

SEPTEMBER
2025

School Newsletter

JOHN DAVIDSON

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!



My team and I excitedly welcome all of our families to the brand new year of learning, experiences and endless opportunities. With us now fully settled into our new to us campus we are fully ready to start the school year in high gear.

September Events

Sept. 2: First day of school

Sept. 3: First day of
Kindergarten

Sept. 8: Welcome back BBQ +
school council

Sept. 9: First Day of Preschool

Sept. 17: Anabaptist 500 year
celebration

Sept. 18: Field Trip

Sept. 19: No School

Sept. 26: Picture Day

Sept. 29-30: No School

Several important staffing changes of note. Joining our team as kindergarten teacher is Ms. Lisa Black. Supporting our Grade 6-12 students is Ms. Kaylee Oorthuis. Mrs. Deanna Smith is our third new hire and will be teaching this years Grade 4/5 class. All three ladies have tremendous backgrounds and skill sets. As principal I feel very blessed to have them join our staff. Parents, your children will benefit tremendously from these new hires. Care and passion for young people, and building a successful learning environment is at their core as educators.

Please join us Monday September 8 for our welcome back supper,



Principals Message

Please join us Monday, September 8 for our welcome back supper, and our teacher orientation sessions. The event will kickoff at 4:30 with a welcome in our gymnasium. All of our teaching staff will be on hand highlighting what there is to look forward to this school year. Our wood shop, foods lab, fashions centre, are just a few of the places you can look forward to checking out that evening. Don't be late as we will have some great prizes to give away for those who can join us as they are able to. Our first Parent Council meeting of the year will take place later that evening at 7 p.m.

The FISH! Philosophy is a wonderful program once again this year! This program allows our school to be a great place to learn, be with friends, and develop as young people. FISH! focuses on being there, making other peoples day, play, choosing your attitude. Please send me a whatsapp message, call, or stop by the school if you would like to discuss your child's programming or if you have any questions for me.

Wishing you all a blessed September.

Mr. Fred Jack

Principal





Coming up at JDS

Welcome Back Event!

Join Us for a Fun Evening!

Come in between 4:15 PM and 4:30 PM and get entered into our exciting draw! Prizes include four \$50 gift cards to local favorites — Coaldale Home Hardware, Busters Coaldale, and two Coaldale Food Market gift cards — plus school hoodies and other great goodies!

How to Enter:

Simply arrive between 4:15 and 4:30 PM and stay for the opening ceremony in the gym. Tickets will be available at the door, and you must be present for the ceremony to be entered in the draw.


Event Schedule:

- 4:15 – 4:30 PM: Arrival & Opening Ceremony (Gym)
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM: Session 1 (Classrooms open for parent sessions)
- 5:30 – 5:50 PM: Session 2 (Classrooms)
- 6:00 PM: Supper served in the gym
- 6:30 PM: Open House begins
- 7:15 PM: Parent Council Meeting (Childcare available)

Additional Info:

Mr. Bradley will be in the shop area during the event to meet and greet parents — don't miss the chance to say hello!

We look forward to seeing you for an evening full of fun, food, and community connection as we kick off the new school year!





Reminders for JDS

Parent Whatsapp group

Want to stay in the loop with important school updates and reminders? Join our Parent WhatsApp Group, where we share key announcements, event reminders, and other need-to-know information throughout the school year.

If you'd like to be added to the group, simply contact the school office and request access. It's a quick and easy way to stay informed and connected with what's happening at the school.

We encourage all parents and guardians to join — let's stay connected!

Personal Property

Students who ride bikes or scooters to school are asked to secure them with a proper lock upon arrival. While we do our best to maintain a safe environment, the school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping keep personal belongings safe!


Tech

We'd like to remind families that personal technology is not permitted at school. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods or MP3 players
- Electronic toys or games

There are no exceptions to this rule.

All students are expected to keep these items at home to avoid distractions and ensure a focused learning environment.





