

January 1, 2010

Issue 5



Box 59  
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### *Principal's Message From the Desk of Mr. Kyle*

We hope that everyone had a great Christmas break and has returned refreshed and full of enthusiasm for the remainder of the school year!

We were very happy to see the excellent turnout for our Family Christmas Day at the school and our Christmas Carols in the Ralston Theatre the last day of school. We even had some parents join their children on the Hayrides as well. We, of course, would like to thank the CFB Suffield Fire Department for providing transportation for Santa as well.

The New Year is off to a fast start. We will continue our theme of Citizenship for Character Education. We are always looking for our students to display traits consistent with this theme. Helping others, participating, being kind, being polite and waiting turns are among the things that make our students better citizens of our school. Please do not forget to look for the Citizenship insert in the newsletter monthly and return it with your child as all get a chance to pick a prize from my office.

Some things coming up this month are our grades 4-9 School Ski Trip on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and we will be looking at some ways to celebrate the coming Winter Olympics as well.

#### New Principal/Vice Principal – February 1<sup>st</sup>

I will be leaving Ralston School at the end of January for a position as a school superintendent near Brandon, Manitoba. My replacement has been selected by a committee of senior PRSD #8 administrators and the local school trustee, and her name is Mrs. Carol Carlson.

Mrs. Carlson has a wealth of experience in schools at a variety of grade levels. She also brings a very strong background in student programming to the school which will be a great benefit to our students. She will be attending our school assembly on January 19<sup>th</sup>, so you can say "hello" and get to meet her if you wish.

Welcome to Mrs. Carlson as the new principal!

Mr. Craven has been appointed Vice Principal effective February 1<sup>st</sup> as well. Mr. Craven is very familiar with our school and community and this will provide for continuity during this transition time. Congratulations to Mr. Craven!

I will certainly miss Ralston School and the unique blend of students and parents that we have as a result of our rural location and the affiliation with CFB Suffield and BATUS. I have very much enjoyed working with the various stakeholders in the community and really appreciate the assistance and support that the community lends to the school.

I hear from a number of past students and parents, on a regular basis, who grew very fond of our school and the school climate here, and I feel fortunate to have been able to be a part of this school's success in the past few years.

Ralston School has great kids, supportive parents and a dedicated teaching and support staff who care about the students in their charge. I know that I will be hearing great things about the school and all of you in the future!

Mr. Kyle

Principal, Ralston School

To receive this newsletter electronically please log on to our website @ [www.ralstonschool.ca](http://www.ralstonschool.ca) and subscribe to newsletters.

#### Special points of interest:

- Student Assembly on January 19th.
- Ski Trip for Grades 4-9 on January 14th.

## *Coming Events*

- Parent Council Meeting TBA..
- Ski Trip for Grades 4-9 on Thursday, January 14th. Forms sent home on Monday, January 4th, please return by Friday, January 8th with payment. Thank you.
- School Assembly on Tuesday, January 19th at 9:00. Everyone Welcome!!

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.

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

### *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!

**Evening News is where they begin with "Good Evening", and then proceed to tell you why it isn't!**

**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 Tuesday's. Appointments can be made by contacting your child's teacher or by calling Tanya directly at 502-2126.

Everyone makes mistakes. The trick is to make mistakes when nobody is looking!!

**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.

**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.

### **Study Tips for Students and Parents**

Children need to learn how to study since it is not a process that comes naturally to most. Students often assume that simply reading the material or talking about it once is “studying” and that is not the case.

Here are some tips to make studying a little easier:

1. Listen carefully to the teacher – make an effort to pay attention and ask questions if you don’t understand.
2. Remember what you hear – take your books home at night and review what you have learned quickly. The faster you do it, the more you will remember and the less you will have to CRAM latter.
3. For younger children – going over the alphabet, numbers with parents or reading or being read to on a regular basis is studying. These building blocks lay the foundation for future learning.

Study effectively for tests – Oxford Learning Propriety – SQRCRC.

S – Survey the headings, get the main idea first.

Q – Question yourself what you want to learn.

R – Read carefully for the detail.

C – Cover the work.

R – Recite what you read.

C – Check to see how well you have done.

### **Cold Weather Tips**

January 4th, 2010

**\*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.**



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Brad Kyle, Principal

**RALSTON SCHOOL - CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Dear Parents:

As you know, we have a Character Education Program that seeks to emphasize many things under the umbrella of CITIZENSHIP, and we would like to involve parents and families at home in emphasizing this effort as well. To this end, we extend an invitation for you to join us in stressing CITIZENSHIP by checking off what your child(ren) have done this month to be GOOD CITIZENS at home.

\*returned forms will be entered in a PRIZE DRAW for students!

**THIS MONTH I WAS A GOOD CITIZEN AT HOME BY:**

Helped with Chores at Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cleaned up Around the House/Yard \_\_\_\_\_

Kept My Room Neat \_\_\_\_\_

Shared My Toys/Books/Games with My Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_

Gave up Some of My Free Time to Help Someone Else \_\_\_\_\_

Helped to Keep My Community/School Clean (picked up litter) \_\_\_\_\_

Took Out the Trash for Mom/Dad \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Thanks for Participating!

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Welcome Back!!	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Grades 4-9 Ski Trip at Hidden Valley	15	16
17	18	19 School Assembly	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						