

June 1, 2009

Issue 10



Principal's Message From the Desk of Mr. Kyle

Box 59

Ralston, Alberta

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

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us! The month of June is very busy with many field trips and year end trips in store for our students. A number of our classes have various field trips planned and our junior high students will have their annual camping trip as well. Hopefully, the sunshine is here to stay!

At the end of every year, it is always a great time to look back at the highlights and improvements we had so that we can plan for the next year. We had a number of areas of success to acknowledge over the year starting with our Student Council.

This year, we had a number of students from grades 5-9 take more interest in planning activities and making the school environment more fun for our students. Some of the things that students are involved in are Playground Patrol, and we have begun organizing a student lead Conflict Management group to mediate minor issues on the

playground. Students from grades 5-9 will be trained in basic conflict management techniques and will help students resolve minor issues on the playground under the watchful eyes of our supervisors. This represents a great opportunity for students to exercise leadership skills and to contribute to the school community as a volunteer.

Our School Council was busy reorganizing and setting a clear direction in terms of fundraising. Often the frequency of new postings means that we have few council members who are with us for more than one year. The challenge is to bring new members into the fold and to seamlessly carry on with operations. This year our Members had numerous suggestions to streamline this process, and we have made great progress. We thank these parents for their dedicated effort and support throughout the year! Thanks to School Council for Burgers and snacks on Track and Field Day as well!

Our collaborative relationships with CFB Suffield and BATUS benefit the school in many ways. Support from both Canadian and BATUS commanders and personnel made our Remembrance Day Ceremony second to none, and events like our school Track and Field Day are enhanced by assistance from the military. We thank them for their unwavering support of our school!

Our music program was enhanced by the addition of a Key Boarding Lab with key boards supplied by our School Council. I am told that our music lab is one of the best in the school division, and we are very pleased with the results of this program. In fact, some of our students are performing at the Esplanade's Kaleidoscope of Arts this Saturday. Thank to Mrs. Duckmanton and her volunteers for making this program a great success!

Sadly, we must say goodbye to many of our students and parents as personnel rotate in both militaries. We wish everyone all the best in their new postings and welcome those coming to join us this summer. Have a restful summer break, and we extend an invitation to all those leaving to keep in touch with us via e-mail through our new school web site. All the best in the summer!

Coming Events

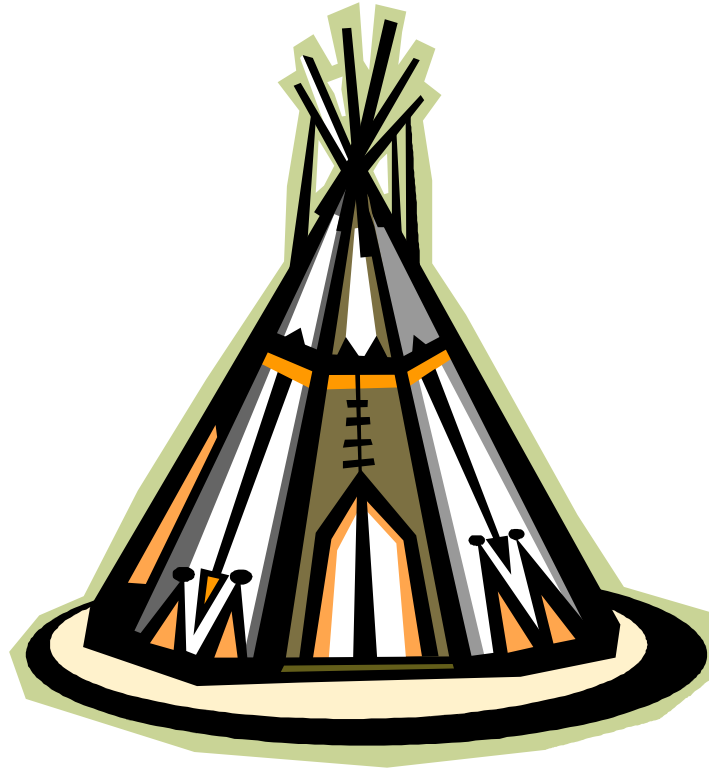
- Track and Field Day for Grades 1-9 on Friday, May 29th.
- Several Students from Grades 3/4/5 will be participating in the Kaleidoscope of Arts at the Esplanade on Saturday, May 30th starting at 2:00.
- Grade 9 Farewell on Friday, June 5th.
- Subway Day on Friday, June 5th.
- Anti-Gossip day on June 8th. See page 5 for more details.
- Junior High Camping trip on June 9th and 10th.
- Native Presentation on Friday June 12th from 1:00-2:00 at Fort Whoop-Up.
- The Student Union will be having a year-end BBQ on Friday, June 19th. Order forms to be sent home early in June.
- Grades 4-7 will be going to the Leisure Centre on Thursday, June 25th.
- Grades 8&9 will be going to Police Point Park on Thursday, June 25th.
- K-3 Awards on Thursday, June 25th at 9:00. Everyone welcome to attend.
- Grades 4-9 Award Assembly on Thursday, June 26th at 11:00. Everyone welcome to attend.
- Kindergarten Fun Day on Friday, June 26th at 9:00.

