



Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi

École Barrhead Elementary School





February 2012 Newsletter



Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi



Please post at home

February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 5A, 5B, 5C Skate 1:30	3 6B to Keir Care Lollipop orders in today CPF Pool Party & Potluck - 5:00	4
5	6 Gr 2 Swim 1:30	7	8 Gr 2 Shape Up Alberta Winter Walk Day	9 TEACHERS' NO FOR	10 CONVENTION SCHOOL STUDENTS	11
12	13 French Carnival - Camp Encounter 9:00 - 3:00	14 Gr 2 Skate 1:00 Gr 3 to Telus World of Science 9:00 - 5:15 Wear Red or Be a Valentine	15 M/W ECS Recognition	16 T/Th ECS Recognition Gr 1 Swim 1:00 Gr 5 Swim 2:00	17 Gr 4 Swim 2:00 Gr 3 Skate	18
19	20 Family Day - No School 	21	22 Journal Indoor Games Practice 12:00 - 7:00 	23	24 6C to Keir Care Gr 1 Recognition 6B & 1C Skate 10:30 Hat/Tie/Shades Day  Family Dance 7:00 - 9:30 	25
26	27	28 Gr 2 Skate 1:00	29 2:30 Early Dismissal			

Coming Events: Pembina West Science Fair - March 9
Student Led Conferences: March 14 & 15
Spring Break: March 24 to 31 (inclusive)



Teachers' Convention



February 9th and 10th is Teacher's Convention. All of our teachers will be attending a number of sessions in Edmonton aimed at helping them stay current with new developments in education and to assist them in their practice. There are also sessions presented in French for our French Immersion teachers.

Snow Day Message



When there is inclement weather, two messages could go out regarding Snow Days:

- 1) Buses not running - Schools Open
 - Staff and students who are able to get to school safely come
 - Classes get put together for instruction
- 2) Buses not running - Schools closed
 - Staff and students do not come
 - No classes for students

Hot Lunch: On days when buses don't run, the hot lunch program is not available. Staff does reheat leftover hot lunches for students who need them. There are limited quantities of these.

Punctuality



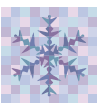
It has been noted that many students have been arriving to school after the first bell. Please help your child to be at school before 8:45 am as this is the bell to come in.

Science Fair



The Science Fair is **Friday, March 9th**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their science knowledge and skills! The deadline for entering is February 8th. Good luck to everyone!

Carnaval



The tradition of Carnaval continues at Barrhead Elementary and this year's French Immersion Carnaval will be taking place **Monday, February 13th** from 9 am- 3pm at Camp Encounter. The students will enjoy a day of activities and French Canadian culture. Further information has already been sent home. If you need another copy contact your child's teacher.

We are looking for one and all volunteers as group leaders, crepe cooks, fire tenders etc. Please fill out and return to your child's teacher. Vive le Carnaval!

Canadian Parents for French



Reminder about the CPF Pool Party on February 3 at 5:00 p.m. A Potluck supper will follow from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Also, don't forget about the Annual General Meeting on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the BES staff room.

Lollipop Sale



The Grade 6 Peacekeepers are doing a fundraiser for the Barrhead Animal Rescue Society by having a gourmet lollipop sale. Order forms should have arrived home and orders are due February 3rd. All lollipops are \$1 each and will be delivered to the students by Valentine's Day.

Knitting Club



Most of our members have gotten their sample books completed. Good job to all our busy knitters. The young knitters will be working on the squares for the cancer patient afghan. Keep on clicking those needles!

Roots of Empathy



In January the classes are working on Themes 3 & 4 - Caring for Baby and Emotions. In this theme the students talked about all the different feelings that we have and that it's ok to share our feelings. The students spent time discussing the problem of bullying, what they can do to help themselves and others when faced with different kinds of bullying.

En janvier, Theme 4, les emotions, discutez le taxage, comment on peut aider les autres. Theme 5, le sommeil. Notre bebe attend une dent!

Virtues



One Million Acts of Kindness completed in your lifetime! What a worthy goal! Imagine how the world would be if all of us committed to it. And with it improving your overall mental health? It's easy. Random acts of kindness don't just benefit the ones you gift but also help your own mental health. At our workplace, in our car, in our everyday life let's be kind and thoughtful. "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend." From the author Melody Beattie. Kindness and Friendship: inspirational, constructive, generous and so gratifying. So be nice to others. Our Prep Classes are in charge of decorating the boards for this Virtue for February. Come and check it out.

Indoor Journal Games



Mr. Lamothe, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Erickson have been busy coaching our running team. They have held lunchtime practices in the school and at the running track in the Agrena, and have even brought the students to the U of A to practice! Elimination Rounds will take place on February 22 at the Butterdome in Edmonton.

