



Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi

Ecole Barrhead Elementary School

January 2012 Newsletter



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Please post at home

January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Christmas	2 Break	3 Continues	4 -----	5 -----	6 -----	7 -----
8 -----	9 Classes Resume	10 Gr 2 Skate 1:00 p.m.	11	12 Journal Indoor Games Practice 5:00-10:00 pm 	13 6B to Keir Care Fancy Friday 	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Ernestine Hatpin Performs 10:30 Gr 3 Skate 1:30 6C to Keir Care	21
22	23	24 Gr 2 Skate 1:00	25 Gr 1 Swim 1:30	26 Gr 3 1:10 Recognition Gr 5 to Telus World of Science 8:00 - 4:30	27 Gr 4 Skate 2:00 Hawaiian/Beach Day  Family Literacy Day	28
29	30	31 Music Festival Registration Deadline				

Coming Events

February 9 & 10: Teachers' Convention

February 20: Family Day

March 14 - 17: Music Festival

Colleen Symyrozum-Watt named Acting Superintendent of Schools

Colleen Symyrozum-Watt, who has worked for Pembina Hills Regional Division since its inception in 1995 has been appointed acting superintendent for the division effective December 5, 2011.

"We know the division is in good hands with Colleen at the helm during this period of transition," said Board Chair Douglas Fleming. "She knows the division, is a proven, effective leader and brings a foundation of established relationships to this role."

See the Pembina Hills website: www.phrd.ab.ca for more information about Symyrozum-Watt.

Welcome



Welcome to two new program assistants: Mrs. Jolene Reschke and Mrs. Tina Chase. Mrs. Reschke is working in the Gr. 1-2 pod and Mrs. Chase is working in the Gr. 3-4 pod.

Inclement weather, Impassable Roads



On days of extreme cold and snowy conditions, please remember to tune into radio stations (such as XM 105 FM, 97.9 The Range, 630 CHED and 790 CFCW), to find out if busses are cancelled and/or if schools are closed. It is very rare for schools to be closed. Usually, even when busses are cancelled, schools remain open. When schools are closed, all students need to remain at home.



While we are on the topic of inclement weather ... please help us keep our school clean. When entering the school, please take off your wet/muddy footwear.

Medication at School



As per Pembina Hills Regional Division policy, when your child is required to take medication, prescription or over-the-counter, we request that Medication Administration Forms be completed. The medication and the forms are to be kept at the office. Students are expected to come to the office at the appropriate time for their medicine. Call the school office at 674-8518 for more information or for copies of the forms.

D.A.R.E. Returns

D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. classes will begin for our Grade 6 students in January. Constable Morroco Johnson will once again instruct our students in drug abuse and resistance education.

Parent Volunteers in the Classroom



Parent helpers are much appreciated by the teachers in our school for the expertise and experiences that they bring to the classroom. BES does have some policies regarding classroom assistance:

- 1) Volunteers must have a criminal record and social services check. They must be on file in the office. (Pembina Hills Policy). Your criminal record and social services checks cover your volunteerism at BES for 3 years once you have them. Exception: you wish to volunteer to supervise an overnight trip with BES students. Then you must have a current criminal record check.
- 2) Teachers must have requested or approved volunteer assistance.
- 3) Volunteers must pick up a badge at the office to define their presence in the school.

We appreciate your cooperation when volunteering in our building.

Report Card



BES teachers are following the Pembina Hills policy re: reporting student progress. Each grade group has met to discuss how they will report student progress. You will receive 4 mini-reports over the year and one summative report on your child's progress at the end of the year. Two district-wide meeting dates with parents were set: Goal-setting in October; Student-Led Conferences in March. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.

Anti-bullying Poster Contest



During the month of November the Barrhead Elementary School students were given the opportunity to participate in an anti-bullying poster contest. November is Anti-bullying month and the poster contest was an effort to bring awareness to bullying and to have the kids ask themselves, "What can we do to stop bullying?" The contest deadline was November 30th, 2011 and we received lots of posters from all ages. The posters were a lot of fun to look through because there were so many colorful and creative entries.

