions to school staff at any time so individual needs can be addressed and met in a timely manner. If you have any additional questions about our school or programs that we offer, please do not hesitate to ask.

Tomahawk School is a safe and caring school dedicated to academic achievement and the positive personal development of children. We are a small, rural school in a lovely country setting that offers unique features like a large outdoor space for outdoor activities including our Nature Based Learning, and a beautiful playground, just to name a few. There are approximately 90 children in our school, which allows us to offer small classes and more personalized learning for each student.

We are staffed by a group of caring and compassionate people who love kids. Throughout our school there is an atmosphere of belonging and a sense of family for all students, staff, and community members that walk through our doors.

On behalf of the Tomahawk School staff, we look forward to another fun and fulfilling school year. In collaboration between the school and home, we invite you to work alongside us as partners in education to continue to build a valuable and engaging learning experience for every student at our school.

Have a great year everyone!

Your partner in education,

Mrs Tracey Gilmour

Principal

Tomahawk School



Connect with us!

Website - tomahawk.psd.ca

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/tomahawkschool/>

Instagram – tomahawk.school

Remind 101 – unique to each class

Email – tomahawk@psd.ca

Telephone – (780) 339-3935



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School Information

Hours of operation

Tomahawk School uses 40 minute blocks of instruction. We have three scheduled recess breaks and a 15-minute lunch, so students return to class feeling energized and ready to learn!

8:15	Office Opens
8:30 – 9:10	Period 1
9:10 – 9:50	Period 2
9:50 – 10:05	1 st recess
10:05 – 10:45	Period 3
10:45 – 11:25	Period 4
11:25 – 11:55	Lunch Recess
11:55 – 12:10	Lunch
12:10 – 12:50	Period 5
12:50 – 1:30	Period 6
1:30 – 1:45	3 rd recess
1:45 – 2:25	Period 7
2:25 – 3:05	Period 8
3:05	Dismissal

Teaching Staff

Mrs. Badgerow - Preschool

Ms. Jenna Paterson – Kindergarten/Grade 1

Ms. Knol – Grade 2/3

Mr. Humphreys (Temporary teacher) - Grade 4/5

Mrs. Gascon - Grade 6/7 Homeroom and 6-9 Language Arts and Social Studies

Mr. Mobach- Grade 8/9 Homeroom and 6-9 Math and Science

Mrs. Tracey Gilmour – Principal

Support Staff

Mrs. McKeen is our Head Secretary

Mrs. Pischke is our Educational Assistant

Mrs. Barrera is our Educational Assistant

Mrs. Badgerow is our Educational Assistant

All teachers teach Nature Extension program

Mrs. Gilmour is our Inclusive Education Lead

Mrs. Germscheid is our school psychologist

Mrs. Johnson is our Head Custodian

Mrs. Goerz is our Community Librarian

Parkland School Division Staff

Please contact the Center for Education at 780-963-4010 to reach any of the following:

Mrs. Shauna Boyce	Superintendent
Mr. Mark Francis	Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Scott McFadyen	Associate Superintendent
Mr. Scott Johnston	Associate Superintendent
Dr. Meg Miskolzie	Associate Superintendent
Mrs. Lorraine Stewart	Board Chair
Mrs. Aileen Wagner	Ward 1 Trustee

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to prepare, engage and inspire our students to be their best in a quickly changing global community.

Our Vision

Tomahawk School students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact the world.

Our Values

- Collaboration and engagement with students, parents and our community. Our successes are not possible without these contributions.
- Trust and mutual respect among all of our education stakeholders.
- Inclusion and diversity within our school.
- Guiding students to become confident citizens as they understand their responsibilities and their place in the world.
- Leadership in big and small ways – everyone in Tomahawk School has the potential to be a leader.
- Excellence, innovation and risk-taking
- Respectful, kind actions and words from all to all

Priorities

Student success is our top priority here at Tomahawk School. We believe that we must prioritize what is important to achieve that outcome. In doing so, decisions made in regards to our school, students, staff, families, academics, school rules, or extracurricular learning, the following priorities must be applied:

1. **Safety**
2. **Learning**
3. **Fun**
4. **Leadership**

Our most important priority is **Safety** - **A place where students feel safe, welcome, and accepted for who they are and** where staff feel respected and valued for their contributions. We believe that if students or staff don't feel safe (physically or emotionally), they cannot do their best job possible.

