



COALHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2012

*Coalhurst Elementary School:
Striving to be the best in Alberta.*



School Fees Unpaid:



We have some families who have not paid their School Fees for the 2011/2012 school year. School fees for CES students were due as of September 30th, 2011. These fees are mandatory for all students. Palliser Regional schools invoices CES for the number of students that we have enrolled, and we are required to pay them, regardless if we collect all the fees from our families. Any short fall from our collecting these fees will affect extra-curricular activities and year end field trips as the payment has to come from somewhere. Children who have unpaid fees may not be able to attend the above mentioned activities. Please contact the office to make payment arrangements for any unpaid fees.

Invoices for unpaid fees have been sent home with your child.

ECS/Preschool Registration: Kindergarten(ECS) registration is being taken at Coalhurst Elementary School during school hours for the 2012/2013 school year. If you have children who are 5 years of age or who will be 5 years of age before December 31, 2012, they are eligible for ECS. If you know of other families in the community who may have ECS aged children, but who may not receive this newsletter, please pass this information onto them. Please remember to bring along your child's **birth certificate** when you register. We also have **registration for PRESCHOOL STUDENTS available in the school office. To be eligible for preschool, children must be 3 years, 9 months of age as of September 1, 2012.**

Spirit Day:

Spirit Day for February will be **Pink & Red Day!** On Tuesday February 14, 2012 show your school spirit and wear Pink & Red for Valentine's Day!

Thank-you:

Andrea Ulmer & Lethbridge Toyota for the donation to purchase a book for every family from K-6 for our One School One Book Project.

The Fraternal Order of the Eagles for their monetary donation to our breakfast program. Your generosity will assist many hungry children.

The Stirling Haunted Mansion for the donation of the rabbit costume for our One School One Book kick-off assembly.

The U of L book store for supplying CES with our One School One Book: "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" for an excellent and affordable price.



STARS OF THE WEEK FOR JANUARY:

5-6P: Kaitlyn H.
5-6H: Brendan J., Carlee T.
5-6B: Darrick N., Nathaniel Z.
3-4P: Dillon B., Josh P.
3-4M: Jassmyn F.
3-4F: Cheyenne B., Hailey T.
1-2S: Olivia L.
1-2M: Brayden C.
1-2L: Eli E.
1-2E: Kiara H.



Attention Parents:

-Please make sure your child's name is in all of their personal belongings. Certain items have been going missing or have been misplaced. It is easier to decipher the true owner if there is a name in it.

-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 4-12 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4-12 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.

-Please, make sure your children **DO NOT** arrive at the school before 8:25 a.m. School does not actually start until 8:35 a.m. The doors to the school are not unlocked until 8:25 and there are no teachers on supervision until that time. The time before 8:25 is used for the teachers to prepare for the day!!!

- Please call the school if your children are going to be absent from school.

Please be certain that your child has proper footwear at school when they wear their boots to school.

- Please send a snack with your child(ren) as well as cutlery to consume it every day. This gives your children the energy they need to learn until lunch.

- ***Please remember the street in front of the school is reserved for bus parking. Please respect this rule and DO NOT park on the street, even if it is just to drop off students. We understand the problem we have with parking at CES. The best solution is to park in the back when dropping off or picking up your child(ren). Also please DO NOT use the handicapped parking spaces for parking or dropping off students unless you have a handicapped parking sticker.***

Minibasketball News:

Our final tournament date is Thursday, February 16, 2012. Games will start at 3:30 and run until approx. 8:00 PM. Make sure to bring some money, we will have a concession, and there will be a 50/50 draw. Our season has been going very well. Thanks go out to the parents for their support and their positive cheering.



It's hard to believe, but the **100th day of school** is fast approaching! This is a milestone number for the students, especially in the younger grades and is celebrated by classrooms throughout North America. Several classes will engage in learning activities on this day which involve the number 100... For example comparing 100 pieces of various objects, writing 100 words, reading for 100 minutes through the day. At CES, the 100th day for grades 1-6 is on Thursday, February 09, 2012... Watch for more information coming home.

Stay & Play

Stay & Play is a valuable program for parents and children (birth to 5 years old) to attend together. There is no charge and registration is not required. Come drop in and see what we're all about! For more information please contact Brenda Rathwell 320-1931

- **Songs**
- **Stories**
- **Dress-up**
- **Blocks**
- **Creative Art**
- **Brain Building Messy Play**
- **Rhymes**
- **Sand/Water Play**
- **Housekeeping**
- **Science**

These are all available in a safe and inviting learning environment.

Drop-in on: Wednesdays & Fridays: 9:30 – 11:30 am

Music News:

Music News:

Students in Grades 3/4, and 5/6 will be playing the recorders in Music classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, starting this week. Most students have brought their recorders to school. If your child doesn't have a recorder yet they can be purchased from the music room for \$5.00. The recorders are a very good quality and come with a cleaning rod and case. Students also need to have a little piece of cloth at school in order to keep their recorders clean. It's also a good idea to occasionally wash their recorders as well in warm water with some dish soap. We will be learning a lot of great music and I encourage all students to practice at home at least 10 minutes, 3-4 days a week. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our children's choir on Friday at the Lethbridge Hurricanes Hockey game. We had an amazing turn out of over 70 students and they did a fantastic job singing O Canada. All of the kids and Mrs. Higginson and I had a great time. Thank you so much to the parents as well who helped out and came to support the choir. This is a great performance experience for the students and we couldn't have done it without all the support of family and friends.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to spend 4 months at Coalhurst Elementary teaching music. Time has been flying by so far and I can't believe I'm already nearing the end of my first month. So far, I am having a wonderful time at the school and the students and I have had a lot of fun together. I am originally from a little town called Fruitvale in B.C. and have lived in Lethbridge for the past 12 years. I completed my Bachelor of Music at the U of L in 2005 and then went back to school in 2009 to complete a degree in education. I have been singing since I was 7 years old and music has always been a passion of mine. I currently reside in Lethbridge with my husband and our little dog. I look forward to meeting all of you. Please feel free to pop in and say hello anytime you are in the school.

