



March 1, 2011

Issue 7

## Principal's Message From the Desk of Ms. Carlson



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I always look forward to seeing the first blooms of spring. At the moment, it seems as if they may never come, but I continue to assure myself that they are on their way. Be patient.... Spring is Coming!!!

I was just down in Mr. Spiers Gr. 5 classroom and all I could think of was "Wow!!!" All the Grade 5 students were completely absorbed in an activity using the school's new classroom set of netbooks. We now have thirteen of these small laptops that allow our students to remain in their classrooms while accessing technology based information or using software programs to process information. The grade 5 students are getting ready for bigger and better things as Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Spiers have set aside time each week to help the students work on "Digitales & Docudramas" which feature storytelling & animation software. It sounds like they will integrate this technology into a Social Studies unit studying early explorers. We look forward to seeing the results of this project.

Additionally, staff at Ralston School is creating "Pay It Forward" cards. These cards will be distributed to students who demonstrate positive character traits and/or acts of kindness to others. When a student receives a "Pay It Forward" card, he/she will write his/her name on the back of the card and then pass it on to someone else who demonstrates kindness toward others. When the card is full, it may be brought down to the office to be placed in a draw. This draw will be made at the monthly assembly and award a pizza party to the students who have their names on the card. I would like to thank Kian in grade 4 for passing a card on to me. We now can borrow this wonderful idea and involve the entire school. Thanks Kian.

Ralston Staff is proud of the results and commendations noted in their school review and have already begun to develop an action plan to address recommendations that arose from the review. There are many excellent ideas and various suggestions about how to approach the areas for further improvement. Some of the ideas address how to further second language learning opportunities by infusing French learning into our existing curriculum in K – gr.3 classrooms (grades 4 – 6 already access French learning). Other discussions relate to how to best maximize our library services for all learners in all grade levels. Dedication of Ralston school staff is evidenced through their commitment to continuous improvement. The ideas that come forward to improve student learning opportunities are both numerous and professionally creative. Again, many thanks to a great team of educators.

Ms. Michaud is hosting a Bottle Drive to help fund the grade 3 class Year end Field trip to the Calgary Zoo. The students are looking forward to this exciting part of their Science program – studying habitats. Donations of bagged or boxed bottles and/or cans & plastic milk jugs delivered to the front school entrance are welcomed. Thanks to our community in advance for continued support of Ralston School.

Finally, I wish to thank Miss. Hansen for all of her contributions to student learning while at Ralston School. She has been a wonderful asset to our staff for the past year and we wish her all the best in her next school. Mrs. Kraft has been teaching with Prairie Rose School Division in Seven Persons and is transferring to Ralston School in mid-March. A warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Kraft.

Miss. Standish has been keeping our school a welcoming and safe place to learn for three years. She is very committed to her work and has done a wonderful job here at Ralston School. She is transferring to Seven Persons School in early April. In her place, Mrs. Doyle is returning to Ralston School. Welcome back to Ralston School Mrs. Doyle.

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

- Report Cards sent home on Friday, March 11th.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, March 15th and Wednesday, March 16th from 3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### *Coming Events*

- Parent Council Meeting on Monday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the school.
- Grade 6 Leadership Day at the school on Tuesday, March 8th.
- Report Cards sent home on Friday, March 11th.
- Assembly on Friday, March 11th at 1:15 in the school gym.
- Subway Day on Friday, March 11th.
- Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, March 15th and Wednesday, March 16th.
- Science Fair on Tuesday, March 15th.
- No School on Friday, March 18th.
- Subway Day on Friday, March 25th.

### *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 I 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!

**Re: Around the School Yard - Video Newsletter**

**Date: Feb, 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 Ralston and Seven Persons.

[http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news\\_id=2355](http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news_id=2355)

**The Prairie Rose Perspective - A Video Blog**

**From: Division Office**

[http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news\\_id=2413](http://www.prrdweb.com/News.php?news_id=2413)

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

Please check Ralston School Website for the above links as well.



Parents of students who are participating in the Ralston Badminton Tournament at Eagle Butte High School are encouraged to volunteer some of their time to assist with the concession sales. We require a minimum of 2 volunteers from 3:00-6:00 and 6:00-8:00 on Friday, April 1st and 2 volunteers from 9:00-12:00 and 12:00-4:00 on Saturday, April 2nd.



Children's Health & Developmental Services

## *MARCH UPDATE*

### Parent Education

#### **Medicine Hat:**

#### ***1-2-3 Magic & More Parent Training***

Next two courses: March 2 & 9 @ 6:30-9:30 p.m.

April 13 & 20 @ 6:30-9:30 p.m.