Our second priority is **Learning** – **Student learning and academic success are our goals**, so we maximize our students' educational time and create as many different learning opportunities for them as possible.

Our third priority is **Fun** – **The ability for students to have fun while learning is important.** If students enjoy their time while at our school, they will find greater success.

Our final priority is **Leadership**. The attributes of being a LEADER are presented regularly, and student leaders are celebrated each month. Building positive characteristics in our students is a priority.



Codes of Conduct

Tomahawk School Code of Conduct

Tomahawk School students are always expected to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains a positive school atmosphere. In Tomahawk School, we believe that it is important to:

- Show respect and courtesy within our school and community,
- Demonstrate honesty, fairness, and kindness to everyone
- Teach and reinforce appropriate behaviors
- Communicate clearly our expectations to students, parents, and staff,
- Be prepared and punctual
- Provide the opportunity for children to learn from their mistakes,
- Place emphasis on preventing behavior problems,
- Accept responsibility for one's own actions.

Parkland School Division Code of Conduct

In Parkland School Division, all members of our school community are expected to promote and demonstrate respect, civility, and responsible citizenship. With these goals in mind, everyone must:

- Demonstrate honesty and integrity.
- Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions.
- Acknowledge the right of everyone to be treated with dignity, at all times.
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need.
- Use non-violent means to resolve conflict.
- Honor the role(s) of persons in positions of authority.
- Show care and regard for school property and the property of others.
- Comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws.



***In Parkland School Division, we are all models for the kinds of citizens we desire to be.
We teach and learn by example.***

Electronic Devices and Cellphones

Please refer to Administrative Procedure 670:

<https://www.psd.ca/board/administrative-procedures/4522>

The use of electronic devices such as cellphones, smart watches , headphones/Airpods are permitted at Tomahawk School, however, **devices are NOT ALLOWED in the classroom**, unless specifically authorized by the teachers. **Note, students bring these devices at their own risk.** The school does not assume responsibility if they are lost or stolen. Students must store cell phones, smart watchers, and headphones/ Airpods in their LOCKER during the school day, at minimum, during all class time. Students who inappropriately use their cell phone will be required to turn it into the office until the end of the day. If a problem persists, parents will be notified. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to call.

Parents, please do not call or text your child during school hours **unless it is an emergency**. The school allows students to use the phone in the office and parents are welcome to call the school if they need to make contact with their child. Please join our staff in modeling to our students that electronics must not be a distraction at school.

Student Agendas

Students in Grades 1- 5 use agenda books on a daily basis to communicate between school and home. Each student will be provided an agenda by the school. The book may be signed by students, parents and teachers. Students in Grades 6-9 use Remind 101 App for home/school communication.

Recess and Noon Hour Policy

It is our policy at Tomahawk School that as long as weather permits students should play outside at recess time. As with our requirement that students stay inside in poor weather, students are encouraged to be outside when the weather is beautiful. Students should be suitably dressed for the prevailing weather conditions. In the event that the weather could be considered marginal, i.e. wet or very cold (colder than -20 Celsius), then we will use good judgment. We then provide a variety of indoor activities for students during periods of cold or wet weather.

*Parents who wish to have children kept inside must send a note for **each day** they wish the child to stay in.*

Children who are too sick to go outside are usually too sick to be at school and should probably be kept at home until they are well. It is our experience that children prefer to go outside and, in fact, benefit from the fresh air, exercise, and the change of pace, even in cooler weather.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Tomahawk School students have the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities such as:

- Cross-country running
- Archery
- Soccer
- Choir
- Team Sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton)
- Track and Field

Information letters and permission forms are sent home prior to the start of any event. Please see our website <http://tomahawk.psd.ca> for any upcoming special events and extra-curricular activities.