Sincerely,
Alicia Bigras

Dare to Care Fair

The Southern Alberta Autism Consortium is pleased to present the **Dare to Care Fair** on Saturday, February 5 from 9:30 – 5:30 at the Lethbridge Public Library. There will be free presentations throughout the day and displays from a variety of local resources for families.

Counselor's Corner

Game Playing

The whole area of game playing has changed, particularly in recent years. Game playing to many children currently means an electronic game. While video games and hand held devices are exciting and captivating they lack some fundamentals lessons that can be learned from non- electronics. Electronic games may give the illusion of interaction when playing with others - there are some problems to be solved and issues to be communicated, but overall they allow for side by side playing. Playground, gym, outside or board games allow room for imagination, sorting out rules and communicating them, personal boundaries, fair play, problem solving and physical exercise.

Through physical and board games, children are able to develop and practice social and emotional skills, gain physical fitness and have fun. They learn to use their imagination to expand on games they may already play and adapt them depending on their environment. When kids join together to play a game, they develop and experience communication and learn about cooperation, trust, decision making compromise and recreation.

From the time they are young, children use their imagination to play. They learn from others how to share and begin to understand another person's perspective. "That's not fair" requires some kind of response and problem solving. While many games have a competitive edge, many require cooperation and team building both of which are essential to society.

Electronic games can be so mesmerizing that time passes without any interest or interaction with a person's environment. Some people find that there is no end to the amount of time they can spend on this sort of game playing. Board games and outdoor or recreational games all seem to eventually have a natural end that requires someone to declare that is enough. The reality is that electronics are here to stay and they are changing at a rapid pace. Kids require a balance between electronic and other kinds of games. Bring out Monopoly, Clue, Scrabble, Yahtzee or some other board game and interact with your kids. You will learn a lot about their ability to problem solve, compromise and some details about them you may not have known.

Submitted by Patti Nicol-Pharo, Family School Liaison Counsellor (403)894-1799

Buy a Shirt-Give A Shirt:

Pink shirt day is on February 29, 2012. CES will be selling pink paper shirts for \$2.00 to help kids take a stand against bullying. We would like to cover the front counter in the office, come see Miss Vos in the office for a "Paper t-shirt"

One School, One Book

Coalhurst Elementary School (CES) is all a buzz about books! On January 28th – National Family Literacy Day – CES launched the One School, One Book program which gets the entire school and every family reading the same chapter book.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane is the book at the centre of the program which will run the first two weeks of February and thanks to a generous donation from Lethbridge Toyota, each family received a free copy.

In this extraordinary tale, Kate DiCamillo and Bagram Ibatoulline take us on a journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hoboes' camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the streets of Memphis. And along the way, we are shown a true miracle — that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

CES staff did a wonderful job getting students excited about this new program at the school assembly. With a magic show and a life sized talking rabbit, student from all grades were pulled into the excitement. Following the assembly, teachers read the first two chapters to the children and a list of scheduled family reading was sent home along with each family's copy of the book.



CES student, Nik Bosch gives Edward Tulane a copy of his book at the launch of the One School, One Book program.

"It's a wonderful program," says CES principal, Dawn Ronne. "It's a great way to get families reading together.

Often when kids get old enough to read on their own parents no longer read aloud to them and this is still a very important part of their development. It helps with comprehension and overall improvement of literacy."

Throughout the program, classes will spend time talking about the book, answer trivia, playing games and incorporating the messages of Edward's Journey into their daily work.

One School, One Book is an American based program which was first introduced in Canada at Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary School in Lethbridge. Over the last four years One School, One Book has spread to numerous Lethbridge area schools. This is the first year CES has offered the program.

During the January 28th assembly, CES was visited by CTV Lethbridge who covered the story for Family Literacy. The segment can be viewed on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuHfyXZRbtK>.



FEBRUARY 2012



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Boys 1-6 Choir 1 st recess Girls 3-6 Choir – 12:15 Girls Gd. 1-2 Choir Last Recess Parent Council Meeting 6:30PM Child Care available	2 Harry's Hot Dogs	3
6	7	8 Boys 1-6 Choir 1 st recess Girls 3-6 Choir – 12:15 Girls Gd. 1-2 Choir Last Recess	9 Harry's Hot Dogs 	10
13	14 Red, White & Pink Day 	15 Boys 1-6 Choir 1 st recess Girls 3-6 Choir – 12:15 Girls Gd. 1-2 Choir Last Recess	16 Mini-BBAll Tournament Harry's Hot Dogs Carrot Cake Lunch	17
20 Family Day!!! No School	21 Day in Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews No School	22 Professional Development No School	23 Teacher's Convention No School	24 Teacher's Convention No School
27	28	29 Boys 1-6 Choir 1 st recess Girls 3-6 Choir – 12:15 Girls Gd. 1-2 Choir Last Recess Pink Shirt Day Grade 5&6 Ski Trip Day Muffin Morning 8:30am	1	2 