



Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi

École Barrhead Elementary School

December 2011 Newsletter



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Please post at home

December 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		November 29: Conference Call with Minister of Education 7:45 pm		1 PD Day - No School	2 PD Day - No School Gr 4-6 Choir per- forms at Festival of Trees - 7:00 pm	3
4 Door Decorating Contest this week!	5	6 Gr 1 to Telus World of Science 8:30 - 4:15	7 Gr 6 Noon Hour Fundraiser Bake Sale 	8 Gr 4 Swim 2:00 Gr 6 Noon Hour Fundraiser Bake Sale	9 6B to Keir Care	10
11	12	13	14 Gr 4 to Fort Edmonton Capital Theatre 9:30 - 4:00 ECS Recognition	15 Gr 5 Swim ECS Recognition French Immersion Christmas Program 1:30	16 Pajama Day  Gr 3 Skate 1:30 6C to Keir Care Gr 1 Recognition	17
18	19 Gr 4 Skate 2:00 K1 Christmas Program 12:30	20 K2 Christmas Program 12:30	21 Gr 4-6 Choir to Keir Care - 1:30 & Shepherd's Care - 2:15	22 Gr 3 Swim 2:00	23 Christmas Assembly 9:30 Mt Robson Rams (K4, 1F, 2C, 3A, 4B, 5C, 6C) Wear Christmas Colours Gr 1 Swim 1:00	24  Christmas Eve
25  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 Classes Resume January 9



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!



Dress for the Weather



Please encourage your children to come to school dressed for the cold weather. Make sure they have gloves/mittens, snow pants, boots and toque.

Unless the temperature is lower than 20 degrees below Celsius, students play outside.

Christmas Activities



Thursday, Dec. 15: French Immersion Christmas Program 1:30

Monday, Dec. 19: K1 Christmas Program at 12:30 - Gingerbread house building to follow.

Tuesday, Dec. 20: K2 Christmas Program at 12:30 - Gingerbread house building to follow.

Friday, Dec 23: Christmas Assembly 9:30 a.m. Classes from the Mount Robson Rams (K4, 1F, 2C, 3A, 4B, 5C, and 6C) are performing at the Assembly. Due to the limited audience space in the gym, we ask that only the families of the performing classes attend the assembly.

Celebrate Christmas through giving!



As part of a whole school project, Miss Mary Kinloch and Miss Miranda Larson, student teachers in Mrs. Fisher's 5B class and Mrs. Wierenga's 5A class, will be running a food drive for FCSS Barrhead

from December 5-23. Please bring in nonperishable food items and Christmas treats to give to those in our community who need them! Bring the items to your classroom and your teacher will keep track of how much food is brought in before it goes in boxes that will be set up in the front of the school. Let's see which class can bring the most food and fill those boxes! Miss Kinloch and Miss Larson appreciate your support and your generosity.

French Immersion



This is the time of year for giving. So the French Immersion parent group would like to ask that if you have any French language readers that you are not using and would like to clear out, you could donate them to the French program. It would help out the kids tremendously by giving them a wide variety of materials to improve their reading skills. If you have any questions you can call Gene Anderson at 780-674-7587 or bundle up the books and send them to your child's teacher.

The French Immersion Christmas Concert will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15th. While there don't forget to buy your tickets for the Poinsettia Raffle.

Joyeux Noel!

Grade 6 Bake Sale



The Grade 6 classes will be hosting a Bake Sale December 7 & 8 during the noon hours. They are raising funds to support their planned field trip to the Aviation Museum in the spring. Please bring

the baked goods to Miss Epp's classroom, #24 on Monday and Tuesday, December 5 & 6.

Thank you very much for your support in this worthwhile cause.

Knitting Club

Our club has grown and we have now added a Wednesday class in addition to the Tuesday and Thursday classes. All of our noon hour knitters are busy getting their samples done for the booklets. The experienced knitters will begin working on squares for the blanket to be donated to Barrhead Cancer Unit. This afghan will give comfort to patients during chemotherapy treatments. Knitting needles, pattern books, and yarn make a super Christmas gift for our beginning knitters. There will not be knitting classes over the holidays, but keep up the good work knitters. Enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Mentors Needed



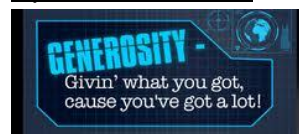
If you have a big heart, a love of children and about one hour a week we could sure use your help at BES. If you know of someone who would enjoy doing this, please let them know that we would love to hear from them. We have many students who could benefit from developing a friendship with an adult mentor. Please contact our office 674-8518 if you would like to volunteer for this very worthwhile program. We would also love to hear from you if you would be willing to donate some time to listen to kids read.