Dress Code

Students and staff must be dressed appropriately at school. Appropriate dress for all students means:

- modest
- tops should be at/below your belly button, undergarments should be mostly covered (90%)
- Tank tops and shorts should be modest and appropriate (must cover rear/ appropriate length, no “muscle” shirts, not strapless)
- messages printed on clothing must be in good taste (NO alcohol/drug related, profanity, or violent material)



Tomahawk School sets a standard for clothing and all students and staff should respect the school standard. **Students will be required to change clothing if their dress is not appropriate.** Parents will be notified if an issue persists.

Students are allowed to wear hats in Tomahawk School on a daily basis if they so choose. This is part of our philosophy that if students feel free to be themselves, they feel safe and that they belong at school. Hats are not to be distracting to the student’s learning or contain any inappropriate messages. Hoods are not worn during class time.

Outdoor clothing should reflect weather conditions. In winter, all students must have warm boots, jackets, mitts, and head covering. Students are asked to wear footwear appropriate to the weather conditions. Outdoor shoes will be placed on shelves at the entry. Students will wear indoor shoes at all times in the school for health reasons as well as in the event of a fire drill. Please use some means to permanently identify your child’s footwear.

Parent Handbook

School Council

At Tomahawk School, parents or guardians are automatically eligible to become members of the School Council. The school council provides a forum for input into education decision-making and for the discussion of school issues by members. The council meets regularly with representatives from the staff and the school administration. Parents are encouraged to become part of the monthly meetings to participate in a valuable exchange of ideas on a number of school specific and general educational matters. Contact the school principal if you are interested in being involved with the School Council or you may find information on the school website: <https://tomahawk.psd.ca/parents/get-involved/school-council>

Please contact the school for more information, or contact the School Council Chairperson if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year or any agenda items for our School Council to consider. All school parents/ guardians are encouraged to attend the monthly School Council meetings.

Volunteer Program

At Tomahawk School, we feel strongly that parental involvement in the school and with their children's education improves student achievement. We maintain frequent and close contact with parents through agendas, teacher phone calls, parent/teacher/student conferences, Facebook and monthly newsletters. Strong home and school links result in better attendance, less delinquency, and stronger high school admission. Parents are encouraged to make regular telephone or email contact with teachers with any concerns or questions.

"Alone we can do little; together we can do so much."

~ Helen Keller

We are always looking for volunteers to help students.

Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering. As required by the School Division, a Criminal Record Check must be completed. If you would like to be involved, please speak to our school secretary, or your child's teacher and complete the necessary forms.



Transportation by Bus

If your child is not riding their regular bus home, please contact the school office. As well, notify your bus driver through contacting the transportation department at Parkland School Division. Please note we **do not** provide transportation to students that are **not enrolled in Tomahawk School**. This includes family members, relatives, or friends. Students attending other schools, such as homeschooling, must make alternative arrangements for transportation. Students may only ride on their assigned bus. **Please do not leave a message on the answering machine, as we cannot guarantee that your message will be received in time.** This will ensure your child arrives safely at the proper destination. ***If the communication is unclear regarding transportation changes for your child, we will send your child home on his or her regular bus.***

School Supplies

In June of each year, students are given a list of supplies they will need for the following year. Students are responsible for maintaining these supplies and for having them in class as needed. Parents are requested to check occasionally to make sure these materials are replaced when necessary. All personal supplies should be labeled with the student's name. Please label boots, shoes, lunch kits/bags in permanent ink. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need assistance with supplying your child or children effectively for their learning as we have many supplies available.