Fresh Faces, Bright Futures

Mrs. Smith

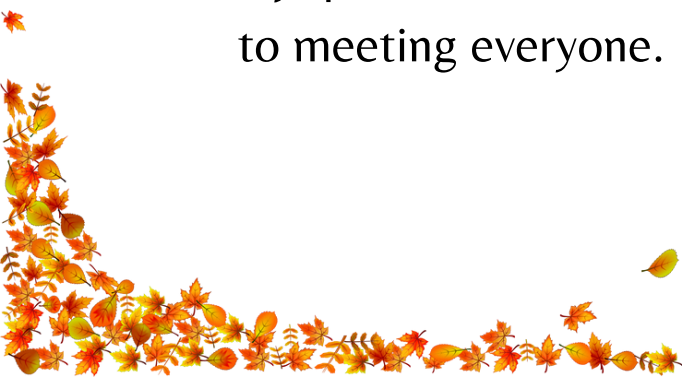
Hi, I am Deanna Smith and I am teaching grade 4-5. I have been teaching for 18 years, and the last 3 years have been in elementary school. I am really enjoying teaching elementary! I am excited to be a part of the John Davidson School community. I live in Lethbridge with my husband who is also a teacher, our 12 year old son and our 6 year old German Shepard/Black Lab. I love to do crafty and artsy hobbies and I am getting into gardening. My favorite hobby is reading and I will read almost any kind of book. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions, I look forward to meeting everyone.

Ms. Black

Hello! My name is Ms. Black and I am the new kindergarten teacher this year at John Davidson School. I am very happy to be teaching at a wonderful school with families of strong faith and values. I believe in creating a warm and safe learning environment and helping students be the best they can be!

Besides teaching, I also enjoy playing the piano, cooking, baking, spending time with my family, exercising, and walking in nature with my dog, Joey.

I am looking forward to an exciting year here at John Davidson School and getting to know you all!





Fresh Faces, Bright Futures

Ms. Oorthuis

Hello!

My name is Kaylee Oorthuis, and I'm excited to be joining John Davidson School this September as one of the new teachers! I'll be teaching Grade 6 Science, P.E., and Social Studies, as well as Foods and Art options for our Grade 7-12 students. I recently graduated from the university of Lethbridge and spent a few months teaching Grade 6 in Brooks. In my free time, I enjoy crafting, baking, playing board games, and gardening.

I am really looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know everyone throughout the school year!

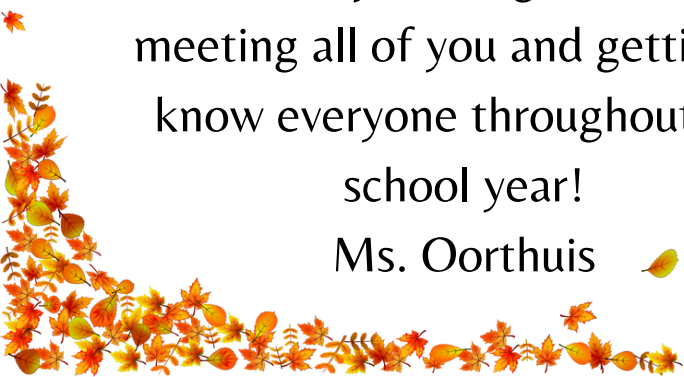
Ms. Oorthuis



Mrs. Peters and Elias

We're excited to share that two familiar faces are stepping into new roles as Educational Assistants this year! While they aren't new to our school community, we're thrilled to officially have them supporting our students in the building. Please join us in welcoming Justina Elias and Tina Peters as they bring their experience, dedication, and positive energy to their new positions. We're lucky to have such passionate team members committed to helping our students thrive!

Mrs. Peters will also be running the breakfast program this year!





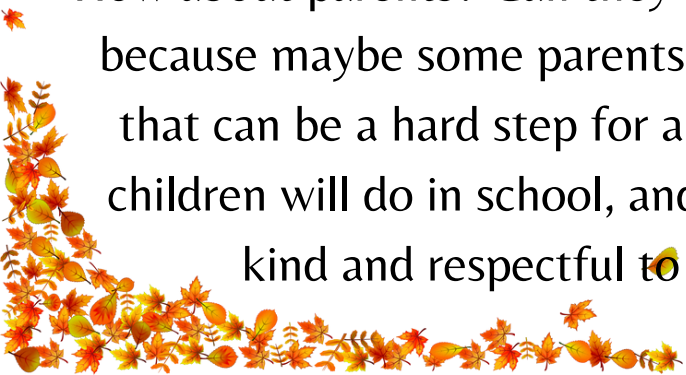
Words Of Wisdom

Well, the summer holidays for 2025 are over and it is back to school time!

I hope that everyone had a good summer, and maybe had some good chances to take some holiday time or spend some extra special time with family and friends. Hopefully everyone had a chance to do some things that you enjoy doing in the summer - fishing, camping, travelling and seeing new places, enjoying playing outside, eating ice cream, and whatever else you enjoy doing.

