White City & Emerald Park Community Meusletter

MAY EDITION, 2025



How to celebrate Mother's Day every day to boost moms' and kids' well-being

Mother's Day is coming up soon, and many will celebrating moms, be grandmothers and other maternal figures in their lives.

Whether biological or adoptive, moms have an important hand in shaping our identities and guiding our moral compass throughout our childhoods.

Although Mother's Day is an occasion to celebrate mothers, we don't often hear about the considerable benefits this kind of appreciation can bring moms — benefits that can trickle down to the entire family.

Based on my research and those of other psychologists, here are some tips for celebrating moms on Mother's Day, and every day, to enhance well-being for both moms and their loved ones.

Mothers who feel valued and loved are happier and less stressed. (Shutterstock)

Boost mom's happiness and lower mom's stress

Generally, mothers who feel valued and loved are happier and less stressed. However, many can face

challenges that increase stress and make them feel devalued. Many still contend with a lack of gender parity in the workplace and social pressure to be the perfect mother. In addition, feeling a lack of emotional connection with family members can translate to a lot of day-to-day stress for moms.

So what can families do to boost moms' happiness? Psychology research suggests that Hallmark cards have it right — building a mother's confidence by telling them that they're an

amazing mom or that they always know how to make the family feel better can be tremendously effective in enhancing moms' happiness.

If you're an adult living far away from your parents, don't forget to call your mom. Compared to fathers, mothers generally report feeling more emotionally connected to their kids and more strongly identifying as a parent. A phone call or a chat over tea with their kids, no matter the age, can really boost a mom's happiness.

- Continued on page 2



How to celebrate Mother's Day every day to boost moms' and kids' well-being

Continued from page 1

Support for mothers isn't limited to the family. Moms can also benefit from celebrating Mother's Day with other sources of support, like friends. Instead of limiting Mother's Day celebrations to a family affair, consider organizing a surprise dinner with mom's close friends.

Kids benefit when mom feels happy

The benefits of celebrating moms also trickle down to their kids. Research shows that parents who feel more positive can better support their children's mental health and social relationships within the family and beyond. For example, my research has found that moms who are less stressed are seen by their adolescent kids as being better at understanding the kids' perspective.

Stress can also impact how attentive moms are to their family, which impacts kids' development. In a recent study, my colleagues and I found that less stressed and more attentive moms can foster their children's good coping skills by modelling how to effectively manage emotions.

When mothers feel positive, they have better interactions with their kids and their kids feel better. That means it's important to send appreciation mom's way every day, not just on Mother's Day.

A day to celebrate grandmothers, too

Don't forget grandma this Mother's Day! Grandmothershaveabigger impact in shaping who you are than you might think. For example, research has shown that daughters' and grandmothers' attachment styles overlap by up to 75 per cent. This means that how you connect with your partner, best friend and kids may even be inherited from your grandma.

Despite their important role, grandparents often don't get the appreciation they deserve. Psychologists have found that grandparents often more emotionally feel connected to their grandkids than the other way around. This suggests that for many grandmothers, that phone call or weekend visit can mean a lot more to them than grandkids realize.

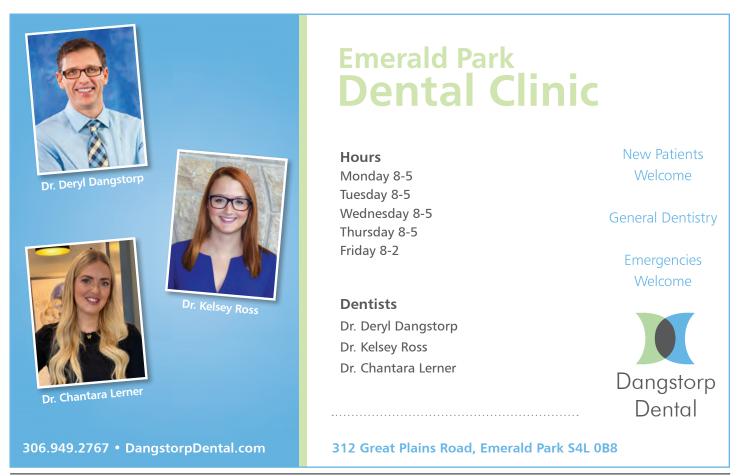
By celebrating Mother's Day with grandma, she may feel a greater sense of meaning in her family relationships which can improve her general happiness. Grandchildren could even improve their social skills when they have a positive and close relationship with their grandmothers.