Forms and Information

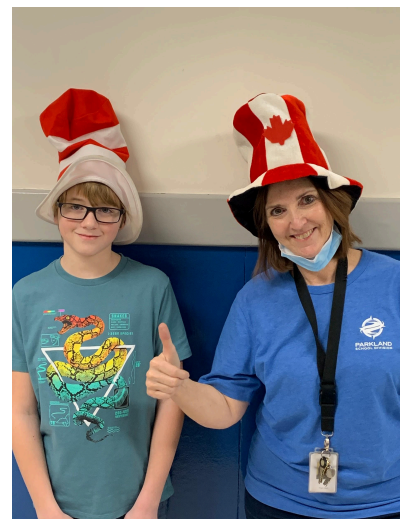
Many forms are sent home throughout the year. When you receive a school form, please complete it and return it to the office as quickly as possible. If you need another copy, please let your child's teacher or office know. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. School newsletters are sent home at the beginning of each month and digital copies are sent home and posted on the school website. <https://tomahawk.psd.ca/>



Computer Acceptable Use Agreement

Parents and students must agree to the conditions stated and sign the form on the Parent Portal before students will be allowed access to the internet. Please read this information very carefully and discuss it with your child. Students in Grades 6-9 will also sign a technology agreement.

Misuse of the internet on **ANY Device** (School owned or Personal) such as looking at inappropriate material, plagiarism, or continual misuse of the device by having a device in class, could lead to removal of the device for an unspecified amount of time as determined by the administration. Parents will be notified if issues persist.



School Fee Schedule

Please see the fees below for your child. All fees are for the purpose of enhancing your child’s learning opportunities. All fees can be paid online through the Parent Portal or you can make cheques payable to **Parkland School Division**. Fees **MUST** be paid prior to an activity to ensure your child can participate. All unpaid fees will be reported to Parkland School Division in December. Please contact the school if you wish to make other arrangements for payment.

Fees are as follows:	
Cultural Events Opening Assembly, Plays	\$15
Field Trips	\$50
PLAY Tomahawk Grade 1-9 (Inline Skating, Camp Yowochas, Curling)	\$30
Junior High Options (CTF) Grade 6-9	\$60/year (\$20/term times three terms)
Swimming Lessons Grade 1-6	\$30.50
Nature Extension Program – Camp Days Kindergarten – Grade 6	\$10
Optional Fees	
Cross-country (for each race entered)	\$5
Yearbook	\$20
Sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer)	\$50
Archery and Badminton	\$20



Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP)

All students are subject to FOIP while at school and participating in school activities. Please make sure that your child’s profile on Parent Portal has been updated to include FOIP permission. **Giving FOIP permission to the school means that your child may be photographed by school staff for the purpose of advertising school activities** and sharing everyday learning activities in our school social media profiles and school newsletters. If you have any questions or wish to request specific FOIP restrictions for your child (such as all social media except Facebook), please contact the school office so we can update your child’s file accordingly.

Declaration of Aboriginal Status

Parkland School Division wants to be accountable for its First Nations, Metis and Inuit student results. As a result, it is important that the School Division is notified of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. Through the process of identification of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children, their parents/guardians help hold the Division responsible for First Nations, Metis and Inuit student learning and performance outcomes. Please assist us in gathering this important information by filling out the appropriate checkbox on your child’s Parent Portal.

Student Absences

In the event that your child is unable to attend school, please contact the school before 8:30 a.m. to leave a message on the phone's voice mail service explaining the reason for absence. Flu-like illnesses or highly contagious diseases are carefully monitored. Please report such illnesses to the office. Your assistance in keeping students home when ill helps to minimize the spread of illnesses throughout the school. Your assistance is appreciated.

Physical Education Equipment

Students in Grade 6-9 may **require** a gym strip (change of clothes) for physical education. This includes shorts (modest length) and/or sweat pants, and a change of t-shirt. All students require clean gym shoes (with non-marking soles) to be worn in the gymnasium. Specific activities such as skating or curling would require special clothing that would be requested by the physical education teacher when necessary.

Lockers

Students in Grade 1-9 have an opportunity to use a locker(s) at school. As per Parkland School Division's "Drug Free Protocol", a Locker License Agreement form must be signed by parent and student before a locker will be issued.