Library News

Please note that all library books must be back by Friday, June 12th.

June Achievement Test Schedule

June 16	Grade 3 Language Arts Achievement Part B Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement
June 17	Grade 6 Language Arts Achievement Part B Grade 9 Social Studies Achievement
June 18	Grade 3 Math Achievement Grade 6 Math Achievement Part B
June 19	Grade 9 Language Arts Achievement Part B
June 22	Grade 6 Science Achievement
June 23	Grade 9 Science Achievement
June 24	Grade 9 Math Achievement



NATIVE FESTIVAL

The school is hosting a Native Festival Day. There will be dancers, drummers and story tellers. The local native group will be raising a Tee-Pee.

A “not to be missed” experience for the children and parents. We will be offering refreshments and a raffle—so put the date on the calendar:

June 12th at 1:00p.m at Fort Whoop-Up

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS



FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL WILL
BE MONDAY, AUGUST 31ST



Registration for NEW students will take
place on Monday, August 24th and Tuesday,
August 25th from 9:00-12:00 at the school
office.

Grade Nine Farewell-Friday, June 5th



In standing with tradition, Ralston School will be hosting a farewell celebration for the grade nine class. The class, along with their families and teachers, will be attending a farewell barbeque and ceremony on Friday, June 5, 2009. The dinner will begin at 5:30 and will be served by volunteers from the grade eight class. At 7:00 pm the class will be hosting a dance for all students from grades 6 to 9. There will be a \$5.00 fee to attend the dance for students who are not in grade nine. A small concession for snacks will be available until 10:00 when the dance ends. I would like thank the parents who have offered their help, as well as, RSM Budd and the G-3 team who are providing tents for the event.

If you have any questions regarding the farewell, please contact myself, Mrs. Squires, or Mr. Kyle at the school.

Thanks,
Ms. Kennedy



STOP THE GOSSIP!



Gossip is defined as a rumor which specifically targets one individual and essentially only propagates within its friendship connections. Gossiping is common among children and adults, and it may seem like a harmless part of many every day conversations on the playground or over coffee. However, how fast and how far gossip can spread is unpredictable and the negative impacts on self esteem and friendships can be devastating.

Please help us **STOP THE GOSSIP!** and make our school community a better place by joining in our effort to curb gossip by participating in our **GOSSIP FREE DAY** on Monday, June 8th. Students will be participating in a number of activities to help curb gossip in our school community with the help of our school counselor, Mrs. Ridgedale. Please help us **STOP THE GOSSIP!**

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.

E-mail Contacts**Principal**

brad.kyle@prrd.ab.ca

Secretary

evelyn.squires@prrd.ab.ca



Please remember that areas around the school should not be used for walking your dogs. These are areas used by students at the school for their outdoor activities. This also refers to the baseball field. If you are using these areas **please remember to pick up after your dog.**

Ralston School Parent Council**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.

