



**SUN WEST**  
SCHOOL DIVISION

*Success for all*

Media Release  
September 11, 2017  
For Immediate Release

## ***Sun West Schools to Participate in 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Character Day***

Sun West Schools are geared up to bring personalized learning to our classrooms in new and exciting ways. To kick it all off, we're joining forces with like-minded people from around the world as we participate in the fourth Annual International Character Day. Collectively, our Division will be one group of 130,000 world wide who are dedicating **Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** to the exploration and celebration of character. Empathy, curiosity, grit, humility, bravery, and social responsibility are just a few of the character traits that we seek to cultivate in our young learners; for the betterment of our communities and our planet and also to ensure that they are well equipped to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This global initiative is the brainchild of an organization called *Let It Ripple* and has been growing exponentially since its inception in 2014. Because it aligned so perfectly with our beliefs around character development as an essential component of personalized learning, we jumped on board. Watch the video here: [www.letitripple.org/characterday](http://www.letitripple.org/characterday)

As for what it looks like in Sun West, each public school and colony school will tailor their Character Day experience based on what is most relevant and engaging for their students. Our 41 schools will be spending part or all of September 13<sup>th</sup> focused on building character strengths. This is only the start of our collective focus on developing character, culture, and skills and knowledge.


**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> is Character Day.** We'd love for you to join us by participating in events and letting our province know why Character building is so important to us all in all aspects of life. If you can't join us in person, please follow our events on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SWSDcharacter/>

We invite media to join our students, parents and community at any or all of the following schools on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please see attached.

**For more information about Character Day or these events please contact:**

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School Name/Group Hosting and event	Name of Event(s)/description	Time(s)
Walter Aseltine School - Rosetown	Creating a Character Garden in front of the school— each student will paint a rock and label it with one character trait that they hold near and dear to their heart.	After an all school assembly in the afternoon At 2:00
North West Central School - Plenty	<p>Teachers will introduce Character in their classroom Period 1 (sharing videos and using discussion cards from <a href="http://letitripple.org">letitripple.org</a>).</p> <p>Grades 6-12 teachers will take time to introduce Joe Beckman (Global Q&amp;A Speaker).</p> <p>Period 2 6-12 students will watch and ask questions to Joe Beckman.</p> <p>K-5 students will learn about Kid President and watch a couple of his videos. Teachers and students will have discussion around Kid President and his character traits.</p> <p>Period 4 Teachers 6-12 will introduce Angela Lee Duckworth (share TED talk) and then take part in her Global Q&amp;A. This will continue into period 5. Students will end this period with discussion around GRIT! In Motion!</p> <p>Period 6 all teachers, students, and staff will go to an assembly in the gym. In the gym teachers will present a Character Day parody and our school's plan to implement character throughout our school year (each month we will have a team of students K-12 and teacher present a character trait and lead character activities in the gym connected to that trait). Teachers/student teams will then have some time to meet, play an icebreaker, and get ready for home time!</p>	Most of the day!
Westcliffe - Merengo	Westcliffe Character Day 2017 We are having a school wide assembly, breaking into house teams, and having the teams go through four different character stations.	All Afternoon

<p>Outlook High School - Outlook</p>	<p>The staff and students will be helping to create an "I Am" bulletin board outside of the office, that will be full of the characteristics that make us who we are! Kind of like what is pictured here:</p>  <p><b>Day Of</b> Students will be broken up into the following groups (Grade 6 - 8, Grade 9 &amp; 10, Grade 11 &amp; 12). During period 5, these groups will take turns coming down to the gym to take part in the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Watch the Character Day 2017 Trailer (to help introduce character day)</li> <li>2. Watch "The Science of Character" with the students. At the end of the video, a polaroid camera sends out a snapshot with the words "I want to be"... we are going to go with this idea, and each student will go back to their classrooms with a piece of paper that says "I want to be known for..." and they will complete the sentence. (They can use the periodic table of characteristics to help guide them). We will take a picture of them holding their paper, and then will be printing off each student picture and creating a character trait wall in the school.</li> </ol>	<p>Last period of the day on the 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p>Dinsmore Composite</p>	<p>We are going to have individual classroom discussions surrounding what a character strength is and how come they are important. Students are going to bring an item or something that displays a character trait for our school family picture day. They will pose with their family in this school along with the item they have chosen to show a character trait or "What they are good at," for the younger students.</p> <p>We will post under each picture a short blurb or the answers to questions for each picture for the younger students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you good at?</li> <li>• What character strength does it show?</li> </ul>	