Locks from home **will not be permitted**. Locks are available from the school office. Students are expected to keep their lockers clean and in good condition. Periodic locker cleanup times will take place throughout the school year. Locker access for personal use is restricted to regular recess and break times.



Hot Lunch / Free Lunches / Nutrition Nook

Hot Lunch Program

Our delicious hot lunch program offers students an alternative to bag lunches using a monthly pre-order system. A variety of items may be offered on the menu, such as hamburgers, pizza, wraps, sub sandwiches or lasagna. Coordinated and operated by School Council and parent volunteers, the hot lunch program is available one day a week. Menus will be sent home. **Please contact the school or join us for one of our school council meetings if you are interested in helping with this very important program.** Free bagged lunches are provided to our school from Brightwood Ranch and are available when students forget their lunch. Nutritious food is available for free to all students daily, including a breakfast snack, healthy snacks, and milk.



Friday Grade 9 Store

The Grade 9 students have a canteen on Friday that sells a variety of products such as fruit drinks, ice cream bars, chips, hot rods, etc. All funds support the Grade 9 Year End activity. Please make sure to secure your child's canteen money in a Ziploc bag with their name on it in case they misplace it. Parents and students, please note that **energy drinks and pop are NOT permitted** at Tomahawk School.

Communication

At Tomahawk School, we value dignity and respect and have high expectations of all to act in this manner. Our priority is always the safety, security, and wellbeing of our students and staff. We believe that you treat others the way you want to be treated. Unfortunately, conflict can sometimes arise between students.

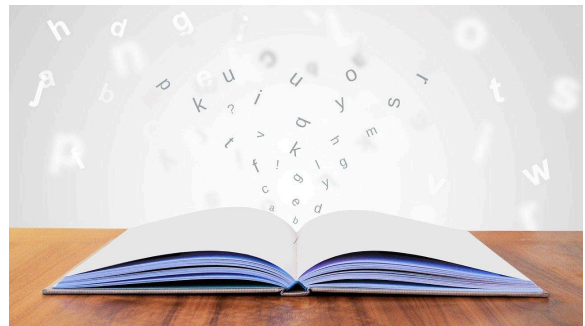
Please know that we take student conflict and bullying very seriously. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include school community service, study hall, removal of privileges, or suspensions in and out of school.

Parents often ask about the discipline measures used with the other child. Please note:

We do not share any information with parents about children other than their own. Consider that you would not want us discussing your child's life with other parents. In the case of conflict and discipline, you will only ever know the consequences provided to your own child. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school.

Tomahawk School Library

Tomahawk School shares our school library with the public library. All students are provided weekly time to obtain books and other items from the library as a part of their class schedule. All students are provided with a public library card that allows them to take out items.



Overdue/Missing Books

Please return any overdue books to the library as soon as possible. Several books have gone missing. Parents, if you happen to find a library book at home, please have your child return it to the library to avoid paying late fees.

Health & Wellness

Communicable Diseases

If your child has come in contact with a communicable disease (such as chicken pox, measles, mumps, Covid-19, etc.) or has influenza, you may report it to the school. Also, notify the school if your child comes in contact with head lice.

All matters will be kept confidential. The health unit may be notified if necessary.



Administering Medication

(Forms may be obtained from the office as needed)

If your child is to receive medication during the school day, or during an extra-curricular school sponsored activity, please contact the school office for needed forms. Please note that each time medication changes, a new form is required. Please refer to this very important information!