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:

Listen carefully to the teacher – make an effort to pay attention and ask questions if you don't understand.

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.

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.



Prairie Rose School Division
2nd Annual
Kaleidoscope of the Arts

Date: Saturday, May 30th

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Esplanade Theatre, Medicine Hat

- Artwork
- Pottery
- Sculpture
- Musical Performances
- Drama Presentations
- Digital Multimedia Showcase

Grade 6-9 June Exam Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 GRADE 6 SOCIAL GRADE 7 ENGLISH (A) GRADE 8 ENGLISH (A)	17 GRADE 9 SOCIAL GRADE 8 MATH GRADE 7 MATH GRADE 6 ENGLISH	18 GRADE 6 MATH GRADE 7 SOCIAL	19 GRADE 9 ENGLISH GRADE 8 SOCIAL	20
21	22 GRADE 6 SCIENCE	23 GRADE 9 SCIENCE GRADE 7 ENGLISH GRADE 8 ENGLISH (PART B)	24 GRADE 9 MATH GRADE 7 SCIENCE GRADE 8 SCIENCE	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Ralston School Environment Policy

We require a school environment that is inclusive of all in which an overall atmosphere of safety and well being prevails for all students and staff. To this end, we expect everyone in the building to conduct themselves in a manner that supports this objective. Essentially, we view discipline issues as either *Major or Minor Infractions*, and we deal with them accordingly. Our Environment Policy reflects a blend of education and accountability that seeks to improve future behavior and hold individuals accountable for their present day actions. It is the responsibility of our staff to protect the rights of all students in their education.

From time to time, students will break expected rules, consequences will be applied and education to improve future behavior undertaken. It is our goal that this will be done fairly and consistently, according to our Discipline Process. Good discipline is extremely important to the school program and environment. Without good discipline, the school cannot discharge its primary responsibility in the education of students. Without good discipline, students cannot realize their greatest opportunities for growth in a secure environment. In maintaining discipline, the school and home must be able to work together in cooperation to ensure that students having difficulties improve their behavior.

Please note that School Environment Policies dove-tail into School Divisional Policies and that any discipline issues, unresolved at the school level, can be appealed at the divisional level at the Office of the Superintendent.

Student in Good Standing Clause (Actions/Consequences)

(Our actions carry consequences, and it is critical that children learn that what they do affects others and themselves.)

All students are considered to be ***“In Good Standing”*** unless their actions put this in jeopardy. A student in “Good Standing” has access to all privileges and school activities (including extra-curricular) that all students enjoy.

Our actions carry consequences, and it is critical that children learn that what they do affects others and themselves. To this end, we have a ***“Student in Good Standing”*** clause. This simply means that, depending on the severity of the infraction, a student may lose certain privileges for up to 30 days following initial disciplinary actions taken. For example, a student who was disrespectful may not be able to attend a subsequent fieldtrip since they act as ambassadors for the school. In such a case, alternate assignments would be provided for the student to ensure that no educational opportunities were lost by the student.

In addition, further disciplinary infractions during a student's "Loss of Good Standing" may result in students being placed beyond the beginning of the "*Disciplinary Process.*"

Student Attendance/Student in Good Standing Clause

Flagrant disregard for attendance norms, as defined in PRSD #8 School Division Policy #304, may result in students being subjected to the provisions of the above "***Student in Good Standing Clause.***" This may result in students losing privileges to engage in a variety of school and extra-curricular activities.

Disciplinary Process (Please note the Differences Evident at the Various Grade Levels)

(Since younger children are often learning *Behavioral Norms*, discipline may often be more of an educational opportunity than at higher grade levels)

1. The general rule of conduct *across all grade levels* is that behavior (verbal or physical) that detracts from the safety, well-being, worth or opportunity to learn of self or others is not acceptable.

