

Principal's Message From the Desk of Ms. Carlson

As we move into the month of June, there are many events scheduled at Ralston School. Among the many activities are field trips, various school-wide activities, and year end tests for our Grade 3, 6 and 9 students. The students and staff will be very busy during the month of June.

Box 59
Ralston, Alberta

The school year has almost come to a close. As I reflect upon the year, there are many people and groups who have contributed to the success of our students. Our parent council has been a group of dedicated individuals that have given their time and energy to contribute to school based and community events on behalf of the school. Their commitment to our students is greatly appreciated.

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Our parents, teachers, and school support staff have also given their time to ensure that our students have had access to a well rounded array of activities. Academics, drama, visual and musical arts, multiculturalism, athletics, second language opportunities, and character education are only a sampling of the types of programs and activities that have been offered this year. It requires energy, dedication and enthusiasm to ensure these opportunities are available and successful. Thank you for your support.

Thanks are also extended to our students. Each student that comes to Ralston School helps create the climate that we enjoy in our building every day. We have watched you grow academically, but also see the progress that our students make in so many other ways. Our students are the fabric of Ralston School and we are fortunate to have students who are respectful and hard working members of our school community.

cont.....

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

Special Points of Interest

- Achievement Test Schedule
- Grade 7 to Grade 9 Exam Schedule
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Budget Details

The pressure placed on the government over the last several weeks has worked. Attached to this newsletter you will find a statement from our Superintendent, outlining the details of some increased funding to Prairie Rose schools over the next two years. While this is very welcome information, it still falls short of what we were hoping for and will still require us to make some changes to how we operate our schools in Prairie Rose School Division. Division wide, these changes will entail staffing reductions, as well as decreased funding to schools, departments and programs.

Staffing changes

Ralston School is fortunate to have a committed group of staff members that provide our students with a rigorous academic program. Miss. May will be leaving Ralston School to move to Australia to continue her teaching career. This will be an exciting journey for Miss. May and we wish her all the best in her upcoming school year. Mr. Hawley, who has been teaching at Ralston School forever... ok, not forever...for 20 years...is retiring. Mr. Hawley will now have more time to spend with his first recently born grandchild. He will also, no doubt, be enjoying some painting and travel. It will be a different place here without Mr. Hawley as he has become a fixture at Ralston School. Best wishes to Miss. May and Mr. Hawley.

It is still too early to determine who will be joining us on staff for next year; however, we are confident that we will be able to bring talented professionals to our staff to further extend the learning and programming opportunities for our students next year.

Grade 9 Year Farewell

Our grade 9 Farewell is quickly approaching. On Friday, June 24, students in grade 9 will be participating in a Potluck and Dance. While it is a celebration of their time at Ralston School, it is also a celebration of what the future holds for each one of our Grade 9 students. We wish you all the best and hope you have fond memories of your time here. Good luck, Farewell and all the best in high school!!

Awards Day and Early Dismissal

Our Awards days this year will be on Monday June 27th for Division One students and Tuesday June 28th for Division Two and Three students. June 28th is also the last school day for students before they head off for summer holidays. At the conclusion of the assembly, after students receive their awards and their final report cards, they are welcome to go home with their parents. For those students who remain at the school, we will be dismissing students at 2pm.

Finally, please mark Wednesday August 31st on your calendar as the first day of school for students for next year. If any students are planning to move over the summer and will not be attending Ralston School in the fall, please contact the school so that we can make appropriate arrangements ahead of time.

On behalf of the staff and students of Ralston School, I would like to wish you all a fantastic summer holiday. Farewell to all of our grade 9 students who will be moving on to a new stage in their lives with high school. We wish you all the best. And, welcome to all of our new families and students that will be joining us for the first time next year. Ralston School is looking forward to having you become part of our school community. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and restful summer holiday.

Important Note: In order to prepare for exams, regular afternoon review classes will run for all Junior high students. This will help best prepare our students for this very busy time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at (403) 544-3535.

