

February 1, 2012



Principal's Message From the Desk of Ms. Carlson



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

Happy Valentine's Day! We have reached the 100 day mark. This means that we are half way through our school year already. Please check the Calendar of Events on the website as there are many things coming up and all necessary changes to planned events are updated on this calendar.

Parent Council has planned a fundraiser for the school. Tickets are available for a draw on a Valentine's Day Hamper (valued at \$180.00). Tickets are being sent home for purchase this week. This will be a wonderful "Sweetheart" package that will provide an evening of entertainment and some treats and sweets for you and your special someone.

At our Parent Council meeting, we discussed snow removal as this was an issue during the second and third weeks of January. The school has now been placed as a priority on the SNIC (Snow and Ice Clearance) program and this should alleviate the problem of snow drifts on the paths and school staff trying to manage the removal of snow. Thank-you to the community members that assisted us getting this situation resolved. Please feel welcome to join our next Parent Council meeting. It is on Tuesday, February 28th @ 6:30 pm.

Prairie Rose School Division reviews three schools each year and last year Ralston School was part of the School Review process. The school review was a very positive experience for Ralston Staff and the implementation of action items implemented throughout the last year in response to recommendations were shared with the Board of Trustees. The Ralston School review document is available for viewing on the Prairie Rose School Division website.

Parents interested in volunteering at the school are invited to contact Mrs. Gruning (Grade 3 teacher), as she is hoping to have 8 volunteers for the children to make Pysanka Eggs on March 16. We have asked staff members from the Medicine Hat Interpretive Center to lead our students in this activity.

Parent wishing to get some physical activity and some fresh air may join us on our Winter Walk. We will leave the school at 11:40 am on February 8 and return at noon for lunch. The students may wish to enjoy some hot apple cider a granola bar with their lunch when they are done their walk.

The school sent 20 2kg boxes of school supplies to Afghanistan. Thanks to all the students, parents and staff that donated to this worthy endeavor. Also, Congratulations to the Teskey family as they won the draw for the one week condo accommodation donated by Mr. Spiers.

cont.....

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Dare to Care Bullying Program on Friday, February 3rd.
- Spirit Week from February 13th to February 17th
- NO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 20th—24TH INCLUSIVELY

Coming Events

- Dare to Care Parent Night on Thursday, February 2nd from 4:00-6:00 at the school.
- Dare to Care Bullying program on Friday, February 3rd all day at the school.
- Winter walk on Wednesday, February 8th for Reception to Grade 6.
- Ski Trip for Grades 7-9 on Wednesday, February 8th.
- Spirit week from February 13th to 17th. See Page 4 for more details!!
- Science Olympics on Friday, February 17th. See Page 3 for more details!!
- Subway day on Friday, February 17th.
- February Break from Monday, Feb 20th to Friday, February 24th.
- Parent Council meeting on Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m.
- Report Cards being sent out on Friday, March 9th.

To receive the Prairie Rose School Division newsletter electronically, send a blank email with "newsletter" in the subject line to: lyle.roberts@prrd.ab.ca.

Student Council Fundraising Activities

The Student Council will be selling cookies and cupcakes during the week of February 13th to 17th during morning recess and lunch recess. For \$1.00 you can buy either 1 cupcake or 2 cookies.

The Student Council will also be selling raffle tickets during the week of February 13th to 17th for a Valentines Cake to be drawn on the morning of February 17th. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00.

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 we will have your children's documents ready to send along with you.



PARENTS

It is extremely important that student information be kept up-to-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!

*"Laugh often,
Dream big,, Reach
for the Stars!"*

E-mail Contacts
 Principal
carol.carlson@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 Wednesday afternoons and all day on Thursday's. Appointments can be made by contacting your child's teacher or by calling Tanya directly at 502-2126.

“Trust yourself. You know more than
 you think you do.”



SCIENCE OLYMPICS **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**

Parents are welcome to attend the school to observe your child's class Science Experiment or Science Olympics between the following times:

Reception to Grade 3	10:30-12:00 in the classrooms.
Grades 4-6	Science Olympics in the gym from 9:00-10:15
Grades 7-9	Science Olympics in the gym from 10:30-11:45



SPIRIT WEEK ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 13TH—FEBRUARY 17TH

- Monday, February 13th Dress like a teacher day.
- Tuesday, February 14th Dress as a valentine day.
- Wednesday, February 15th Opposite day.
- Thursday, February 16th Twin day.
- Friday, February 17th Jersey day.

Cookies and cupcakes will be for sale all week during morning and lunch recess. \$1.00 will buy one cupcake or two cookies. Tickets for the valentines cake draw will also be available for \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. The draw will be made on the morning of February 17th!!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



Valentine Gift Basket Draw

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Please complete the draw tickets, enclose payment and return to the school by Monday, February 13th. The draw will take place at the end of that day!!