Now, it is back to school time. I think that maybe going back to school can make a person, and it doesn't matter if it is a student or a parent, feel either excitement or maybe anxiety, being nervous. Or maybe you feel both things - excitement and nervousness. For students, it can be exciting to get back into school and see their friends again, to learn new things, and to do things that are lots of fun - like gym class! But maybe going back to school can make someone nervous because they are going into a new grade and maybe a new classroom, and what will my new teacher be like, or how hard will this grade be? Maybe someone is starting a new school and wondering about making new friends.

How about parents? Can they be nervous when school starts? I think so because maybe some parents have their oldest child start school, and that can be a hard step for a parent. Or wondering about how their children will do in school, and will they have friends and will they be kind and respectful to other students and to teachers?





Words Of Wisdom

It is okay to be excited and nervous, but I think there are at least two things that can help anyone, students or parents, to not be too nervous. The first thing is if we know we are going to a good school, and John Davidson is a good school, and the second thing is that we know that God is with us no matter where we are, and that includes school. This is good for both students and parents to remember, and here are a couple of Bible verses to remind us of how we can trust God.

Philippians 4:6,7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Proverbs 3:5,6 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

It is my prayer that everyone will have a really good year! God bless!

Dan Doerksen





School Registration and Preparation Information

The new school year starts September 2! If you need to register a child, please email either Fred or Anny at fred.jack@pallisersd.ab.ca or anny.loewen@pallisersd.ab.ca

Families are welcome to stop by any time if they would like to tour the school or ask questions in person about student registrations.

If anyone has lost or needs a school supply list, please feel free to contact us via WhatsApp or email. We're happy to help!



Böta Enjlish lieren

Klaus fe Elren

English classes at the Coaldale Public Library

Tuesday mornings, October 7 - December 16, 2025
from 10:00 - 11:00 am or

Wednesday evenings, October 8 - December 10, 2025
from 6:30 - 8:30 pm



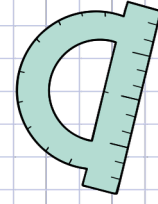
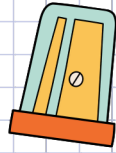
**County of
Lethbridge
Community
Learning
Council**

Call / text



WhatsApp

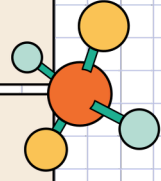
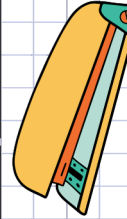
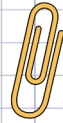
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SEPTEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Labour Day	2 First Day of School	3 First Day of Kindergarten	4	5	6
7	8 Welcome Back Event 4:30 pm School Council Meeting	9 First Day of Preschool	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Anabaptist 500 Year Celebration in JDS Gym	18 Field Trip	19 No School	20 World Clean up Day
21	22	23	24	25 Picture Day	26	27 World Cleanup Day
28	29 No School	30 No School				



Come Celebrate the History of Mennonite Faith



September 15th, 2025 6-9 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm



Coffee and cookies will be available for the first 350 guests

Guest Speaker Kennert Giesbrecht to present on the 5 centuries of the Anabaptist journey



Featuring the Friesen Family Band

All are welcome to this FREE event but presentations will be mostly in Low German

Kate Andrews Education Centre

2112 21 Street, Coaldale



Primary Care
Alberta



horizon⁺
school division



Alberta Health
Services

Healthier Together

A little about our guest speaker, Kennert. He was born and raised in Paraguay, where he lived for over 30 years. He and his wife, Gredel Bergen, raised three children there. He worked as a teacher in the Menno Colony and later as principal for Grades 7-12.



In 2002, he and his family moved to Canada. Soon after, he became Managing Editor of the *Mennonitische Post*, a job he held for almost 22 years. During that time, he worked on the *Mennonitische Post* newspaper, the children's paper *Das Blatt*, and helped with bookstores.

His work took him to more than 150 Mennonite colonies and communities in Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, Belize, the United States, and Canada. He also published books for the Low German people, including *Strangers & Pilgrims, Volume II* and *Auf den Spuren der Mennoniten*.

At the end of 2023, he stepped down from MCC and began working with other groups, including the Delbert F. Plett Mennonite Historical Research Foundation, to share Mennonite history and encourage reading in the colonies. This year, he has already been to Campeche, Belize, and Peru, and will soon visit northern Mexico, Bolivia, and Paraguay to share about MCC's aid and relief work.

He and his wife now live in Mitchell, Manitoba.