Ms. Carlson
Principal

Mr. Craven
Vice-Principal

918 - 2nd Avenue ● Dunmore, AB ● T1B 0K3●
Ph: (403)527-5516 Fax: (403)528-2264

May 30, 2011

To: All Staff
From: Doug Nicholls
Re: 2011-2012 Budget Update

As you are aware, the Minister of Education has informed us that he has reviewed our budget appeal and has made an adjustment to our initial allocation. Our position was always that we realized that Prairie Rose had to share the burden of a challenging provincial budget, but that our reduction was simply too harsh and unreasonable. We are pleased that he agreed with our position that the elimination of the Stabilization Grant had a tremendously negative impact on our division.

The Board and its administration would like to thank our students, staff, the Alberta Teachers' Association, School Councils, parents, interested community members, and our two MLAs Len Mitzel and Jack Hayden, for the support through this process. All groups helped spread our message that our students would suffer from greatly reduced staff numbers and resources. It is our belief that this combined effort made a difference and showed the Minister and Alberta Education officials that we were focused on students and we needed assistance.

Now that we are seeing an additional \$710,000, our focus will continue to be maximizing resources to our classrooms. The Administrative, Maintenance, and Transportation budgets will be balanced because of earlier Board decisions. Staffing is now our number one priority and Brad Volkman and Brian Andjelic have been working very hard to find the best fits for the open positions. Rather than 20 teaching positions being reduced, it appears the number will be somewhere between 10-12. Brian and Brad are in the process of reviewing support staff hours and once again, we will provide the most time the budget will allow. Those EA hours are not usually decided until the end of June and sometimes even into late August and this year will be no different.

All school divisions in Alberta have been affected by the grants provided to them and by escalating costs. With our new budget, we should be within the grant ranges of other jurisdictions in the province. While we will certainly be facing some adjustments, it is my belief that our situation will be workable and that our students will continue to receive quality programming that is comparable to anywhere in the province. I should also mention that the Minister has provided additional support for 2012-2013 school year while Alberta Education determines what is appropriate funding for rural systems that are sparsely populated. Our two MLAs have been vocal in their belief that this is critical for the long-term for our students and communities.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and ongoing focus on students. It is now time to look forward with increased optimism towards next year and beyond.



Doug Nicholls
Superintendent of Schools

DN:dn

Pc: Len Mitzel, MLA
Jack Hayden, MLA
Board of Trustees
Principals
Chris Kohlman, President, ATA Local
School Councils

Coming Events

- Kindergarten trip to Bow Island on Thursday, June 9th.
- Kindergarten Sports Day on Friday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m.
- Grades 1-5 Sports Day on Friday, June 10th at 9:00 a.m.
- Grade 4 Parents invited to help with craft on Tuesday, June 14th in the afternoon.
- Grade 2 Trip to Medicine Hat on Wednesday, June 15th.
- Taco in a Bag day on Friday, June 17th.
- Kindergarten Father's Day Breakfast on Friday, June 17th at 9:00 a.m.
- Calgary Philharmonic Society concert at the school on Friday, June 17th from 12:45 pm. to 1:30 p.m.
- Grade 6 Trip to Elkwater on Monday, June 20th.
- Grade 4-6 trip to Leisure Centre on Wednesday, June 22nd.
- Kindergarten trip to Echodale Farm on Wednesday, June 22nd.
- Grade 3 Trip to Calgary Zoo on Thursday, June 23rd.
- Grade 9 Farewell on Friday, June 24th.
- K-3 Awards Assembly on Monday, June 27th at 9:00 in the school gym.
- Grades 4-9 Assembly on Tuesday, June 28th at 9:00.
- Last day of school for students on Tuesday, June 28th.

Around the School Yard - Video Newsletter

Date: May 6, 2011

Please click on the link below to watch the latest version of the Prairie Rose School Division *Around the School Yard* video newsletter. Featured schools this month include New Brigden, Margaret Wooding and South Central High.

http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news_id=2692

The Prairie Rose Perspective - A Video Blog

From: Division Office

The latest edition of *The Prairie Rose Perspective* is now available online.