2. Discipline problems should normally be handled by the classroom teacher or supervisors on duty. It is expected that the teacher will involve the parents and administration in any disciplinary matters that proceed *beyond routine behavior* modification procedures.

3. Any time the Discipline Incident Report Form is used it is expected that the principal will contact the parents with a view to having them becoming involved in altering the undesirable behavior. It is expected that the classroom teacher will have contacted the child's parents before reaching the stage of completing a Discipline Incident Report Form

4. Students who persist in continuing with unacceptable behavior will be assigned *logical consequences* - either in or out of the classroom during class time or in an area removed from the other students at recess and noon breaks. *Except in the case of unacceptable behavior occurring at the conclusion of the day*, no timeouts, or other consequences should extend into the next day for students from Primary Grades.

5. Introducing students *to homework is a developmental process and expectations vary from grade to grade.*

HOMEWORK GRADES K – 3

(It is recognized that younger children must learn the importance of completing assigned tasks but that they must also receive outside break time commensurate with age level)

Students from K – 3 will receive small amounts of formal homework most often in the form of Reading Programs or Spelling Test lists. *The idea at this level is to introduce the concept of homework, so no after school detentions are allowed for students at this level for missed homework. Portions of noon hours are allowed to catch up on missed homework on occasion. One or two recesses but no more than two consecutive recesses are allowed as consequences for students from K – 3 per missed assignment.*

HOMEWORK GRADES 4 - 9

First Occurrence:

- Detention/Jr. High Monday Options Time to complete work -recess, noon, after school
- telephone parents/contact parents

Second Occurrence:

- Detention/Jr. High Monday Options Time to complete work -recess, noon, after school
- telephone parents/contact parents

Third Occurrence:

- Sent to Administrator – Detention(s) to complete work -recess, noon, after school
- telephone parents /Team Conference - Student, Parents, Teacher, Administrator

PLAGIARISM / CHEATING

- Both (all) students will be awarded “0” with no make-ups. Class(es) suspension(s)

BEHAVIOR

Minor Infractions (Classroom, Hallway or Outdoors)

First - verbal or nonverbal correction

Continued - removal to hallway/isolation in classroom/recess or noon detention

- responsible for work - call parents

Second Correction - recess or noon detention

- responsible for work - call parents
- detention / community service

Third Correction sent to office

- responsible for work/recess, noon detention(s) - call parents/ letter - class(es) suspension(s)

Major Infractions - Contravention of Code of Conduct

- Lockers are owned by the board and can be searched at any time.
- call parents/ letter- detention/community service

"In-School" suspension - "Out-of-School" suspension.

-Smoking & Tobacco – A213 - using or conspicuous possession

- report, suspension - repeat offenses-

-Violence – A210 - report to parents and superintendent

- Fighting - 3 day “out of school” suspension minimum

- Possession of an item considered a weapon - suspension – minimum involvement with authorities/internal supports/outside agencies as appropriate.

- Use of an item as a weapon - 5 day “out of school” involvement with authorities/internal supports/outside agencies as appropriate.

-Alcohol and Substance Abuse – A211

- suspected - segregated and parental contact -possible suspension

- possession - suspension and report to parents and superintendent

- repeated - suspension and recommendation for expulsion

DAMAGES

Student & Parents are responsible for the repairs and/or cleanup.

- Make repairs by self,

- Equivalent in community service

- Paying the cost of repairs

*Community service is defined as school or schoolyard clean up, and related school chores.

Students who incur Major Infractions will automatically be at the next level of consequence.

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Grade 9 Farewell Subway Day	6
7	8 Anti-Gossip Day	9 Junior High Camping Trip	10 Junior High Camping Trip	11 Grade 4 Ceramics	12 Native Pres- entation at For Whoop-Up.	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Year—End BBQ	20
21	22	23	24	25 K-3 Awards Day Grade 4-7 at Leisure Centre Grades 8/9 at Police Point Park	26 Junior High Awards Day Kindergarten Fun Day	27
28	29 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Dave Dennis Magic Show	30				