1. Medication shall be received by the Principal (or designate) only in the original dispensed containers, with original labels intact.
2. When medication reaches its expiry date, it will be discarded by the school.
3. Emergency medication (such as epi-pens or asthma medications) will remain in the possession of the student, unless the student is not yet mature enough to discharge that responsibility. That decision must be the result of a discussion (with appropriate consent and information) among the Principal or designate, the teacher(s) involved, and parent(s).
4. Students with life-threatening conditions **must** wear medical alert identification.
5. All medication shall be brought to school by a responsible adult, except in situations in which the parent or the physician believe it is in the best interest of the student that he or she carries the medication. In these situations, the student shall carry a copy of the written permission form from the parent and the physician indicating the name and dosage of the medication in the original dispensed container with the original label. Except for inhalers, the student shall carry only one day's dosage.
6. It is the responsibility of the parents to notify the school of any changes to the original prescription, and a new pharmacy label and container must be submitted with any change.
7. It shall be the student's responsibility to come to the office at the appropriate times for medication unless the child is too young to do so.
8. Students shall not administer any medication to themselves except when a physician, the Principal, the parent or legal guardian, and the student agree in writing that it is necessary and appropriate.

Emergency Response Plan

Parkland School Division's first priority is the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff. While we hope our schools are never faced with an emergency situation, our goal is to be prepared to respond to an incident if one should occur. To that end, we have taken numerous steps to better prepare our schools and school jurisdiction to deal effectively with emergency situations that could occur in or around a school during the school day.

One of the most significant steps has been the development of a comprehensive Division Emergency Response Plan. The Division Plan is complemented by individual plans tailored for each school. Should an emergency arise these plans will be implemented. The plans are reviewed regularly and have recently been revised to improve our response procedures.

In order for our Emergency Response Plan to be effective, we depend on the cooperation and assistance of many people, such as the police and the fire department. We also depend on you, as parents, to support our emergency response efforts. Your cooperation is vital to helping us protect the safety and welfare of all children and school employees. Therefore, we ask parents to observe the procedures outlined below.

In An Emergency

DO NOT TELEPHONE the school or your child's cell phone. We understand and respect your concern, but it is essential that the phone systems be available for emergency communications. If you call the school you will tie up lines and systems required for communicating with emergency responders and may inhibit our ability to send or receive critical information. By calling your child's cell phone, you could potentially put them in harm's way, based on the nature of the crisis. Please do not call, we will ensure that you get the information you need by contacting you (see contact information below).



DO NOT COME to the school until instructed to do so. It may be necessary to keep the streets and parking lot clear for emergency vehicles. If evacuation is required, students may be transported to a location away from the school, usually the local Agra building. You will be notified of this through your school's crisis notification system and the media.

Lock-Down or Shelter-in-Place

In the event of a lock-down or shelter-in-place, the school will be locked with NO arrivals or departures of anyone including staff, students or parents. You will not be allowed to pick-up your child until after an "all-clear" is given and established student release procedures are in order. This procedure will be strictly adhered to under all circumstances.

The Division has established a number of ways for you to quickly and accurately receive emergency announcements and status reports without having to call your child's school.

Please see Administrative Procedure 740 for more information:

<https://www.psd.ca/board/administrative-procedures/4674>

Our Programs

Nature Extension Program (Kindergarten – Grade 6)

With over 10 acres of school property, it's no wonder that Tomahawk School students get to engage in a natural learning environment every day during recess. In the Nature Extension program all students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 get to engage in specific outdoor activities that enrich their learning on a regular basis at Tomahawk School.

Outside learning exposes children to an environment different from their classrooms. They can learn in a calm setting different from their classroom, and this enables them to understand what they are taught with ease. Children can also interact with various plants, animals or insects and familiarize themselves with their existing species. Learning in a natural environment can reduce stress for students allowing them to develop their ability to concentrate and retain what they have been taught.

This natural enrichment opportunity allows children to approximately spend one day a month outside engaged in meaningful ways with their body, mind and spirit while being located in a natural setting. Year end activities include students travelling to a local Camp where students experience canoeing, rock and rope climbing, nature hikes, and much more.

Children find a better experience in learning outside the four walls of a classroom. Changing study areas can help boost the thinking of your child. Going outside provides a properly-lit setting with a good atmosphere for your child to learn. The level of concentration and participation improves because of the relaxed setting.

For this school year, students will participate in many nature-based lessons with the direction of their teacher. Each of the lessons complements their grade level curriculum. Children will be physically active and engaged in movement skills that will facilitate their balance, stamina and strength.

