



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Congratulations!

Your child has been accepted into Grade 3 Reading University offered at the Grande Prairie Regional College from July 6 to July 24, 2015! This is a very exciting program for many reasons, the most important being the potential impact on your child's confidence and reading skills.

The Reading University Program is 100% community funded, and this year there are close to 100 students eligible to attend. We are very grateful to all the generous donors from our the Grande Prairie area for supporting Reading University and to the Grande Prairie Regional College for hosting our program. This program wouldn't be possible without the partnership of the three local school jurisdictions: Peace Wapiti School Division #76, Grande Prairie Catholic School District, and the Grande Prairie Public School District. Reading University is a unique coalition of educators in what has been described as "the most successful tri-district initiative ever".

We are delighted that your child will be joining us for this exciting opportunity. Our first day will be Monday July 6, 2015. We will wrap things up on Friday July 24, 2015 with a graduation ceremony and family BBQ at Grande Prairie Regional College.

PARENTS: PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A VALID LIBRARY CARD FOR THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRIOR TO JULY 6, 2015.

All information needed to start your child off in Reading University 2015 is included herein. Please keep these documents handy so that you have access to the phone numbers you will need during the program.

IMPORTANT

**In case of emergency call or text
HELEN NEUFELD, PRINCIPAL at 780-830-8312 (Cell).**

For students who require transportation, parents are asked to please call First Student (780-532-3545) ASAP to make bussing arrangements. You will also need to contact them if your child will not be using the bus on any particular day (ie. illness or is getting picked up at the College).



Please note that daily attendance is a requirement for participation in the program. All students are expected to attend all days. If your child is sick or has an appointment and will be away for all or part of a day, please let us know. You will need to contact BOTH Students First Bussing (if applicable) at (780) 532-3545

AND text HELEN NEUFELD, PRINCIPAL at 780-830-8312(C). If your child is not at Reading University by 9:15am, we will be calling home to check on your child if we have not heard from you. Please be sure to call if your child will be away!

The Reading University website www.readingu.org contains links that your child will be using while on campus and is welcome to use at home if you have access to the internet.

Students will be moving around the college throughout the day using many class rooms, computer labs and other facilities. HOME BASE for Reading University will be in the GPRC Cafeteria.

If you are picking up your child at the college, we will require picture ID before we can send him or her home with you should someone else be picking up your child, please let us know with a note, text or a phone call. We cannot release your child without your permission.

DAILY SCHEDULE

The Reading University daily schedule may change from time to time; however, here is the basic daily overview;

8:45ish - Buses arrive

9:00-12:00pm - Core learning activities. Small group instruction, centers, etc.

10:30ish - Morning Snack will be provided for all students

12:30-1:00 pm - LUNCH will be provided for all students

1:00-3:00pm Small group instruction,

FIELD TRIPS

There will be three field trips for students in their three week RU experience.

1. Art Gallery, Library & Creative Arts Centre
2. Swimming at Eastlink Centre
3. Coles Book Store



WHAT WE DO AT READING UNIVERSITY (2015)

At Grade 3 Reading University small group instruction is the key. We have the good fortune of being able to boast an adult to student ratio of 1:5. One teacher and one educational assistant work with 10 students at a variety of learning tasks specifically designed and created to increase reading confidence, comprehension and fluency.

Students will be highly engaged in a variety of learning experiences. They will practice:

1. collecting and retrieving information
2. understanding and sharing information
 - a. by making judgements about its quality, relevance , usefulness or efficiency
 - b. by finding and understanding the relationships between ideas
 - c. and by using and transferring knowledge
3. how to make sense of and bring order and understanding to information they have heard, seen or read.

At 'WORD PLAY' students practice their facility with language in a theme centred environment where they will learn to take risks as readers in a comfortable, fun atmosphere.

At the RU LIBRARY students' experience and share new as well as familiar stories, legends and literary characters in a relaxed setting.

'WRITE ON' is an engaging center where students collaboratively write and share their thoughts and ideas through exploration of new experiences

'TEXT TATTLERS' (Guided Reading) allows and encourages students to talk about the stories they read under the guidance and support of their instructors.

'MUSICALLY WITH IT' is where students experience reading with all its rhythm, cadence and movement. A very active station, students will enjoy being totally engaged in song, rhythm making and movement.

'COUNT ON IT' is where students enhance their oral language and problem solving skills by collaborating and sharing ideas with one another.

The 'BUILD IT' station is where students practice giving, taking and writing directions in a very hands-on activity center.

At 'STAR POWER' students explore narrative reading and storytelling through the use of expressive language.

At 'READING RESPONSE' students' experience, non-fiction that enhances comprehension skills and helps them see the value of reading for meaning in everyday life.

At GET ACTIVE students explore a variety of cooperative activities and burn off excess energy with their friends.