Mothers are the main source of comfort and care for many families around the world, yet it's easy to take them for granted most days across the year. While brunch and flowers on Mother's Day is surely appreciated, let's celebrate moms every day. Helping moms feel happy will help the family feel happy, too.

Hali Kil

Assistant Professor, Psychology, Simon Fraser University

THE CONVERSATION



ERES Community Council News

Next ERESCC mtg: May 13 in the **ERES Library**

All parents are encouraged to attend as your input & ideas are welcomed and valued!

Important Dates:

- May 13 ERESCC Mtg at ERES Library
- May 14 Grade 7 & 8 Band Trip to the Moose Jaw Band Festival
- May 16 ERESCC Popcorn Day
- May 19 No School
- May 21 Central Zone Grade 7 & 8 Track Meet
- June 6 Year-End Picnic
- June 10 Grade 4-6 ERES Track Meet



Kindergarten Registration is Open!

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Emerald Ridge Elementary is accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year. Children turning five by December 31, 2025, are eligible for Kindergarten in Fall 2025. To register, visit the ERES website (<u>www.emeraldridge.pvsd.ca</u>) and complete the Online Registration Form, including proof of age.

Alternatively, request a form at emeraldridgeschool@pvsd.ca. members! If you're interested in helping out If you know new families moving to the area, encourage them to contact the school for a registration form or use the online form. Early registrations help with planning for the upcoming year.

New Members!

The ERES SCC always welcomes new your school, feel free to pop into one of our meetings or send us an email

ERESCommunityCouncil@gmail.com





Sweet and savoury veggie-packed stir-fry in under 30 minutes

Loaded with fresh veggies and bursting with flavour, this stir-fry will become a go-to meal when you need something quick and nutritious.

This dish pairs well with a side of rice or on top of lo mein noodles to make it a complete entrée.

Prep time: 10 min Cook time: 15 min Makes: 6 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil
- 1 package (227 g) sliced crimini mushrooms
- 1 large red bell pepper, sliced
- 1 small zucchini, quartered
- 1 small red onion, sliced
- 2 cups (500 ml) broccoli florets
- 1 cup (250 ml) sugar snap peas



 cup (250 ml) carrots, sliced
cup (250 ml) baby corn
cup (125 ml) chicken (or vegetable) broth
cup (60 ml) reducedsodium soy sauce
cloves garlic, minced
tbsp (60 ml) brown sugar
tbsp (15 ml) cornstarch
tsp (5 ml) minced ginger
tsp (5 ml) sesame oil
Optional garnish:
Chopped green onions,
sesame seeds

Directions:

- Heat oil in a large nonstick wok or skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, bell pepper, zucchini, onion, broccoli, peas, carrot and baby corn. Sauté 6-8 minutes until vegetables are almost tender.
- 2. In a medium bowl, whisk together chicken broth, soy sauce, garlic, brown sugar, cornstarch, ginger and sesame oil.
- 3. Pour over sauteed vegetables and cook until sauce has thickened; about 2-3 minutes. Garnish with green onions and sesame seeds, if desired.

Food safety tips:

- To ensure the vegetables cook at the same rate, cut them into similar sized pieces.
- Canned baby corn can be found in the international aisles of most grocery stores.

Find more recipes at mushrooms.ca.

www.newscanada.com



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OPENHOLD OPENHOUSES Official Community Plan & Zoning Bylaw Review

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RM's big-picture plan, guiding decisions on growth and development with key goals and policies.