Roots of Empathy Program



Our ROE classes have just finished Theme 2 - "Crying" ("Les Pleurs") - where the students learned about reasons why a baby cries, how to sooth a crying baby and a crying baby is not a "bad" baby; they just have a problem they need help with. Students also learned to never shake a baby! December brings Theme 3 - "Caring and Planning For Baby" ("Les soins et l'équipement du bébé") - where we will talk a lot about diapering as well as continue to see what new and wonderful things our babies are doing and learning.

Spirit Committee



"To generous souls every task is noble." said Euripides in 500 B.C. As we are getting ready to enter into the "spirit of Christmas", it is only natural that our attention turns back to manners, giving, generosity and respect. These values help children to make and keep friends, excel in school, and feel fulfilled. We can teach our kids to give all year round with simple, yet powerful gestures about thinking of the needs of others like "Grocery Grab", by picking an item at the store to put in the food bank, "cancan" to give cans from home, or entertain "the troops", by giving freely without hope of reward like reading,

singing or playing with seniors, to name a few. Without a doubt, we can work with our kids to develop a sense of generosity and kindness that will help them **feel good** about themselves, have **fulfilling** interpersonal relationships, and **improve** the communities in which they live and the lives they touch. By starting early, emphasizing the importance of giving, teaching ways to make a **difference**, and showing how great it feels, we can help our children focus on becoming **caring, kind, and generous** people. *Generosity is a Value that can become a quality. It's sharing what we have and what we are.* . **BES Grade ones** will be decorating our bulletin boards for December.



BES classrooms have been invited by the Spirit Committee to participate in a door decorating contest. Deadline for judging will be Dec. 9 or thereabouts. A winner will be chosen from each grade.

UNICEF



For this past Halloween, our Grade 6's got into the "Spirit" by sponsoring a Penny Picture Design contest.

Classes designed pictures with spare change that was donated and brought in by the students. They used \$293.95 in change which was donated to UNICEF. Congratulations to our Grade 6 students!

Parking at BES



Our students are precious to us so we appreciate all of you who are following BES guidelines for parking, student drop-off and pick-up.

Before school:

- 1) Pull over to the curb to drop children off.
- 2) Park in 1 hour assigned parking spaces against the fence if you wish to walk your child in.
- 3) Park on the other side of the fence (road side) if you are going to stay in the building for longer than an hour.

After school:

- 1) Pull over to the curb to pick children up.
- 2) Park in 1 hour assigned parking spaces against the fence if you have a meeting after school to attend.
- 3) Park on the other side of the fence (road side) if you are going to stay in the building for longer than an hour.

Kudos to all who are driving safely in front of our school, and for following before and after school guidelines. By working together we create a safe zone for kids!

Also, PHRD Regional Office staff has asked that parents please not park in their lot. If a staff member needs to leave and a parent is parked along the east side of our building, they cannot move their vehicles out.

Young and Bright Scientists



The Annual BES Science Fair will be held in early March. Students are encouraged to start investigating ideas or topics for presentation at the Science Fair. Look for further details in January's newsletter. Students can get information before or after Christmas from Mrs. Brinsky or Mrs. Steeves.

Science Fair Judges Needed

If you are able to help judge entries, please phone the school. (674-8518)

Recycling



Our students and staff are very concerned about our environment. We practice recycling every day, collecting used paper and depositing empty drink containers (milk and juice cartons) in our bins. During the month of November, we recycled \$1025.00 worth of drink containers and about 26 large bags of paper. Way to go, everyone!

FROM THE SCHOOL BUS LANE...



Now that winter is upon us, so are the cold temperatures. Although our busses are thoroughly inspected and maintained, breakdowns may occur.

All students are required to wear or have available to wear proper winter footwear, outerwear, headgear and gloves/mittens. Although we may operate in what seems to be inclement weather situations, the decision is still left to the parents to use their discretion whether or not to send their children to school on such days. In the event that school buses are not running, every effort will be made by your driver to contact you. In the event of school buses not running division-wide, radio broadcasts will be made on local stations.

Lost & Found: We have a number of items in our Lost & Found that were left behind on our busses, whether it was after field trips or after the regular daily trips to and from school. If your children are missing any items such as clothing, electronics, etc. Please contact our office (674-8509) to see if we have them here.