Grade 1-3 winners:

- 1st place: Jordan Borle from 3B - Won an iPod Shuffle and a \$25 iTunes card.
- 2nd place: Henry Murray from 3B - Won 2 tickets to the movie theatre in Barrhead.
- 3rd place: Riley Schaffrick from 3B - Won a swimming pass for you and friends.

Grade 4-6 winners:

- 1st place: Kyla Coutu from 3/4F - Won an iPod Shuffle and a \$25 iTunes card.
- 2nd place: Samantha Hollingsworth from 6C - Won 2 tickets to the movie theatre in Barrhead.
- 3rd place: Jennifer Kristel from 6A - Won a swimming pass for you and friends.

The grand prize winner was Matthew Prociuk of 6A! Matthew will receive a pizza party for him and his class, plus a swimming pass to the Barrhead swimming pool for him and some friends. Congratulations to the winners!

Parking



Again, huge kudos goes out to all of you for following the new guidelines for parking before and after school when dropping off or picking up your children. When you follow guidelines all of us get home safely and it is much appreciated.



Virtues News



Are our kids being frivolous? Can we use our parenting skills and help them learn to appreciate what they have and

use their judgement when confronted with a difficult situation? For example, when nobody is watching what will be the determinant factor on the action? At BES, Teachers often ask the kids to think before they act and take a choice. As I see it, **choice and responsibility** are two sides of the same coin. Whenever we have the possibility of action, we have choices about what those actions will be. Any action has consequences. If I choose not to recycle, or waste energy, or take the car to do a few meters, I know there will be great consequences! Children need to be able to select a good choice when confronted to peer pressure, to take on smoking or ... not doing their homework. They also need to be able to talk about it freely and to turn to trusted adults without fear of punishment when they need an advice. Hopefully, we are these trusted adults. **Responsibility** starts at home - or at school --with positive role models. Thank you to our **Kindergarten classes** who will have the responsibility to do the board in January.

Christmas Door Decorating Contest



The Spirit Committee challenged classes to a Christmas Door Decorating contest prior to Christmas. Doors were judged by esteemed judges, Mr. Dale Bujold

and Mrs. Ros Rudd. The judges reported that they had a terrible time picking winners because there were so many creative, unique entries spreading the message of Christmas! Congratulations went to all participants for the care and thought that went into decorating the classroom doors. All winning classes received candy canes.

Winners were:

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Priddle
- Gr. 1 - Mrs. Shrode
- Gr. 2 - Mrs. Schmidt
- Gr. 3 - Mrs. Wood
- Gr. 4 - Mr. Michaud
- Gr. 5 - Mrs. Grant
- Gr. 6 - Mrs. Smith

Thanks to all judges and participants!

Calling all Young Scientists



The Barrhead Elementary Science Fair will be held on March 1, 2012. Students in grades 3- 6 are invited to enter a project. Entry deadline is Feb. 1, 2012.

If any parent would like to help judge the projects on March 1, please phone the school.

Arts & Crafts Supplies Needed



You'd be amazed at what we actually use up! We will make use of a multitude of items from scrapbook paper to curtain rings to silk flowers to old calendars and puzzles...Think inside and outside the box. Make space for all the new stuff you received at Christmas. Before you throw out your treasures, check with us to see if we could use them.

Basketball



Gr. 5/6 students who signed up to play basketball during intramurals have been divided into 9 teams. They will play each other during the lunch hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays during January and February. Team coaches will pick students from these 9 teams to play on four All-Star teams. These 4 All-Star Teams will play each other in a mini tournament on Saturday, Mar. 10.

Knitting Club



January is here and all the knitters are busy getting their samples completed and taped into the workbooks. As soon as the samples are done (knit, purl, cast on, cast off, increase and decrease) the children will begin on the squares for our cancer blanket. Thanks to all the students for their enthusiasm and for attending each knitting meeting.

