

# The Division Dispatch

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Lethbridge's newest school will be called Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary School.

## Name selected for new school

Lethbridge School Division's newest school finally has a name.

The elementary school, located in the southeast corner of the city in the Fairmont area, will be formally called Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary School.

"We feel it's an honour to have a school named after Bob, as he was always a teacher," said Ann Louise Plaxton, wife of the late Dr. Plaxton, who added the school is actually located just a short walk away from her house. "It will be in our own backyard, which is great. I take many walks out there now and look at it and think about his name on that

school, and we may someday have great-grandchildren going to that school, which would be another feature for us. I'm looking forward to being part of the community and serving Bob's name for the community."

Officially, the school address will be 4510 Fairmont Gate South, as Dr. Robert Plaxton Elementary will honour the name of the Division's longest-serving superintendent.

Plaxton served as superintendent from 1973 to 1991.

Learn more about the name for the new school by visiting the website: [PLAXTON](#). ■

## Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore

First, I want to commend staff for their continued commitment to students and the ability to respond to sudden change.

We are fortunate that the government maintained a commitment to delivering an education program with students at home, but incredibly challenged to do so with scant time to prepare and build capacity. We can be proud of all our learners – students, staff and parents.

June is a time to build capacity for what we may encounter at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We are working on a re-entry plan that examines the three different scenarios that Education Minister LaGrange has suggested as possibilities: regular operations with schools open for all students, operations with restrictions (blended), and at-home learning. A "Lethbridge School Division Re-entry Brief" is attached to this District Dispatch that provides an overview of what we are planning for. The Brief will be put on the websites on Friday and a Parent Survey will be going out on Monday.

We are working on a more detailed Re-entry Plan that will be finalized and distributed to staff. The goal for distribution is mid-June. What is important to keep in mind is that the province has indicated that the provincial school re-entry plan will not be finalized until the beginning of August, so we must be nimble, and plan based on some assumptions.

The attached Re-entry Brief outlines the guiding principles that are being used to guide planning. I have indicated in previous communication that navigating these times can be compared to building a plane while it is in flight. We will be doing our best to think about possibilities, address the needs of students and staff, and provide the support that is necessary for building capacity. The plan will not be perfect, and many questions will remain. We will be guided by the mandates given by health and education.

## Lead teachers support continues

Our Division's lead teachers are here to support you with quality instructional strategies and professional learning and resources, regardless of what next year will look like.

Over the course of the 2019-2020 school year, Bev Smith has transitioned from focusing solely on literacy to additionally supporting the ESL portfolio. Moving forward, Smith will assume the responsibilities of ESL/Literacy lead teacher.

Her primary responsibilities will be in the area of ESL programming, with residencies to implement and refine effective instructional practices, professional learning and intakes of newcomer students as needed. She continues to be available for literacy support as well, and looks forward to continuing to build relationships with teachers from a variety of perspectives.

Jenn Giles continues in the role of Numeracy lead teacher. Over the course of this past year, Giles has supported teachers in building conceptual understanding in Mathematics, as well as focusing on using assessment tools like the Math Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI) and the Foundational Skills Interview.

In the next school year, Giles will be continuing to develop effective instructional practices through a guide for teachers and administrators, professional learning opportunities and residencies. ■



CHERYL GILMORE

For staff, June is an opportunity for building capacity. Both scenario two and three will require continued use of technology by teachers and support staff. It is predictable that the expectations for curriculum delivery in all scenarios will be robust, and

that assessment plans will need to be in place for all scenarios. Collaboration among staff will be more important than ever. Delivery will be complex, and when staff work on planning and delivery as a team, the workload is reduced, and quality is optimized. We are committed to providing support in areas identified as needs. Examples of support include providing professional learning to staff who would like to further develop skills with technology, assistance with planning by working with teams of teachers for curriculum sequencing and trying to secure a common digital portfolio platform at the elementary level. If staff recognize other areas where support is needed, I encourage you to let your administration know so that they can communicate those needs to the Education Centre.

June and the summer will also be an incredibly busy time of preparation for caretaking and maintenance. It is likely protocols will need to be developed for caretaking with students in the building, facilities prepared for meeting guidelines and supplies ordered. Maintenance has a rigorous schedule of projects to complete over a relatively short period of time.

I encourage all staff to look at the Re-entry Brief. As mentioned, a more detailed plan is forthcoming. We want to provide as much information as possible to reduce the anxiety that comes with the unknown. I close this note with a huge thank you for your hard work in advance. We are all in a "growth zone." Please know that we are open to feedback and will adjust what we do with the ongoing wisdom of what is brought to our attention by the school leaders and other staff. ■

## High school graduation ceremonies planned throughout Lethbridge School Division



Grad season has begun, with a number of creative events.

Schools throughout Lethbridge School Division are set to celebrate the graduating class of 2020 in a series of unique and creative ways.

Graduation events will kick off Friday, June 19, as Chinook High School will host a drive-in-style convocation.

June 20 will feature the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute ceremony, Winston Churchill High School's Virtual Graduation will be held June 25 and on Friday, June 26, Immanuel Christian Secondary School is hosting a drive-in graduation.

Victoria Park High School staff will visit the front yards of each graduate.

Click here for more: [GRAD](#).

On June 2-3, the Indigenous Education Team hosted a Drive Thru Grad: [INDIGENOUS](#). ■



On May 26, the Board of Trustees approved the 2020/2021 operating budget.

## Board approves operating budget for 2020/2021

On May 26, the Board of Trustees approved the operating budget for 2020/2021.

The budget shows revenues and allocations of \$132.55 million, which represents an approximately \$1.445 million

decrease from 2019/2020. As a result of the 1.08-per-cent decrease in overall funding, just over \$817,500 in reserves will be utilized next year.

The 2020/2021 funding is a result of the new Provincial Fund-

ing Framework, which had a significant impact to the Division, as the Division is now funded based on a Weighted Moving Average for student enrollment.

For more information, click here: [BUDGET](#). ■