

December 1, 2009

Issue 4



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Principal's Message From the Desk of Mr. Kyle

December is shaping up to be a busy month for us at Ralston School! We have a number of things happening at the school this month for our students to look forward to throughout December.

We are aware of the fact that most operations on base are shutting down December 11th, so we are planning Christmas functions earlier. Christmas functions include:

- **Kindergarten Christmas Play:** Tuesday, December 8th in the school gym at 1:30 p.m.
- **Grades 1-9 Christmas Fun Day/Carols:** Friday, December 11th at the school in the morning and Ralston Theatre at 1:00 p.m.

Kindergarten will be performing some songs for parents at the MFRC on December 7th at 1:30 p.m. On December 11th each classroom will host Christmas Craft activities for parents and their children from grades K-6. The grades 7-9 will be building gingerbread houses in the school gym. After lunch, we head to the Ralston Theatre for some songs from our School Choir, conducted by Mrs. Jarvill, and then we will all join in some Christmas Carol singing together.

Also in December, our junior high students will begin curling as part of their Physical Education and P.E. Options Course. We bus the students into the Redcliff Curling Club to learn more about one of our favorite winter sports. Many thanks to BATUS for supplying us with bussing as it does save us a great deal!

Our next **Term Assembly will be on Friday, December 4th**, and we will be presenting awards for Citizenship, Honor Roll and Attendance to our students. All the names of students receiving recognition for a reporting period of perfect attendance will be entered in a grand prize draw at the end of the year for a new bicycle. Attendance is key to student achievement, and this is just one of the ways we are trying to encourage our students in this regard.

Thanks to everyone for making the time to attend our Remembrance Day ceremony. This is one of our most prominent school assemblies as most of our students have some connection to the military. The students and staff worked very hard to prepare songs and poems to honor those who serve, and we were very proud of their efforts. Special thanks to School Council for the coffee and treats following the assembly as well.

We also have a special treat on the last day! We have booked horse drawn hayrides for the last day again this year. Classes will be starting their rides at 9:00 in the morning, so please feel free to stop by and share in the fun!

The above are just a few of the things we are doing at Ralston School to liven up the atmosphere for our students. Don't forget, parents are welcome to attend all special events and assemblies as well. See you soon at Ralston School!

To receive this newsletter electronically please log on to our website @ www.ralstonschool.ca and subscribe to newsletters.

Special points of interest:

- Kindergarten Xmas Concert December 8th at 1:30.
- Grades 1-9 Xmas Concert December 11th at 1:00 .

Coming Events

- Grade 7, 8 & 9 curling in Redcliff on Wednesday, December 2nd.
- Kindergarten Christmas Concert “Humph the Camel” on Tuesday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m.
- Safety City visiting Kindergarten on Wednesday, December 9th.
- Grade 7, 8 & 9 curling in Redcliff on Wednesday, December 9th.
- School Christmas concert on Friday, December 11th at 1:00 in the Ralston Theatre.
- Hot Beef on a Bun on Friday, December 11th. Please return forms by Friday, December 4th.
- Grade 6-9 Dance on Friday, December 11th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. \$5.00 admission fee. Music by “Night Magic”.
- Grade 7, 8 & 9 curling in Redcliff “Fourth Annual Ralston School Bonspiel” on Wednesday, December 16th.
- Last day of school is on Friday, December 18th. We will be having hay rides and a special visit from Santa. Dismissal is at 2:00 p.m.
- School resumes on Monday, January 4th.



Christmas gift suggestions:

*To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.*

Looking for somewhere to donate your Canex points? We would greatly appreciate if you would donate them to our school!!



Copies of our Annual School Plan are available at the School Office.

Notice for Military Parents

If you know in advance that you will be leaving Ralston School, could you let Mrs. Squires at the school office know as soon as you can and she will have your children’s documents ready to send along with you.