Roots of Empathy



Before Christmas Break the ROE classes finished up Theme 3 on Caring and Planning for Baby. We talked about the pro's and con's of disposable and cloth diapers. This is just one example of the many decisions parents have to make before having a baby. Now in January we move into Theme 4 - Emotions. This unit offers opportunities to explore the subject of bullying and aggression.

Parent Advisory Council



Welcome to the start of another great year at BES. What better time to sit down and reflect a little on what Barrhead Elementary School Council has been doing for you. We want to hear from you on what you like, what you don't like, and any ideas you have for projects that we could undertake. You can comment on our group page on Facebook - Barrhead Elementary School Council/Advisory Association, send an email to besaa@phrd.ab.ca, call a council member (listed below), or attend our next meeting Wednesday, January 18th @ 7:00 pm in the BES Staff Room. We want your input, don't be shy.

DREAMS



School Council is hoping to obtain a grant from S'Cool Life Fund. The grant covers projects in the areas of Drama, Recreation, Extracurricular, Arts, Music and Sports. We need to pick one or two projects that we wish to request

funding for. If you have any suggestions on projects that fall under any of these categories that you think we should pursue please bring it forward to a School Council member.

Hot Dog Sale



Please mark Friday, January 27th on your calendars for a Hot Dog Sale. Hot dogs are \$1 each. Please

have your child bring money to school the day before the sale. If there are any parents interested in helping out with the sale, please contact Vickie Anderson at 780-674-7587.

School Council Members



Just a quick reminder of who your School Council members are should you want to contact any one of us to ask questions: Vickie Anderson - President - 674-7587, Shannon Jansen-Grabler - Vice-President - 674-2162, Krista Measures - Secretary - 780-674-3699, Trisha Steinbring - Treasurer - 780-674-2639 and Corrinna Walker - Fundraising Coordinator - 780-674-7649.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 18th at 7:00 pm - everyone is welcome and babysitting is provided.

Happy New Year to all BES Families.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) News



Barrhead CPF is here to represent parent interests for your students in BES French Immersion. Check our

website for our calendar of events, Facebook group link, email list and our group's executive members. Please join us in supporting French Immersion in Barrhead schools. www.barrhead-cpf.ca



Our French Immersion program is busy making arrangements for Carnival at Camp Encounter. We have booked February 13 for this year. Your child's teacher will be sending home a letter with more details. Ohé Ohé Carnival!

Feedback for Alberta Education



As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

The Minister of Education, Thomas Lukaszuk, has sent a letter to all students requesting student input and ideas about school. Our students will work on this project at school and the results will be sent to the Minister by January 18.

News from the Library



Happy New Year and welcome back to school!

The New Year is a great time to remember our library rules:

1. Keep library books clean and dry inside a plastic bag when inside your backpack.
2. Return library books as soon as you've read them.
3. At home, keep library books away from water, pets and other dangers.
4. Spend more time reading.
5. Read all kinds of books.



Family Literacy Day is Friday Jan 27, a day to encourage your family to spend extra time reading together and singing together. For more information, log onto www.familyliteracyday.org. Drop off your completed Journey to Learning passport at the Library and be eligible to win cool prizes.

Programs for preschoolers

- **Mommy 'n Me** (under 2's) at 11:00 am each Monday beginning Jan. 30
- **Time for Tots** (2s & 3s) at 11 am each Wednesday beginning Feb 1
- **Storytime** (3 to 5 yr olds) at 11 am each Friday beginning Feb 3.

Please call the Library to register: 780 674-8519



Young Writers Club for kids in Grades 3 to 6 meets Tuesdays at 12:30 in the Library beginning **February 7**. If you enjoy inventing stories then join us every Tuesday at noon recess.



Armchair Travellers: On the 4th Tuesday of each month, travel to faraway places in the Library. Tues.

Jan. 23 at 6:45pm we are travelling to "Belize and Beyond".



Evenings at the Library (Tues, Wed, and Thurs.) is Family Games Night. Board games are available

at the Library or bring your own for a great family time.



Quote of the month: "The more that you read the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

Be it resolved to make 2011 your best reading year EVER! Happy New Year!