Spirit Committee Special Days



On January 27 the Spirit Committee hosted a Beach Day at BES. Feb. 14 the Spirit Committee challenge students to dress as a Valentine or in red. On February 24, students are asked to wear their favourite hat and/or a tie and their "shades"!

BES Winter Fun Day



Our annual BES Winter Fun Day will be held later this month (weather permitting). More details will be forthcoming. Make sure your child is dressed ready to participate for a fun afternoon of outside activities.

Parent Advisory Association News

What are we working on?



Working with other School Councils in the district we have submitted a resolution to the Alberta School Board Association on a single enrollment entry birth date for students across the province. The purpose of this resolution is to have the government set a birth date cut off that all school divisions would adhere too. This will make for easier transitions for students between school divisions, should the need arise.



We are working on two grant applications. One through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts -- we are requesting funds to support an Artist in Residence program, where a local artist would come in to the school for 6 weeks and teach the students a variety of different art mediums. The second is through the S'cool Life Fund, which would allow us to purchase some new musical instruments for the school.

February Family Dance



The BES Family Dance is being held **Friday, February 24th from 7-9:30 p.m.** in the BES Gym. We encourage all families to come out and join us for a fun family time. The cost is \$5 per family. Please remember that this is a family event and children cannot attend alone. If you are interested in helping out we need volunteers to work the doors, and the concession. Please call Corrinna Walker at 780-674-7649. Please remember that without volunteers the dance will not be possible.



A big THANK YOU to the volunteers that made the recent Hot Dog Sale a big success. Without volunteers we would not be able to provide these special events for our students. It was great to see so many new faces out lending a hand.

Next Meeting



The next meeting is **Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the BES Staff Room.** This is the re-scheduled date of the January meeting that was unfortunately cancelled.

Happy Family Day to all families of BES.



From the Library

February is Library L♥vers Month and a great opportunity to spend more time reading. Read more of the books you love. Read different kinds of books. Read story books with lots of pictures. Read chapters books if you are able. Read e-books. Read magazines, dictionaries and encyclopedias. Read everything!



Calling a would-be authors. It's time to sign up for Young Writers Club. We meet in the Library on **TUESDAYS at 12:30 every week.** Bring a scribbler and pencil and be ready to write, write, write.



The Library is open until 8pm on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays,** a fun family outing to play board games, use computers help each other choose great books.



Activities for preschoolers at the Library begin Jan31 at 11am and run each Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the end of April. Stories, songs and crafts, fun for all.



And one more friendly reminder to use a clean plastic bag inside your backpack to store library books, safe from wet mitts, muddy shoes and leaking juice boxes.

Happy February from the Library



School not the only Place for Kids to Learn

Every day, we send our kids off to school hoping they will learn something - anything - and develop into knowledgeable successful adults. And while we deal with the daily details of that thing called life, we sometimes forget to encourage learning at home.

Parents are a child's first teacher. Even after they've started school, there are still several opportunities for learning as a family. Kids look up to their parents and mimic many of the daily routines. Spending just 15 minutes a day with them can go a long way to help children develop a love of learning and improve their literacy skills.

In honour of Family Literacy Day, which happened across Canada on January 27, 2012, here are some fun activities to do at home as a family to make learning fun for everyone at any time of year:

- Establish a night to enjoy activities such as puzzles, crosswords or board games. Switching the activity each week keeps the enjoyment level high.
- The brain is like a muscle - if you don't use it, you lose it. Getting active can help strengthen the mind, so play hide-and-seek, tag or catch outside with your children.
- Use your imaginations by creating stories together. You lead with the first sentence and then go back and forth building on the story. Your child uses their imagination and creativity while together you create a living story. Do this while completing chores to help time pass faster!
- Together, act out the family's favorite book: read a page together and then act out what was written. If the kids have friends over, they can engage in this activity and then put a play on for their parents when they are picked up.
- Still waiting for the lasagna to cook in the oven? Read together while you wait! Pick up a book, magazine or newspaper and open up a world of possibilities.

All of these activities can be done after dinner, outside in the backyard or before you go to bed. By the time they're done, you'll be surprised how short 15 minutes really is! Spending time doing learning activities at home is crucial. Practicing these activities will help develop a love of learning for both parents and children, and help to develop important literacy skills.

While we may not think of it, most of the time spent at home can be seen as a learning activity between you and your child. Even time spent doing the dishes, eating dinner or having a bath can all have a focus on learning without you noticing.

For more information, including literacy tips and activities and event listings, please visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.