

Principal's Report School Council November 9, 2011



1. Upcoming Events

- Nov. 9 *School Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the staff room*
- Nov. 10 Fall Break (No School)
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (No School)
- Nov. 14 No Kindergarten Classes
- Nov. 15 After School Skating at NS Arena 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 16 Pajama Day! (Assembly at 8:30 a.m.)
- Nov. 16 **Hot Lunch**
- Nov. 18 Report Cards sent home (Grades 1-5; Kindergarten on the 17th)
- Nov. 21 Grade 4 classes to Chinook High School for "Peter Pan" 11:30-2:30
- Nov. 23-24 No Kindergarten classes due to parent/teacher interviews
- Nov. 24-25 Parent-Teacher Interviews (no school for students in gr. 1-5)
- Nov. 25 Snowshoes arrive at MMH!
- Nov. 30 Character Education assembly and "Family Time" in p.m.

- Dec. 15 Christmas Concert at Southminster United Church 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Bingo Activity for students in the gym
- Dec. 16 Grade 4 classes to NS Arena for skating 9:00-11:45 a.m.
- Dec. 19-23 Christmas Caroling in the gym 8:30-8:50 a.m.
- Dec. 20 **Spirit Day: Dress Like Christmas** (Assembly at 8:30 a.m.)
- Dec. 22 Grades 1 & 2 skating at NS Arena in p.m.
- Dec. 22 Grade Five classes swimming at Max Bell Pool in p.m.
- Dec. 23 Grade 3 Skating 9:30-10:30 a.m. at NS Arena
- Dec. 23 Last day of classes for 2011!

- Jan. 9 First day of classes for 2012!
- Jan. 17 Sports Dress Up Day! (Assembly at 12:45 p.m.)
- Jan. 18 *School Council meeting 6:30 p.m. in the staff room*



2. Report Cards

- The purpose is to communicate in a formal way to parents about the progress of their child. This should be only one form of communication between home and school.
- Teachers are using an "electronic" version of the report card
- Report cards include these basic ingredients:
 - i. Personal Growth
 - ii. Attendance
 - iii. Effort
 - iv. Achievement



3. Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

- **Kindergarten** parent/teacher interviews will take place on November 23rd and 24th. As a result, there will not be kindergarten classes for students those two days.
- **Grades 1-5** interviews will take place on November 24th in the afternoon and evening, and the 25th in the morning (no classes on Thursday and Friday).
- Take time to review the report cards and set goals with your child/teacher!
- Celebrate! So often we look first at all the things that need improvement, without celebrating progress that's been made!
- **NOTE: Parents will be able to "book" their times on-line through a software program we purchased. This worked extremely well last year!**



4. Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI)

- Our staff continues to work on our AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) project.
- The project is structured around three pillars (common to all schools in our district): differentiated instruction, assessment for learning, and 21st century classroom.
 - i. *Differentiated instruction* is the process of ensuring that what a student learns, how the student learns it, and how the student demonstrates what they have learned is a match for that student's readiness level, interests, and preferred mode of learning.
 - ii. *Assessment for learning* refers to all those activities undertaken by teachers -- and by their students in assessing themselves -- that provide information to be used as feedback to modify teaching and learning activities.
 - iii. *The 21st century classroom* refers to a new and innovative approach to education. The new classroom will exist wherever the student happens to be, it will be an environment that combines traditional tools with embedded technologies.

5. Co-curricular Activities

- Our school has a number of activities either taking place, or on the horizon, for students outside of class. A few examples are:
 - i. Grades 4/5 before school basketball
 - ii. Grade 5 Floor Hockey
 - iii. Various book clubs
 - iv. Junior Choir
 - v. Grades 4/5 choir; Grade 5 hand bells
 - vi. After School Skating
 - vii. Dance Club



6. Artist in Residency Program

- Our school has booked "Clay for Kids", an "Artists in Residence Program" to work with our students in January and February of 2012.
- Thank you to the School Council for assisting in sponsoring this art activity! It's a great way to supplement an already strong fine arts program at our school.

7. 2012 Excellence in Teaching Awards

- Over the past few years a number of MMH teachers have been nominated for this important recognition of what they do each and every day for the students at Mike Mountain Horse.
- Mr. Bryant has more information if you are interested.



8. Lethbridge School District No. 51 News

- The annual organizational meeting of the Lethbridge School District was held on October 25. The trustees re-elected current Chair, Gary Bartlett and current Vice Chair, Keith Fowler, to the respective positions for the 2011/12 year. Gary Bartlett is entering his eleventh year as a trustee, and has been the Board Chair for eight years. Keith Fowler is beginning his eighth year as a school board trustee and has served as Vice Chair for six years. Following the election of chair and vice-chair, trustees volunteered to serve as Board representatives on a total of 23 committees, including the newly formed Community Engagement Committee. The Board will be seeking two community representatives for the committee, which will provide suggestions to the Board to support its initiatives to listen to all stakeholders. Interested persons can contact Superintendent Barry Litun (403.380.5301) for more information.
- The Lethbridge School District Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to allocate \$1.2 million to District schools. The additional funds were received from the provincial government as a reinstatement of grants that were reduced or eliminated in the spring budget. Approximately 60% of the funds that were eliminated in the spring were reinstated, as the new funding only extends to the end of the government's fiscal year of March 31, 2012. Board Chair Gary Bartlett expressed appreciation for the additional funding, however cautioned that there has not been a commitment by the province to extend the grants beyond next March. He also explained that since the District had been using school and District reserves the past two years, the additional funding was approximately 25% of what would have been required to reinstate all the staffing positions that were reduced in the District in the current year. Individual schools will make decisions as to how best support the students in their schools. This will involve adding additional teachers, education assistants or a combination of both. The District will use approximately \$180,000 of the additional funding to support teaching positions that have been put into place since the beginning of this year and to add support to some kindergarten classes. District kindergarten enrolment increased by 98 students over last year.
- The Lethbridge School District Board of Trustees received the official September 30th enrolment report at its October 25th meeting. The total number of students attending District schools from pre-school to grade 12 is 8751, the highest enrolment in the 126 year history of the District. Highlights included an increase of 98 students in the kindergarten program, a total of 221 students in pre-school programs, and an increase of close to 200 students in the District's traditional high schools in the past two years.
- The Board of Trustees received a donation from the Kinette Club of Lethbridge to support the Fast Forward high school completion project. Fast Forward is an initiative that began in January, 2010 and involves contacting students who have left school but who have not completed a high school diploma. The proactive contact and supplemental supports put into place have assisted over 40 students either complete the requirements for a diploma or meet the requirements for enrolment in a post-secondary program. The donations will be used to support students who are too old to qualify for funding for high school courses, but who wish to complete the diploma requirements.

9. Thank You!

- Thanks to the team of volunteers for their great work with the school magazine subscription fundraiser and the FundScrip gift card program! Way to go!
- Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedules to support your child's school experience!