#### ***New: CHADS Behavioral Services Intensive Parenting Course***

Next two courses: March 2 & 9 @ 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

April 6 & 13 @ 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### Children's Groups

***Kids in Between*** Therapy Group for 6-7 year olds experiencing parental separation or divorce:  
May 16-26

***Kids in Control*** Anger Management skill building group for 4-5 year olds:  
March 14 - 24

***Kids in Control*** for 6-7 year olds: April 11 - 21

***Cool Cubs - Learning Limits Through Play*** Therapy group for 3-5 year olds: March 10-18

***Bravehearts - Building Courage Through Play*** Therapy group for 3-5 year olds: May 10 - June 14

To register call 403-502-8257.

## Holiday Calendar for the 2011-2012 School Year

<b>School Opening Date:</b>	<b>August 30, 2011 Student (Full Day)</b>
<b>Labour Day</b>	<b>September 5, 2011 (School Closed)</b>
<b>Division PD Day</b>	<b>September 19th, 2011 (Tentative) (School Closed)</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>October 10, 2011 (School Closed)</b>
<b>Remembrance Day</b>	<b>November 11, 2011 (School Closed)</b>
<b>Christmas Break</b>	<b>December 22, 2011 to January 4, 2012 (inclusive)</b>
<b>Division PD Day</b>	<b>March 12th, 2012 (Tentative) (School Closed)</b>
<b>February Break</b>	<b>February 20, 2012 –February 24, 2012 (inclusive)</b>
<b>Easter Vacation</b>	<b>April 6 – April 15, 2012 (inclusive)</b>
<b>Victoria Day</b>	<b>May 21, 2012 (School Closed)</b>
<b>School Closing</b>	<b>June 28 2012 – Last Day for Students (Full Day)</b>

**\*\*Please note there will be an additional two days the school will be closed for professional development. These dates will be determined at the beginning of next school year\*\***

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Here is some Food For Thought from Parenting Throughout the Years—A guide for Parents of K-12 Students, published by the Alberta Teacher's Association, 2006.

#### School Success is a Shared Goal

Success in school is a goal that parents have for their children and teachers have for their students. This goal is more easily reached and children benefit when parents and teachers work together. Learning improves when parents are involved in their children's education.

#### **Tips for student success**

- Encourage your child to develop a positive outlook toward school. Be a model of this positive outlook.
- Stay in contact with your child's teachers. Find out when and how the teachers would like to be contacted, and let them know the best times and methods to contact you.
- Keep school staff informed of issues that may affect your child's progress or behavior.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, school plays and concerts, social events, exhibitions, fairs and sports events.
- Inform the school in advance of your child's absence from school.
- Schedule vacations to coincide with school holidays and try to schedule your child's appointments outside of school hours.
- Meet with teachers if your child is involved in a school incident. Work together with school staff to help solve the problem.
- Review and sign your child's assignments, homework, report cards, journals and planners.
- Read all newsletters and reports from your child's school.
- Encourage your child to participate in school activities outside regular school hours (sports, drama, art and other clubs).
- Spend time with your child each day reviewing lessons and homework and listening to your child's views and opinions.

Website address—more food for thought

[http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis\\_safety/parents-called-to-active.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/parents-called-to-active.pdf)

#### **Girls!**

We want you to Come Try Ringette!

Medicine Hat Ringette is seeking girls especially ages 3 – 9 who want to be part of the coolest game on ice for the 2011/2012 season. Bring a friend and Come and Try it on Sunday April 3 at 2:00 at the Family Leisure Center. You'll need a helmet, skates and hockey gloves or mittens.

Free popcorn and drinks for everyone.

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

[www.mhringette.com](http://www.mhringette.com) and [www.cometryringette.ca](http://www.cometryringette.ca)

For more information, phone Laurie at 403 581-0030

#### **Parents**

Please assist the  
school in remind-  
ing your children  
to stay off the  
snow piles.  
Thank you!!



**Grade 3 is having a bottle drive for the month of March.**

**Please bring bottles, cans, milk cartons to the school to help raise money for the Grade 3 year end field trip.**

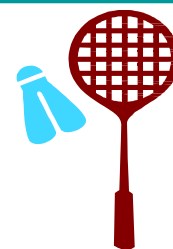
**Thank you very much!!!**

The Family/School Liaison Workers Mrs. Ridgedale and Mrs. Terry will be spending March 8, 2011 with the Grade 6 students doing a Leadership day. The focus of the day will be for the students to learn more about and develop their leadership skills. We hope by the end of the day every student will recognize that they possess certain leadership skills but everyone displays them in different ways. Please ask your grade 6 child or children about the leadership day for more information.



## Badminton

### BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS



March 25th	Parkside Tournament at Eagle Butte (Grade 7)
March 26th	Parkside Tournament at Eagle Butte (Grade 8&9)
April 1st	Ralston Tournament at Eagle Butte (Grade 7)
April 2nd	Ralston Tournament at Eagle Butte (Grade 8&9)
April 16th	Irvine Tournament at Irvine School (Grade 7)
April 16th	Irvine Tournament at Eagle Butte School (Grade 8&9)

**Players:** Lennie Williams, Tristan Morse, Dallas Loeffler, Jack Scott, Kieran Smart, Megan Rook, Katelyn Fox, Chelsey Campbell, Madi Parkinson, Owen Brice, Ashley Brentley, Kyle Holland, Dean Leask, Johnny Keohane, Jessica Proudfoot, Chelsea fudge, Sophie Richards, Lauren Brice, Alexx Munro, Cody Conner, Ryan Swyer, Zach Merritt, Sophie Johnson, Megan Morrison, Shawna Young, D.J. MacInnes, Tasha Bolger, Taylor Munro, Sam Brentley.