Name: _____ Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Holiday Calendar for the 2012-2013 School Year

School Opening Date:	August 29, 2012 Student (Full Day)
Labour Day	September 3, 2012 (School Closed)
Thanksgiving Day	October 8, 2012 (School Closed)
Remembrance Day	November 12, 2012 (School Closed)
Christmas Break	December 22, 2012 to January 6, 2013 (inclusive)
February Break	February 18, 2013 –February 22, 2013 (inclusive)
Easter Vacation	March 29, 2013—April 7, 2013 (inclusive)
Victoria Day	May 2, 2013 (School Closed)
School Closing	June 27, 2013 – Last Day for Students (Full Day)

****Other scheduled dates such as professional development and school improvement days are still subject to review and approval later this spring****

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.

ACCOUNTABILITY SURVEYS

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 and 7 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4 and 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.

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 please complete an absence request form if you will be gone for 5 days or more. If you will be gone less than 5 days a letter should be sent to the school principal indicating the days your child(ren) will be absent. 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.



Administrative Procedures Handbook

A304

School Attendance

1. Regular attendance is critical to successful completion of the school year. A student who attends classes regularly to complete assignments, to learn basic concepts, to apply theory and to gain practical experience will achieve success.
2. Regular attendance is the responsibility of the parent and student.
3. In all cases of absences parents are requested to phone the school prior to the start of school on the day the student is going to be absent. A note certifying the specific reason for the absence may be presented to the school when the student returns.
4. In the event of illness and in special or emergent circumstances, the principal will deal with student non-attendance on an individual basis.
5. The School Act, Section 7(b) states that a student shall attend school regularly and punctually.

Guidelines

1. Attendance of each student will be recorded daily.
2. Principals are responsible for keeping parents informed of student absences from class.
3. When a student is absent for 10% of the possible classes in a year or semester, the principal will send a letter to the parents identifying the problem. Examples of interventions that could occur at this point include scheduling a meeting with the student and the parents, engaging the Family School Liaison Worker or the school counselor. An assessment for possible learning difficulties might also be appropriate.
4. When a student is absent for 15% of the possible classes, he/ she will be required to complete a school attendance contract. This will outline the consequences of continued absence from class.
5. When a student is absent for 20% of the possible classes, he/she may be put on an alternative program. This may include the following:
 - a. Referral to the Attendance Board for a student under 16 years of age.

We have two events for parents coming up in the immediate future. The first opportunity is the “Dare to Care” Parent session that runs on February 2 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to learn about how to speak to their children about bullying behaviors and how to tell the difference between typical conflict and bullying behavior. On February 10 at 11:15 am, right before our Canspell Assembly, and at 2:30 pm, we will provide parent sessions on how to use the Ralston School “Links to Literacy” webpage.

Our teachers have been very busy learning how to maximize the use of our “Links to Literacy” web page that has been specifically designed for Ralston School by our Technology Specialist, Mr. Blemings. This web page can be accessed by students from anywhere and is organized by grade level to promote skill development and reinforcement opportunities. Students may use the various website programs to do extra reading, spelling, etc. Parents will find this site a benefit when students are unable to attend school, but want their child to still be able to access grade level work. Thank-you to our Ralston School teachers for all of their hard work in helping Mr. Blemings prepare these sites for our students.

Canspell (Spelling Bee) Results

Class	Contestant 1	Contestant 2
K-1 Mrs. Breneman	Nathan Bergseth	Keira Doig
K-1 Mrs. Herrell	Keaton Totton	Quincy McComeau
2 Mrs. Scrapper	Charlie Sweeney	Kiana Spaan
3 Mrs. Gruning	Aliyah Haigh	Amy Bal
4 Mr. Regehr	Hannah Cameron-Ross	Alex Parker
5 Mr. Spiers	John Wall	Jessie Lynch
6 Mr. Spiers	Ryan Doyle	Riley Morse
7 Mrs. Kraft	Niall Wright	Caia Gagnon
8 Mrs. Kraft	Owen Brice	Katelyn Fox

Prizes will be awarded at the February 10th Assembly @ 11:40 am.

