

Principal's Report School Council February 8, 2012



1. Upcoming Events

- February 8 Winter Walk Day: School-wide winter walk at 1:30 p.m.
- February 8 **School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the staff room**
- February 10 School Based Staff Learning Day: No classes for students
- Feb. 13-17 Clay for Kids (Part Two!)
- Feb. 13-17 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- February 14 Spirit Assembly at 12:30 p.m. (Dress in Red!)
- February 15 Steve Harmer: Motivational Magic (9:00-10:00 a.m.)
- February 20 Family Day --- No School
- Feb. 21-22 Family Day Break – School Closed
- Feb. 23-24 Teachers Convention: No school for students
- February 29 Pink Shirt Day
- February 29 Grade Five Curling begins

- March 5 No Kindergarten classes
- March 8 Healthy Schools Expo (hosted by MMH)
- March 9 Report cards sent home
- March 14 **School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the staff room**

2. Staff First Aid Training

- Our school district has a policy in place that requires schools to have a minimum number of trained “first-aiders”. Our school far exceeds these minimum numbers as staff are participating in workshops in the evening and weekends. Your children are in very capable hands.



3. Early Literacy at MMH

- Ms. Elizabeth Nevels and Mrs. Anouschka Van Shaik are working with a number of our grade one and two students this year. This is an amazing program to help children who need that extra little boost in the area of literacy!



4. Before School Basketball and Floor Hockey

- Grades 4 and 5 students have been working up a sweat playing basketball first thing in the morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students in those grades that wished to participate were placed on teams for a round robin play in the mornings.
- Mr. Platt and Miss Prunkl are looking after the grade 5 floor hockey on Mondays and Wednesdays. There is great action going on in our gym!



5. FINS (Fish in Schools) Program

- MMH is one of a handful of schools across Alberta selected to participate in the “Fish in Schools (FINS) project. Mrs. Burke and her class will “raise” fish in their classroom from the egg stage to the fingerling stage that will eventually be released into Nicholas Sheran Lake later this spring. It’s exciting for the students in our school to view the “stages of a lifecycle” so easily.
- The eggs have been delivered and are doing well so far.

6. Random Acts of Kindness

- This is a week when acts of kindness towards others are really stressed by staff and students. Perhaps as families, you too can make a concerted effort to perform some acts of kindness for someone.
- Our staff is delivering fruit and veggie trays to other schools on the west side as part of our random acts of kindness event.



7. Grade 5 Curling

- All three grade five classes will be participating in a series of curling lessons at the Lethbridge Curling Club in March. Teachers are always amazed at the student’s progress and appreciation for that great sport!



8. School Growth

- Our school’s “catchment area” (**west of University Drive and north of Whoop Up Drive**) is really growing fast!
- Growth on the west side of the river is really putting stresses on schools. While we are trying to create classroom space, other areas like the gym, library, music and art rooms are being stretched. Discussions are already taking place within our district to remedy some of these concerns.
- Our school district has applied to Alberta Education for four additional schools in Lethbridge. The top priority at this time is another elementary school on the “north end” of the west side to relieve some pressure off of Mike Mountain Horse.
- There is a new subdivision planned just west of “West Highlands” to include over 1000 more homes. Under our current school boundaries, children in this subdivision would be directed to Mike Mountain Horse.

9. Alberta Education Survey

- Alberta Education administers the “*Alberta Education Accountability Pillar*”, an on-line survey of grade 4, 7 and 10 students, as well as their parents and teachers to see how things are going provincially.
 - i. If you receive a parent survey, please take the time to complete and return it. We appreciate your input!
 - ii. Students and teachers have completed their surveys on-line
 - iii. We hope to receive the results in late spring.



10.100 Day Celebration

- The Grades 1 and 2 classes will celebrate their “100th day of school” on Friday, February 17th. There will be a lot of activities that take place in the gym, all revolving around the number 100! Thanks to the staff and many parent volunteers who will make this a great event!

11. A look at Next Year!

- **Seventy-four** kindergarten students have already registered at MMH for the fall of 2012 so far! Projections estimate that we may have as many as 105 students registered for kindergarten next year.
- At the present time, we are hoping for 5 kindergarten programs, 5 grade one classes (*1 additional class from our current number*), 4 grade two classes, 5 grade three classes (*1 additional class from our current number*), 4 grade four classes, and 4 grade five classes (*1 additional class from our current number*), for the fall. I believe our projections to be quite conservative, as our area of the west side is seeing astronomical growth.
- The focus of our district’s recent “Town Hall Meeting” on February 6th was “*What activities can trustees be involved in to best engage the community in order to receive feedback or suggestions?*”

12. 2012 – 2013 School Year Calendar

- The Board traditionally approves the school year calendar for the following year in January. Circumstances dictate that the start date for staff, plus scheduling of professional learning dates, parent teacher interviews, Remembrance Day break and Family Day break be presented for the Board’s consideration at a later meeting.
- The Board did approve the following for the 2012/13 school year calendar:
 - i. the first day of classes for students will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012;
 - ii. Christmas break will be from Monday, December 24, 2012 to Friday, January 4, 2013. The final day of classes prior to the break will be December 21, 2012 and classes resume on January 7, 2013.
 - iii. Easter break will be from Friday, March 29 – Friday, April 5, 2013. Classes resume on April 8, 2013.
 - iv. The final day for students will be Thursday, June 27, 2013.
 - v. The final day for staff will be Friday, June 28, 2013.

13. Thank You’s

- Thank you for sponsoring the hot lunches. The students really enjoy these!
- Thanks to those who represented our school at the District’s “Town Hall Meeting” on February 6th and lending your voice to the discussion and our District’s future.
- Thanks for being at the meeting tonight!

