**Milo School Council Meeting November 4, 2024**

**Board Meeting Highlights from October 8, 2024:**

**Coaldale Prairie Winds School Update:**

Palliser School Division celebrates the opening of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary (CPWS). The event brought together dignitaries from the Government of Alberta, the Town of Coaldale, and Lethbridge County, alongside CPWS staff, students, and Palliser Division members, to commemorate this special milestone.

Tyler McNeil, a CPWS student, took on the role of MC, while the high school band set the tone for the day with an impressive performance of Fanfare for the Third Planet. Seeing the halls bustling with students was a proud moment for all those who worked tirelessly to bring this school to life.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll highlighted the journey ahead in his speech, emphasizing the importance of community and culture-building: “I challenge you to take the step forward as staff and students and develop the culture that makes this a great school. Not an amazing building, but a great school that everybody wants to come to.”

Minister Nathan Neudorf presented the official plaque to Palliser Board Chair Lorelei Bexte, marking the school’s formal opening. To further celebrate the occasion, CPWS instructor Chef Clemis and her students prepared a catered lunch, showcasing the school’s commitment to student involvement and practical learning.

The Palliser School Division extended its gratitude to Elder Blanche Bruised Head and Jehrran First Charger for their meaningful contributions to the ceremony, making it a true day of celebration.

**Wellness Update:**

Palliser School Division is pleased that Alberta Education has extended the mental wellness grant for an additional six months. This extension allows the Division to continue building on the foundational support provided to students. The grant has enabled Palliser to partner with community organizations, offering universal and specialized support to students and their families and providing valuable training for our staff.

A key element of this initiative is hiring Joanne Wolochaty as Division Wellness Navigator. Joanne provides wellness programming and resources to all Palliser students, focusing on social and emotional learning and skill-building. She also strongly advocates incorporating more movement throughout the school day. She has developed ‘Daily Physical Activity Kits’ for all our schools to support this. These kits include tools and instructions for quick, evidence-based movement breaks, which help students with emotional regulation and improve focus.

Palliser Wellness teams will develop Wellness Action Plans for each school in the coming weeks. These teams will meet later this month to collaborate on strategies for supporting student wellness. Parents, guardians, and school community members are encouraged to ask about these plans and provide feedback.

For more information about Palliser’s wellness supports, including Family School Liaison Counsellors, Making Connections workers, or Health Champions, please contact our central office (Inquiries@pallisersd.ab.ca).

Please contact Lorelei Bexte if you have any questions or concerns. Lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca (403) 485-0823