**Coaches:** Boyd Craven, Ian Spiers and Brooke May.

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

**DO NOT FORGET THAT  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
CHANGES ON SUNDAY, MARCH  
13TH AT 2:00 A.M.**

**Stress is not just for adults.** The stress children face at school may be very similar to the stress parents have in the work place.

Major sources of stress for children may be trauma (e.g. death a family member), lifestyle (e.g. not enough sleep), parent relationships (e.g. separation), school/child care (e.g. new teacher), friends (e.g. being rejected), and sports (e.g. fear of failure).

Children may displays signs of stress in social and/or physical behaviours such as crying more often, nightmares, fighting, withdrawing socially etc.

**Parents can help by:**

- Spending time with the child
- Talking about feelings and helping to find possible solutions
- Providing love, support and encouragement
- Trying stress reducing activities e.g. relaxation
- Seeking professional help from a doctor, counselor, public health nurse or support community agency.



## Administrative Procedures Handbook

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**A304**

### School Attendance

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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

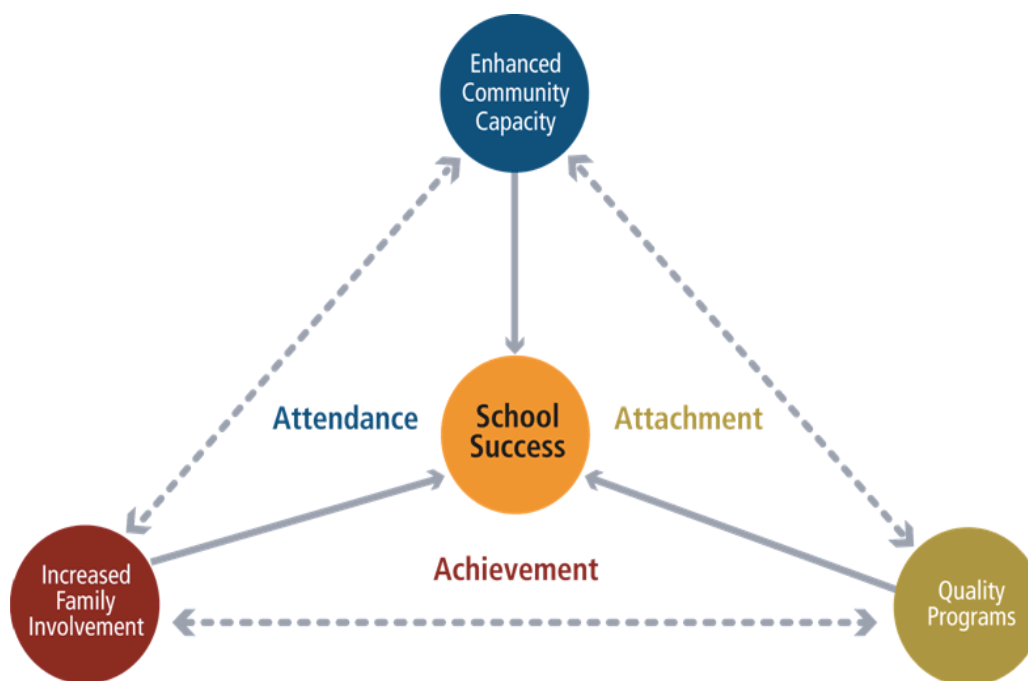
1. Attendance of each student will be recorded daily.
2. Principals are responsible for keeping parents informed of student absences from class.
3. When a student is absent for 10% of the possible classes in a year or semester, the principal will send a letter to the parents identifying the problem. 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.



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.



# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Parent Council Meeting at 6:30	8 Grade 6 Leadership Day	9	10	11 Report Cards Assembly at 1:15 Subway Day	12
13 <b>DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!!</b>	14	15 Parent/Teacher Interviews Science Fair	16 Parent/Teacher Interviews	17 Safety City visiting Kindergarten and Grade 1	18 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Subway Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ralston Badminton Tournament at Eagle Butte	2 Ralston Badminton Tournament at Eagle Butte
3	4	5 Grade 9 Meningitis Needles	6 Medicine Hat Interpretive Ctr. visiting the school	7 Medicine Hat Interpretive Ctr. visiting the school.	8	9
10	11	12 Scholastic Book Fair All Day	13 Scholastic Book Fair a.m only	14	15 Subway Day Assembly at 1:15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Earth Day	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23
24	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30