Monday, May 5th 4pm to 7pm Village of Edenwold Community Hall

Wednesday, May 7 4pm to 7pm Pilot Butte Community Centre

Thursday, May 8 2pm to 7pm RM of Edenwold Office



By taking this quick ten minute survey, you'll help shape the scope of the review and set priorities for the future.

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WHITE CITY ~ EMERALD PARK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Are our children losing the ability to imagine? Parents often express their concerns to me about the amount of time their children spend online talking with friends or playing computer games. When they are done with these, they are watching television. If access to the above forms of entertainment are withdrawn, children complain of being "bored".

Then, with all of the extracurricular activities chil-

Fostering Natural Imagination in Children

dren are involved in these days, there is little time for unstructured play. This is unfortunate, for, as Albert Einstein said, "imagination is more important than knowledge". Thinking up imaginary games to play, scripting the parts, setting the stage, and then allowing a "story" to spontaneously emerge involves high-level thinking. It is creative in the truest sense, for the "play" is being created in every moment.

This kind of play also involves communication and cooperation. The parties have to reach agreements, and then, undoubtedly, may have to negotiate from time to time as things unfold. And, of course, there is a lot of improvising and pretending.

These are the very skills

- By Gwen Randall-Young

that innovators and leaders in all walks of life possess. They formulate an idea and then develop a vision. That vision is, at first, pretending: imagining what it would look like if the idea or concept were implemented. They must communicate their vision to others when it is just an idea.

This is very different from what children spend so much time doing: sitting alone in front of a screen, either being passively entertained, or clicking the controls to make something happen in a game created by someone else, requiring a relatively narrow skill set.

If imaginary play is a "dying art," we would be wise to reintroduce it to our children. Parents may have to play with them, at first, to teach them how to do it. Unfortunately, many of the parents of young children were also raised on computers and television, so may be at a loss in this area.

I do believe imagination is inherent in all. Perhaps we need to unplug the electronics, and leave children more time with "nothing to do", particularly when they are young, and before they become addicted. A mind is a precious and powerful thing. Let's give our children the opportunity to develop theirs naturally.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, audio recordings or to read other articles visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for inspiration.





Off the Beaten Track



Serving on a municipal council is very much a public service. No one ever ran to be a councillor, reeve or mayor expecting to get rich. For someone retired, it's a way to contribute to your community and receive a modest salary in return. For someone younger with perhaps a young family to support, an income outside of municipal service is essential.

The Town of White City has a Remuneration Policy which spells out how a councillor's services are to be compensated and legitimate expenses are to be reimbursed. Which brings me to White City councillor Shahnaz Sultana, acclaimed as such in last November's municipal election.

In twelve days between the election (acclamation) and the first council meeting on November 25th, councillor Sultana had billed \$840. Admittedly, part of the bill was for "training and gadget set up", and a "meeting with town manager", but asking for reimbursement of \$240 for attending a City hall volunteer appreciation gathering seems odd.

She has claimed \$980 for chairing a committee of the whole meeting and three council meetings, which would be appropriate according to the authorized remuneration schedule, except that she chaired none of these four meetings. (Mayor Mitch Simpson was in the chair for all four.) By the end of December, 2024, she had claimed \$4,992.50 for her service and expenses as Town councillor.

By the end of January, the councillor had claimed a further \$6,855.08 for services rendered including expenses. Somewhat perplexing was a remuneration claim of \$480 for meetings with the Town of Pilot Butte and Regina Ward 5 councillors. I am assuming that for a rookie councillor, sticking closer to home and waiting for Council direction to attend meetings further afield would be wise.

And come on now, it ought to be a privilege just to be asked to judge at a science fair. It's not something for which a municipal councillor should claim compensation of \$400, (although apparently it qualifies for reimbursement under the Reimbursement Policy). Nor should attendance at a "Christmas get together" generate a claim of \$480, or \$240 to take part in the "Twinkle Tour." I suppose it's possible to transact community business while "Rink Skating" but somehow I doubt it.