<p>Kyle Composite School</p>	<p>9:00 – 10:30 Pancake Breakfast - Invite Community Doug Barker Speak to kids about character</p> <p>10:30 – 10:45 Recess</p> <p>10:45 – Video – Science of Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakout into Character Groups – Until Noon Students can choose however they want to demonstrate their understanding of their character trait (Visual, audio, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>1:00-1:30 – Moby (the singer) – Live stream with Question and Answer</p> <p>1:30-2:00 - Presentation of Character Learning</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00 - Community/Student Activities – Beach Volleyball on 3 courts</p>	
<p>Loreburn School</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a school wide bulletin board that has "We are a leader in.."and a large version of the character trait periodic table. Brenna is going to get all students to put their names/photos beside the strengths.</li> <li>PeBL Mentor breaking up with each of the classes from K-12 to watch growth mindset videos, activity and discussion(K-4) and then grade 5-12 will take part in a variety of online Let it Ripple presentations and Q&amp;A's.</li> <li>End the day off with an school wide building activity in the gym</li> </ol>	<p>Scattered during the day</p>
<p>Lucky Lake School</p>	<p>Morning Assembly: Short presentation on What Character Day is, then introduce the character of Kindness specifically. After Assembly we will split off into groups to put kindness into practise.</p> <p>K-2: Will be going door to door handing out messages of kindness with a treat.</p> <p>3-6: Will be downtown handing out free lemonade, holding doors open at local businesses, and carry peoples groceries</p> <p>7-8: Will be at the health centre playing bingo</p> <p>9-12: Will be offering carwashes for a kind word (kind words as payment)</p>	<p>All Morning</p>
<p>Beechy School</p>	<p>Assembly after lunch – Introduce Character day and watch Character Day Trailer and "The Science of Character". Next each grade will head back to their classrooms and use the discussion kits to and talk about character strengths. Students will display their strengths on a poster and get their pictures taken to make a bulletin board. The bulletin board will look like the periodic table of Character strengths.</p>	<p>Afternoon</p>

Eaton School	<p>What our character day will look like:  We are having a student led assembly where the kids introduce the science of Character video (12:45) We will watch this video on the ceiling. Danielle and Amber will play a clap for Character game!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each staff member has taken on a section of the periodic table and has created an activity that embodies those characteristics.  Wisdom- a science experiment to test these qualities  Courage- a maker space marble activity  Humanity- a kindness project (passing on the message)  Justice- a phys.ed activity based on collaboration  Temperance- an elementary activity based on self regulation.  Transcendence an art activity</li> <li>A collaborative dance presentation from our students about how you can affect others</li> <li>Our Src will be our Media managers and capture all of the moments</li> </ol> <p>All pictures will be placed on our life size periodic table of "Spartan Strength of Character". Pictures will be continued to be added every time we as staff see an element of that character trait occurring. All character/mentorship programs will continue to occur throughout the year.</p>	Pm
Outlook Elementary School	Character Day celebration assemply – Compilation video of all the Character activities	2:00-2:15pm
Elizabeth Middle School	<p>Step 1) Students Complete Epiphany learning profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are to work through the following sections of Epiphany: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All About Me</li> <li>Learning Preferences</li> <li>Strengths and Struggles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Step 2) Each class will be given a letter in “OUR Character COUNTS”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a class decorate/ design your letter using your classes “Top 5 Character Traits”</li> <li>This will then be displayed for the open house in the evening</li> </ul> <p>Step 3) Open House- Parents come in the evening for a meet and greet. The theme of Character Development and focusing on students strengths is introduced  Have student profile page printed, get students to teach parents about character.</p>	All Day Open House- 5:30-7:30pm
Rosetown High School	<p><b>10-11am</b> Homeroom teachers go through Science of Character video and games in kit.</p> <p><b>11-12pm</b> Community members lead 15 minute sessions relating to respect, empathy, and self-regulation in the workplace.</p>	10 AM-12 PM

Westberry Elementary School	<p>We will be having a school wide assembly to celebrate character day. Some of the events are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Refresher on Kelso's Choices</li> <li>-Singing the Kelso song and Kelso rap.</li> <li>-Singing our Westberry School song to build school community and character.</li> <li>-Informing the students of our sister school in Tanzania and how helping them ties into character building.</li> <li>-Having Super Happy Fun Time -which are silly dances led by cartoon characters.</li> <li>- All students and staff are wearing green to represent Kelso's Choices and how Kelso helps us build good character.</li> </ul>	Assembly from 1:15pm-2:00pm
Kindersley Composite School	<p>8:30: SCC Sponsored Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>9:30: School Assembly - Meet and Greet, explanation of day and Character Focus for 2017/2018 School Year</p> <p>10:00: Guest Speaker (Let It Ripple) - Hopefully</p> <p>10:30: School-wide Kahoot - How well do you know your teachers?</p> <p>10:45-12:15: KCS "Random" Act of Kindness</p> <p>Gr. 9s - pick garbage around community</p> <p>Gr. 10s - Split into 3 groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Group 1</i> goes downtown - students at each business to greet patrons and open doors, carry groceries, etc.</li> <li>• <i>Group 2</i> goes to Caleb and/or the Manor and hands out candies, visits with the residents.</li> <li>• <i>Group 3</i> helps with raking</li> </ul> <p>Gr. 11s - finish Learner Profile, then go pick garbage around school grounds/track.</p> <p>Gr. 12s - Yard work for community residents</p> <p>1:00 - School-wide Guest Speaker (Let It Ripple)</p> <p>1:30 - Rock Your Goal - We're In It Together: School wide activity... decorate rock with personal/academic goal... will be used in KCS install</p>	