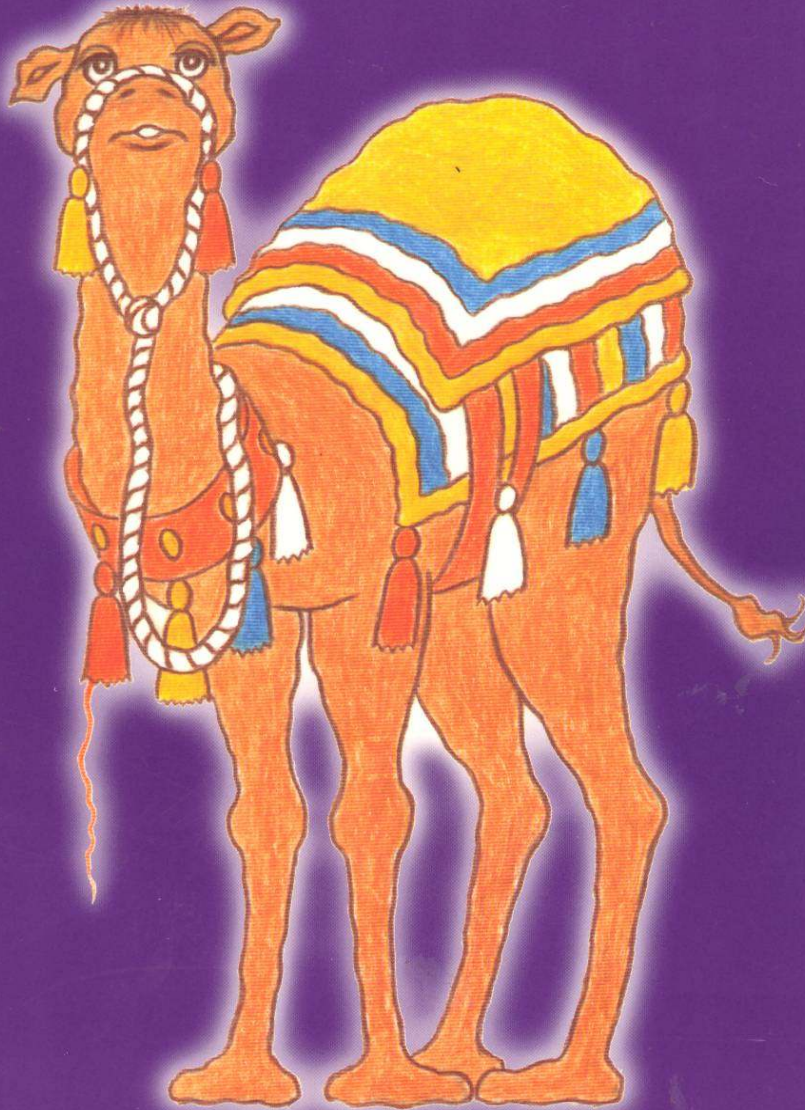
PARENTS

It is extremely important that student information be kept up-do-date. If you have moved recently or changed any personal information please let the school office know as soon as possible so we may update our records.

Thank you very much!

Humph the Camel

An amusing new nativity musical by Niki Davies



Edited by Mark and Helen Johnson

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 1:30

RALSTON SCHOOL GYM

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!!

E-mail Contacts

Principal

brad.kyle@prrd.ab.ca

Secretary

evelyn.squires@prrd.ab.ca



Family School Liaison Worker

Tanya Ridgedale, our Family School Liaison Worker is available for counseling services. Tanya is a social worker whose role is to provide counseling, referral, liaison and advocacy for students and/or their families who are experiencing difficulties. Students or families may choose to see Tanya about family, school or personal issues. Tanya is available at the school on Monday's. Appointments can be made by contacting your child's teacher or by calling Tanya directly at 502-2126.



Merry Christmas!!!!!!

REMINDERS

Sign Out Sheets at Office – Please remember that students must sign out at the office if they are leaving before the regular end of the school day.

Bus Students – If students will be leaving school early, or going home another way, they must let the bus driver know in advance.

Inclement Weather Policy & School Closure – Schools will close for the day if the temperature, or wind-chill, reaches -40 Celsius or weather conditions are deemed hazardous. School closure will be announced on BFBS Radio, CHAT and MY96 Radio as well. Please see information enclosed with newsletter for more information.