Which leads to the committee of the whole meeting of March 17th by which time councilor Boschman was concerned enough to ask for a discussion of "Councillor Duties and Responsibilities". That meeting and the ensuing discussion is now lava under the bridge but its effects linger on. Together with the as yet unpaid February claim of \$7,302, councillor Sultana has claimed a total of \$19,150 salary and expenses for her first three - By John Panter

and a half months in office. By way of rough comparison, the average monthly councillor's reimbursement in 2023 for "salary" and expenses was \$1,465.

A staff review of the Town's Remuneration Policy and all councillors' claims has identified what it considers excessive compensation claims from Ms. Sultana in the amount of \$10,315 and recommends that any unappropriate payments be deducted from future legitimate claims.

I'm going to cut councillor Sultana some slack and put her questionable reimbursement claims down to rookie mistakes, maybe a lack of understanding of the Remuneration Policy, or flaws in the Remuneration Policy itself. Going forward, perhaps Administration needs to scrutinize compensation claims more carefully. In any event, Administration assures us that "remuneration requests now align with the Council Remuneration Policy."

Call me if you disagree. 569-2345 or emeraldcity158@gmail.com





Carmen Leibel is a Master Gardener, holds a Prairie Horticulture Certificate from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Certificate of Visual Design from the University of Calgary. With nearly 500 species of perennials and trees in her personal collection, she brings a wealth of practical plant knowledge and prairie-specific expertise. A lifelong resident of the RM of Edenwold and an experienced municipal leader, Carmen blends her love of horticulture with a deep commitment to community growth, sustainability, and rural-urban connections.







MAY 2025

WHITE CITY ~ EMERALD PARK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



GRIFFIN GRIT GROWTH AND RESILIENCE WITH INTEGRITY TOGETHE

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Provincials Bound Congratulations to the cast & crew of "How to Get Away With a Murder Mystery" for winning the Sask Drama Regional Festival in Lemberg. We know that will do amazing at Provincials in Moose Jaw in May. A special shout out to student directors Sarah Stefner and Kayla Crook!

Clothing, Textiles and Fashion 20/30, Bringing Monsters to Life Students collaborated with École WCS Kindergarten to create replicas of the students' "monsters". The class surprised the K's with stuffie versions of the pictures they drew of monsters. The classes had a great time collaborating with the Kindergartens.



UPCOMING DATES:

- April 29- Brady Levold Presentation
- May 9-10 Drama Provincials
- May 14 RDIEC- Tray a Career Day -Gr.9



ELA 9 Storytellers After spending weeks creating and editing digital storybooks for children, a class of grade 9s from Greenall travelled over to the elementary school to read their stories live to their target audience! Teachers from grades 1-3 welcomed the high schoolers to read aloud the stories they wrote and the images they created using AI technology. Everyone had a blast! The little ones could identify the stories' themes, laughed at the jokes, and had many great questions about the stories. Thank you so much to all the teachers who helped bring these kiddos together to promote literacy skills in both buildings.

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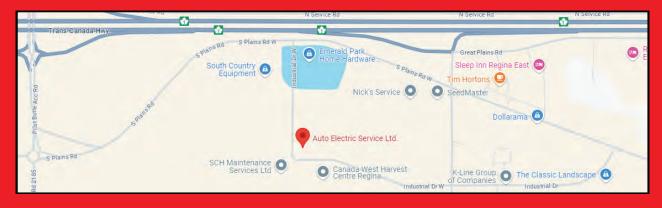




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WHITE CITY ~ EMERALD PARK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

The next issue of the Community Newsletter will be distributed the first week of June.

All copy <u>MUST</u> be submitted on or before <u>May 20th</u>.

Everyone is welcome to put meeting dates, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. on the calender, free of charge.

Please email: shannon@westernlitho.ca

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