NEW - Link for May 13, 2011 - Edwin Parr - Scott Raible

http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news_id=2736

June Achievement Test Schedule

June 14	Grade 3 Language Arts Achievement Part B Grade 6 Social Studies Achievement
June 15	Grade 6 Language Arts Achievement Part B
June 16	Grade 3 Math Achievement Grade 6 Math Achievement
June 17	Grade 6 Science Achievement
June 22	Grade 9 Language Arts Achievement Part B
June 23	Grade 9 Science
June 24	Grade 9 Math Achievement
June 27	Grade 9 Social Studies

June 2011 Grade 7-9 Exam Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Exam Prep	10	11
12	13	14 Exam Prep	15	16 Exam Prep	17	18
19	20	21 Exam Prep	22 Grade 9 L/A Grade 8 Social Grade 7 Science	23 Grade 9 Science Grade 8 Math Grade 7 Social	24 Grade 9 Math Grade 8 Science Grade 7 L/A	25
26	27 Grade 9 Social Grade 8 L/A Grade 7 Math	28	29	30		

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

**FIRST DAY BACK TO
SCHOOL WILL BE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31st**

Parent Council

Parent Council will meet on June 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the school. Every effort is made to limit the meeting to one hour. Please make every effort to attend this meeting if you wish to be involved with parent council next year!

ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME!!

Should you have new business for council to consider, please put your ideas in writing and submit them at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Please feel free to contact us in person anytime. Debbie Morgan @ debbie_morgan@hotmail.com.

Concerns or suggestions can also be dropped off in the Parent Council mailbox in the office or on the website at www.ralstonschool.ca

Thank you for coming!!

Registration for NEW students will take place on the following days from 9:00-12:00 at the school office:

August 24th, 25th and 26th

Please remember to bring the following:

- Birth Certificate
- Copy of Visitor Visa (if applicable)
- School records from previous school



GIRLS AGES 3+

Join the coolest game on ice!!

Ringette Registration for 2011-2012 is at the Hockey Hounds Arena

Thursday, June 9th 6pm—9pm

Sunday, June 12 1pm—4pm

Monday, June 27 6pm—9pm

Ringette is ...Fun*Fitness*Friends*...Fantastic!!



LIBRARY NEWS

We are getting close to summer holidays and I would like to thank the students and parents for another great year in the library. I would like to encourage students to keep reading during the summer months. The Public Libraries in Medicine Hat and Ralston are well equipped to keep you reading all summer long.

The last day the library will be open will be on Tuesday, June 14th. All books must be returned by Friday, June 10th.

Also a big thank you to all the parents who donated books to the library. It was greatly appreciated!!!

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND WE WILL SEE YOU ALL IN
THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!!**

MRS. HANSEN

**The Medicine Hat SPCA
is proud to invite you
to an afternoon at the
Movies at the
MONARCH THEATRE**

Help the **SPCA**
help those who cannot help
themselves



Each year the Medicine Hat SPCA takes in approximately 2250 animals. It is the goal of the SPCA to reunite lost pets with their owners and to find forever homes for animals that have been abandoned. Funds raised go to support these and other initiatives including the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance Program and the Micro-chipping Program at the Medicine Hat SPCA.

**JUNE 19, 2011
3:00 PM**

Fun for the whole family!