If you have any specific questions about our nature program or wish to volunteer time to come and help out, please call the office!

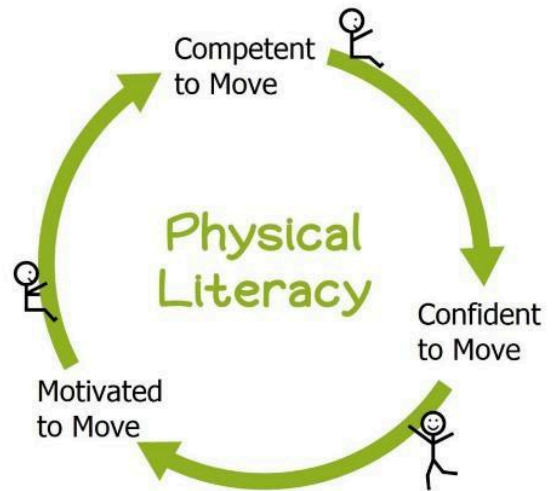


What is Physical Literacy? Physical literacy can be described as the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life. ~ Whitehead, M. 2014.

Benefits of Physical Literacy:

Individuals who are physically literate move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person.

- Physically literate individuals consistently develop the motivation and ability to understand, communicate, apply, and analyze different forms of movement.
- They are able to demonstrate a variety of movements confidently, competently, creatively and strategically across a wide range of health-related physical activities.
- These skills enable individuals to make healthy, active choices that are both beneficial to and respectful of their whole self, others, and their environment.



We are excited for the opportunity for our students to participate in PLAY Tomahawk this year. Students will enjoy inline skating, skiing, and curling throughout the year. We have partnered with different recreation and sports activities to build capacity in the area of physical literacy because evidence demonstrates that this form of literacy is linked to lifelong wellness.

Tomahawk School believes that student success is linked to student well-being and the development of social-emotional assets that build resilience. The development of citizenship and social responsibility contribute to wellness and are integral to the delivery of a broad and comprehensive program of studies. We are dedicated to the development of the whole child.

Swimming – Grade 1-6

Curling – Grade 7-9

Skiing – Grade 1-9

Specialized Fitness/ Inline Skating – Grade 1-9

SnowShoeing - Grade Kindergarten - 9

Cross Country Running



Every year, Tomahawk School students get to participate in Cross Country Running events if they wish. Students from across PSD may enter a number of races hosted at various PSD schools.

All students are invited to participate. Each race is \$5.00 per student and is charged to the child's Parent Portal account. Many races are held across Parkland School Division in September & October. Information will be sent home.

If your child is interested in participating, please contact the office. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent.

Archery

Our archery season is an exciting time at our school! Up to 60% of our school population have participated in the archery program over the years. Typically, the program starts in December with basic lessons being provided to students during their Physical Education class time. All students in **Grade 4-9** are invited to participate.

There is a fee to sign up for archery. All fees are required to be paid through the Parent Portal and are non-refundable, even if your child is unable to attend a tournament or has been removed from the team.

Soccer

Soccer is a big deal around our school! Soccer is open for students from Grade 6-9 starting in late April/Mid May.s

Thank you to our parent coaches who volunteer their time to help with our team. Watch for permission forms to be available in late spring!



Extended Reading Intervention Program

Thank you to Mrs. Pischke who runs our literacy intervention program. Tomahawk School believes in high expectations for all children and that it is our responsibility to help all students achieve their learning goals. Children come to school at different stages of development and do not all learn at the same rate or with the same methods of teaching, and this includes reading.



Our goal is not only to develop your child’s abilities and skills in reading, but to also foster a love of reading and the benefits associated with it.

Tomahawk’s Extended Reading Intervention Program is designed to help students who need additional support in their reading abilities and skills. One of the biggest aims of reading intervention is to restore the confidence of the students. In this program, our literacy team works in collaboration with your child’s teacher to provide supplementary reading instruction and materials based on the needs of each student. This is in addition to regular classroom reading instruction.