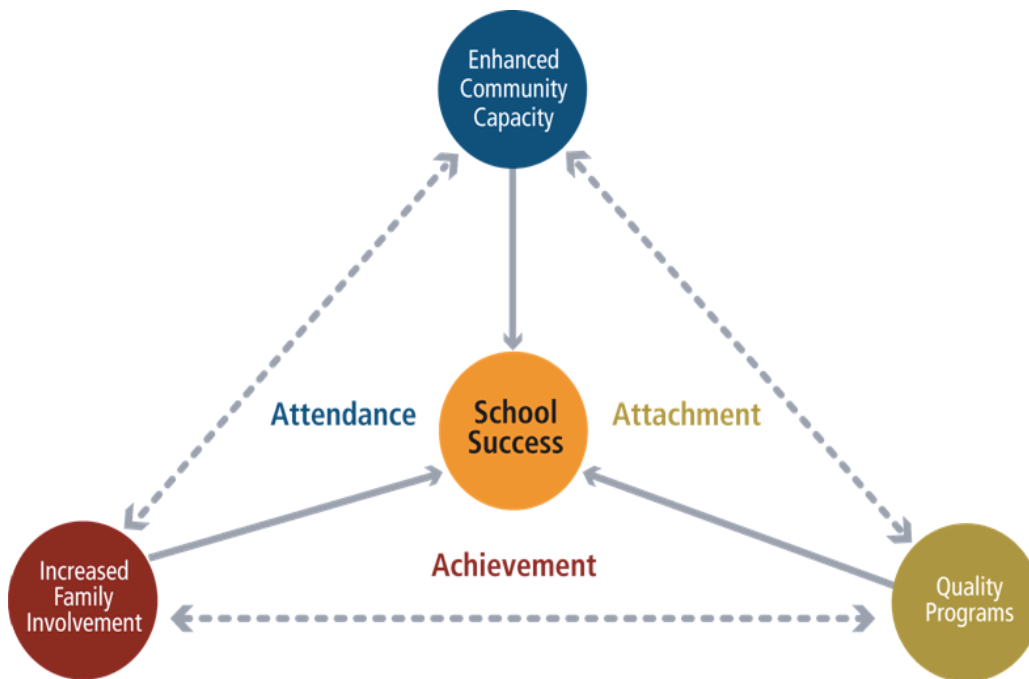
On February 25th, our Ralston School Spelling Bee Champ, Riley Morse, will be in Lethbridge, competing at the Regional Spelling Bee. Study Hard Riley!!!



Prairie Rose
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 8

Administrative Procedures Handbook

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- b. Meeting with the parents and the student to reach agreement on a mutually-acceptable alternative program.
 - c. Placement in the Beyond Walls School (for High School courses).
 - d. At-home study with Distance Learning programs.
 - e. Placement in an on-line program for home study using a computer.
6. If an agreement cannot be reached between the school, the parents and the student about a placement the parents have the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent.



Minister's Teleconference

With Parents

Parent representatives on School Councils are invited to participate in a conference call with the Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education to continue the discussion on priorities for Alberta's education system.

Parents play an important role in their child's learning and the Minister is interested in directly hearing their ideas and perspectives.

The call will begin at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 and will take approximately 1.5 hours. When participants dial in they will be greeted by a conference operator asking for the participant pass code, the person's name, and school. The Minister will open the conference call. He will make his remarks which will be followed by a question and answer session with callers.

All questions and responses will be heard by all participants and the Minister will answer as many questions as possible in the time allotted. If you experience any problems during the conference call, please stay on the line to speak to the operator.

Due to the number of telephone lines that are available, school council members are encouraged to assemble together and call in as a group. For parent groups participating on the call, please have one member register on behalf of the group.

To participate on the call, individuals and groups must register in advance online at <http://education.alberta.ca/apps/Registration/TeleConference/>.

A call in number and participant pass code will be provided to the representative by email once registration is complete.

If participants have any questions regarding the teleconference, please contact Maureen Melnyk, Education Manager, Learning Supports & Information Management, at maureen.melnyk@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-415-8324, or by calling toll free at 310-0000.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Dare to Care Parents Night at the School 4:00—6:00 p.m.	3 Dare to Care Bullying Program at the School all day.	4
5	6	7	8 Ski Trip for Grades 7-9 Winter Walk for Reception to Grade 6 @ 11:40	9	10 Canspell Awards Assembly at 11:40 a.m. Literacy Session for parents at 11:15 in the gym.	11
12	13 Dress Like A Teacher Day Cookies and cupcakes available for \$1.00 all week	14 Dress Like A Valentine Day Parent Council Gift Basket Draw Grade 6-9 Dance from Noon-1:00	15 Dress Opposite Day	16 Dress Like a Twin Day	17 Subway Day Wear your favorite Jersey Day Science Olympics (See Page 3 for details)	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25
26	27	28 Parent Council Meeting at 6:30 at the school	29			

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Young AB Book Society Author visit	8	9 Report Cards sent home today. Alberta Mental Health presentation to Grades 7-9	10
11	12	13 Parent/Teacher Interviews	14 Parent/Teacher Interviews	15	16 Subway Day	17
18	19	20	21	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL Ralston Badminton Tournament at Eagle Butte School	24 Ralston Badminton Tournament at Eagle Butte School
25	26	27	28	29	30 Division 3 Assembly at 2:15	31