

May 1, 2009

Issue 9



Principal's Message From the Desk of Mr. Kyle

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It is hard to believe that the month of May is upon us and that only two months of school remain in the school year. Time has gone by very quickly and the months of May and June always seem to go by faster than other months.

As summer approaches, as we had a very unpredictable spring at best, and the weather improves, a number of outdoor events begin to take place. However, we do have to be aware that end of the year exams are not too far off and that student preparation is key to success. Please continue to take time to discuss the events of the school day with your child and to keep in touch with their teacher to keep on top of your child's progress in school. In addition, regular study schedules help prepare students for finals and make exam time less stressful for students. Some tips for this include a study schedule by subject, finding a quiet place to study and creating study note summaries to review.

Another successful badminton season wrapped up last week. Our boys and girls played well throughout the season, won some games, and we learned a great deal from our tournament experiences. As the principal of the school, I enjoy watching the students

improve in their skill levels throughout the year, but I am more impressed with the level of sportsmanship shown by our students on the court. Our students are ambassadors for our school and we always stress this to them when they attend extra-curricular activities. Congratulations to all the players and Mr. Craven for their efforts. Thanks also to Miss Pond for assisting with tournament supervision.

Our recent Book Fair was also a great success! A considerable portion of the funds raised remain in our school. Thanks to Mrs. Hansen for organizing the event, our local parent helpers and all our students and parents for the great support they showed for this event!

The month of May is a busy time for us. We will begin Provincial Achievement Exams in grades 3, 6, and 9 at across the core curriculum areas. This is a check up by the province to assess student achievement throughout the province. The dates are indicated on the calendar and we ask the students and parents please try to schedule appointments outside of these days if possible since students are required to write the exams. These exams will continue into June as well.

Other events in May include: the Grade 9 PARTY (Prevention of Alcohol and Related Trauma in Youth), A.T.V. (All Terrain Vehicle) Safety Presentation for Grades 5 and 6, Encana Healthy Eating and Nutrition Presentation for K-9, Kindergarten Ready to Ride Bicycle Safety Presentation, and the school Track and Field Day on May 29th. Our John Howard Society Bulling Prevention Program for K-9 runs throughout April and May.

We look forward to a busy May and June as year end approaches very quickly. However, we are never too busy to stop and discuss your child's educational issues. Please make the time to see your child's teachers if you have any questions of concerns.

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

Special points of interest:

- May achievement test schedule included
- Junior High News

Coming Events

- Grade 9 Party Program on Monday, May 4th at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.
- Grade 5&6 ATV Safety on May 5th.
- Grade 1/2 trip to Medicine Hat on Wednesday, May 6th.
- School Assembly on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:00 in the school gym. Everyone welcome.
- No school for kindergarten on Friday, May 15th as we will be having registration for new Kindergarten students.
- No School on Monday, May 18th for Victoria Day.
- Track and Field day for K-9 on Friday, May 29th.

A big thank you to the badminton team and parents for your support during this past season. To the players for your great effort and sportsmanship and to the parents for driving and coming to cheer us on!!

Mr. Boyd Craven
Badminton Coach



A big thank-you to all who supported the book fair. We sold over \$2,300.00 and half of that comes back to our school. Also a big thanks to our volunteers for all their hard work. I couldn't have done it without your help.

Thank-you to the Hudd family for the kind donation of books to our school library, I know the students will really enjoy them.

Mrs. Hansen

**A real friend is
someone who walks in
when the rest of the
world walks out.**

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up. ~Mark Twain

May Achievement Test Schedule

Tuesday, May 12	Grade 3 English Language Arts Part A
Wednesday, May 13	Grade 6 & 9 English Language Arts Part A
Thursday, May 14	Grade 6 Mathematics Part A
Friday, Mat 15	Grade 3 Timed Number Facts

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.

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 your child's personal information or medical information has changed please let the school office know as soon as possible @ 544-3535 so we may update our records.

A great pleasure
in life is doing
what people say
you cannot do.

E-mail Contacts**Principal**

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Secretary

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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 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.

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Grade 9 Party Program	5 Grade 5 & 6 ATV Safety	6 Grade 1/2 Trip to Medicine Hat	7	8	9
10	11	12 Grade 3 Language Arts Achievement	13 Grade 6 & 9 Language Arts Part A Achievement Test	14 Grade 6 Math Part A Achievement Test	15 Grade 3 Timed # Facts Achievement Test No Kindergarten	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL	19	20	21	22 Encana Presentation on Healthy Eating	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Track and Field for 1-9	30
31						