This intensive reading instruction on word decoding/encoding, reading strategies, sight word review, fluency, and guided and independent reading skills is an important part of your child’s reading success.

We consider your child’s academic achievement in our school a top priority. This intervention program is designed to improve reading ability & academic success. This remediation is important for three primary reasons:

- One is that those students who are behind in reading are likely not only to struggle along in later grades, but also to face low reading skills into adulthood.
- Restore reader confidence in your child
- Early identification is beneficial to the student as it prevents him or her continuing into later grades and then having trouble with more “curriculum focused text” to read
- Above all to foster a love and enjoyment of reading for your child!

If you are interested in your child potentially participating in this program, please see your child’s teacher or drop by the office. Additional home reading programs will be determined by classroom teachers.



Second Languages

Tomahawk School values learning a second language, particularly French, although it is not a required subject by Alberta Education. Due to budget constraints FSL is not being offered as a separate class. However, the school is continuing to look for ways to support language learning, including using technology.

Chess Club

Chess club is offered to students in Grade 4-9 during lunchtime. It is typically offered in the spring with a final tournament for all players!

Skipping Club

Students in Grades 2-5 will be invited to participate in our skipping club held at recess time. Mrs. Barrera, our EA, will lead students in a variety of skipping activities.

Black Light Theatre

Thank you to Mrs. Barrera who will be running our Black Light Theatre this year. At our school, we believe in creating as many fine art opportunities as possible. More information about times and what is all involved in the program will be sent home.

Student Leadership

Students in Grade 6-9 will be able to sign up to be a student leader and learn about the importance of being a responsible leader. Our students will have active leadership roles throughout the school during the year. Encourage your child to participate and help make a difference at our school!

Battle of the Books

In the spring, our school participates in the Battle of the Books! Student teams are given a total of 16 books to read collectively and then at the battle they are asked questions about each book they have read. They only have a month to read all these books! It's a lot of fun, so if this sounds like something you'd like to do, please speak with Mrs. Barrera in the spring.

Physical Education Programming

We offer a variety of physical education programming throughout the year for our students.

We believe that school is an opportunity for students to participate in activities that they might not always get a chance to do normally, so we try to offer as many as we can.

Tomahawk School offers the following programs in addition to the ones mentioned previously:



- **Cross Country** – Our cross country running club starts in early September.
- **Volleyball** – All students are taught the prerequisite skills to be successful in this area in their regular gym classes. The season starts early in September and our Grade 6-9 students have the opportunity to play.
- **Basketball** -All students are taught the prerequisite skills to be successful in this area in their regular gym classes. The season starts in December and our students have the opportunity to play with the school team each year. (Grades 6-9)
- **Curling** – All junior high students are given the opportunity to participate at least 3 times in curling & lessons at the Lakeside Curling rink in early January. This is part of our PLAY Tomahawk programming. (Grades 7-9)
- **Skiing** – Each year, all students from Grades 1-9 get to participate in a day of downhill skiing at a nearby hill as part of the PLAY Tomahawk program. We are fortunate we can have our entire school go for a day of skiing!
- **Track & Field** – In early spring, students start brushing up on their Track & Field skills. We normally have a Track & Field event for Grade K – 6 in late May. Junior High students travel to Stony Plain to participate in the PSD track meet and our Grade 4-6 students will also be participating in the DivisionTrack Meet.
- **Swimming** – Our Grade 1 – 6 students regularly participate in lessons each year at the Drayton Valley Swimming Pool in the fall and early summer.
- **Skating** – Our students from Grades 1-9 may be participating in inline skating lessons at the local Agra complex. This is part of our PLAY Tomahawk program and transportation will be provided.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our Tomahawk School Handbook & Program Guide.

We are making LEADERS at Tomahawk School. It is a privilege to have each one of our students be a part of our school community.

If you have any additional questions about our great school, please don't hesitate to ask.

We look forward to a great year!



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://tomahawk.psd.ca/>