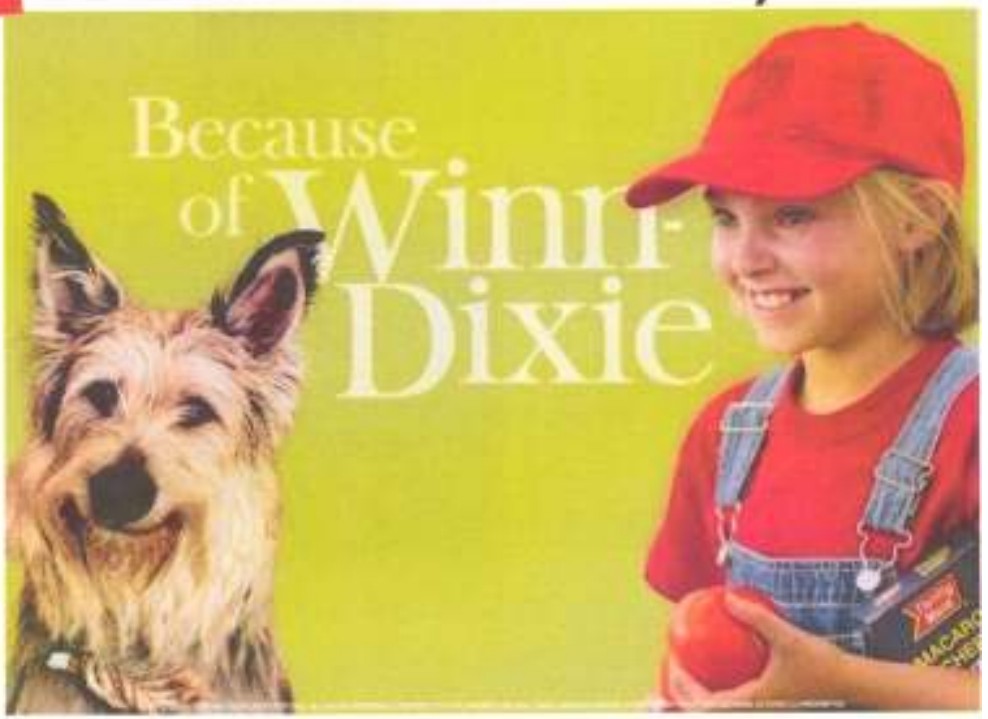
**Doors Open at
1:00pm**

Pre-Show Activities
Face Painting
Glow Sticks
Candy Bags
(Additional charges apply)

*Tickets can be purchased in advance
from the SPCA.*

Medicine Hat SPCA
55 Southwest Drive SW
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8E8

Phone: 403-526-7722
Fax: 403-504-5740
E-mail: contact@medhatspca.ca
Web: www.medhatspca.ca



A 10-year-old girl, abandoned by her mother when she was three, moves to a small town in Florida, with her father, a preacher. While there, she adopts a stray dog whom she names after the local supermarket where he was found. With her goofy pooch by her side, she meets an eclectic group of townspeople and rekindles an almost lost relationship with her father.



Social Skills Group

Summer 2011

Join other 'scientist' kids in the

FRIENDSHIP LAB!

We're investigating what it takes to be a good friend.

- Conversation basics
- Handling emotions
- Thinking about others – what are they thinking??!

July 11-15 or August 8-12
(identical content)

Come each day for 1.5 hours of exploration and fun!

Drama Art Experiments!

We'll have sensory breaks and a focus on strategy building.

For students with social skill needs who have just completed:

- Grades 1-3 (8:30-10 am)
- Grades 4-6 (10:30-noon)
- Grades 7-9 (1-2:30 pm)

Lead scientists will be Speech-Language Pathologists.



Taking registrations until June 21st. For more information or to register, call (403) 528-8175.

E-mail Contacts

Principal

carol.carlson@prrd.ab.ca

Secretary

evelyn.squires@prrd.ab.ca



Family School Liaison Worker

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.**

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 all day on Tuesday's and in the morning on Thursday's. Appointments can be made by contacting your child's teacher or by calling Tanya directly at 502-2126.

Ralston School Parent Council

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 later.

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.

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Kindergarten trip to Bow Island.	10 Kindergarten Track and Field Day at 1:00 Grade 1-5 Track and Field Day at 9:00	11
12	13 Parent Council Meeting at 6:30 at the School	14 Grade 3 English Exam Grade 6 Social Exam Grade 4 Craft with parent helpers.	15 Grade 6 English Exam Grade 2 Trip to Medicine Hat.	16 Grade 3 Math Exam Grade 6 Math Exam	17 Grade 6 Science Exam Taco-in-a-bag Kindergarten Fathers Day Breakfast at 9:00 Calgary Philharmonic Society at 12:45 in gym	18
19	20 Grade 6 Trip to Elkwater Kindergarten Trip to Echodale.	21	22 Grade 9 English Exam Grade 4-6 Trip to Leisure Centre in Medicine Hat	23 Grade 9 Science Exam Grade 3 Trip to Calgary Zoo	24 Grade 9 Math Exam Grade 9 Farwell	25
26	27 Grade 9 Social Exam K-3 Awards Assembly at 9:00	28 Grades 4-9 Awards Assembly at 9:00 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL :))	29	30		

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 School Picture Day	13	14	15 Meet the Teacher	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	