Students with Severe Medical Conditions



No Child Without is a charitable program that offers all elementary school-aged children (ages 4 to 14), with pre-existing medical conditions or allergies, free Medic Alert protection. In keeping with Medic Alert's charitable mission, *No Child Without* offers all elementary school aged children with medical conditions or allergies free 24-hour Medic Alert protection regardless of their financial resources. To get more information, please go to www.nochildwithout.ca Knowing that your child is protected by Medic Alert brings peace of mind. Medic Alert speaks for your children when your children can't speak for themselves. The *No Child Without Program* offers the following benefits:

- Immediate access by health professionals and First responders to your child's medical record through the Medic Alert 24-hour Emergency Hotline.
- Medic Alert bracelet or necklet custom engraved with your child's medical information, member ID number and the Medic Alert 24-hour Emergency Hotline number.
- Your child's confidential medical record is

stored in a secure, centralized database.

- Medic Alert ensures the confidentiality and privacy of its members' information at all times.

- A Medic Alert membership card listing your child's medications and the names and phone numbers of physicians and emergency contacts.

- My Medic Alert: secure online personal and up to date medical record. As a parent you can update your child's medical information anytime.

PLUS -- Your child is given our Extended Emergency Services: Notification of personal emergency contacts at the time of emergency and a follow up with parents after emergency call is made to the Hotline.

Get Involved. Make your voice heard!



We have an important opportunity to engage in change. For the last several years, we have been engaged in a dialogue concerning why our schools need to change and what this change will look like. The big question discussed was: **What does an Educated Albertan look like 20 years from now?** The next stage of this conversation focuses on what students will be learning and the intended outcomes of this learning.

This online engagement is another way for Albertans to provide their input on guiding principles for future curriculum design. The principles will be the underpinnings of the standards and guidelines for future curriculum (programs of study, assessment, learning and teaching resources) design.

Please go to the following URL to have your say and be an important part of our education future!!

<http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage/current-initiatives/action-on-curriculum>

Teleconference with Minister of Education



The Minister of Education is hosting a teleconference with parents and school councils at 7:45 pm on November 29th to discuss education. The Minister believes that parents play an important role in

the education system, and is interested in hearing directly from them.

Parents and School Council representatives are invited to participate in the conference call with the Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education to discuss priorities for the next several months for Alberta's education system.

Participants are encouraged to gather as a group to dial in where possible.

The call will begin at **7:45 PM on Tuesday, November 29, 2011** and will take approximately 1 hour. Please dial in at least 15 to 20 minutes ahead of time to the number listed below, as it will take time for all participants to be queued into the call and ensure participation.

Dial in information: 1-888-789-9572

Conference ID: # 5634664

When participants dial in they will be greeted by a conference operator asking for the conference ID, the person's name, school (Barrhead Elementary) and school authority (Pembina Hills Regional Division). Participants will be able to ask a limited number of questions following the Minister's comments.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



The Library's **Country Christmas** event is **Saturday Dec. 10 from 1 to 3 pm.** Music, crafts, goodies, door prizes, and a very special visitor dressed in red and white.

Bring along your camera to this fun, no-cost, family Christmas event. Canned goods for the Food Bank welcome.



Mrs. Claus will be in the Library Dec. 2 and 3 during the Festival of Trees to read stories and help make Christmas crafts. The Festival of Trees is Dec 2 from 5 to 9, and Dec. 3 from 9am to 3:30pm in the BES Gym



Another important date: All library books are to be returned the week of Dec. 15. No library books are signed out over the Christmas holidays to allow staff to take inventory. Books not returned by Dec. 15 are considered lost. Students with lost books will bring letters home with information about the books. Please watch for a letter. Remember: the Library IS open across the holidays for readers who have a public library card and want books to read over the holidays.



Things to do at home this month:

visit these family-friendly websites for holiday fun activities:

- Crayola.com
- www.northpole.com
- www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/



Best wishes for a happy holiday from all the Library staff

BES PARENT ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

Mom's Pantry



Thank you to all of the families that supported us through our Mom's Pantry fundraiser. We raised **\$13,500**. These funds will go towards field trips for our students and other needed areas around the school. A special **Thank You** to all of the parents that came out to help throughout the fundraiser, we couldn't do it without you. For those of you who have items on back-order, we should have those here within the week and we will send them home with students once we do.

Next Meeting



Our next School Council/Advisory Association meeting is Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 pm. Meetings are open to everyone, and babysitting is provided; we look forward to seeing you there.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season from your BES School Council/Advisory Association.