PROLONGED ABSENCES

At Ralston School our mission statement is, "Preparing young minds; for the challenges of tomorrow." Therefore, daily attendance and punctuality is a work ethic that is encouraged, rewarded, and required for success toward achieving our goal.

We understand due to the military nature of our school that student absences cannot be avoided. To ensure the academic success for our students we ask all parents to contact the school secretary and report all absences at least one week prior to leaving. We also ask that students make arrangements with teachers, at least 3 days prior to their departure, to collect all assignments. It is important for parents and students to understand many classroom teachings cannot be recreated once missed.

Upon returning from an absence, students must make arrangements to hand in missed work. Work not completed in a timely manner will not be accepted. Teachers are not obligated to provide make-up work for unexcused absences or students not collecting their work.



Curling for Grades 7, 8 and 9

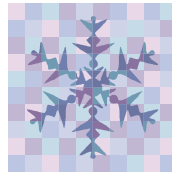
The junior high students will be going to the Redcliff Curling Club to learn about the game of curling. This is part of the PE program so the students are required to participate. The dates we will be going are:

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009

Wednesday, December 9th, 2009

Wednesday, December 16th, 2009

The students will board the bus at noon on the 2nd and the 9th and eat their lunch on the bus. We will arrive at the rink at approximately 12:45 and will depart at approximately 2:20. On the 16th we will be boarding the bus at 9:00 am for the fourth annual Ralston Cup Bonspiel. We will be spending the day at the curling rink and having our lunch there as well.



Cold Weather Tips

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- *Cover exposed skin to prevent frostbite.**
- *Wear several layers of lightweight warm clothing so you can adjust to changing conditions.**
 - *Since most body heat is lost through your head, always wear a hat.**
 - *Outer garments should be tightly woven, waterproof, and hooded.**
 - *Mittens keep hands warmer than gloves with fingers.**
 - *Wear waterproof insulated boots.**
 - *Cover your face and mouth with a scarf or knit mask.**
 - *Change out of wet clothing as soon as possible.**
- *Shivering is one of the first signs of losing body heat. Persistent shivering is an important signal to go indoors.**

Weather Issues: School In-Days and School Closure

Living in the Canadian Prairies can present some unique challenges when it comes to winter weather. While the Medicine Hat area is not known for particularly harsh winters, we do have the occasional day when it is cold or stormy for students to go outside, or we may even have the odd day when school must be closed for the safety of all.

In Days at School

While it rarely gets lower than -20 Celsius for long, schools in the Medicine Hat area have students take outdoor breaks down to -20 degrees Celsius. We follow the same criteria in Ralston School, but we naturally use our discretion on day to day basis if the wind comes up or it just “feels too cold” as well.

School Closure due to Weather

The school may close due to cold weather, dangerous driving conditions due to extreme weather or a combination of both. The important things to remember are:

- School Closure will be announced on BFBS Radio, MY 96 Radio and CHAT 94.5 the morning of the closure around 7:00 am.
- The bus driver should contact you by phone if your child takes the bus to school, and the bus is not running.

Once school starts, we stay open until the end of the day at regular time regardless of the changes in weather.

If they predict poor weather the next day, we usually send a note home reminding people to listen carefully to the radio the next morning. We try to get the closure on the radio before, or at 7:00 a.m. but we cannot control the radio announcers and sometimes they make it by 7:00 a.m. and sometimes they don't.

The window to notify is rather tight as the policy does not let Principals close schools until 6:30 a.m. officially and then every school in the area is trying to close at the same time. We do our best and thank you for your cooperation in advance.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Parent Council Meeting at 7:00 at Ralston School.	2 Grades 7-9 Curling in Redcliff	3	4	5
6	7	8 Kindergarten Christmas Concert "Humph the Camel" at 1:30.	9 Grades 7-9 Curling in Redcliff	10	11 Grades 1-9 Christmas Concert at the Ralston Theatre Hot Beef on a Bun Grades 6-9 Dance	12
13	14	15	16 Grades 7-9 Curling in Redcliff	17	18 Sleigh Rides! Visit from Santa! LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

