

October 30th, 2009

Issue 3



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

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Time has quickly passed, and we are already in the month of November. During the month of November, we take time to recognize the sacrifice of our soldiers, both past and present, in a number of ways.

We always participate in the donations drive for our military this time of year to make sure that some of the comforts of home are reaching our troops abroad. Donations were accepted over the last two weeks and a great deal was collected for our troops. I would like to thank one of our staff, Mrs. Willis-ton, for spear heading the donations drive for us again this year!

Children have also participated in "Letters to Afghanistan" campaign as well. This effort entailed our students sending letters of greetings and thanks to our troops as an expression of our gratitude for their efforts abroad on our behalf. Thanks to one of our parents, Mrs. Trina Murray, for organizing this effort!

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Remembrance Day Ceremony commencing at 10:30 am in the Ralston Theatre. Our students will be doing a number of activities as part of our program to honor those who chose to serve our country. A number of dignitaries will attend including members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Redcliff Branch, representatives of BATUS and CFB Suffield, and Padre Jagoe as well. Please come and join us as we take time to express our gratitude to those who serve our nation. School Council will be serving Coffee and Cakes following the ceremonies, and we would like to thank them for assistance.

On that note, we invite all parents to attend our Student Recognition and Character Education Assemblies. Your presence is greatly appreciated and attending assemblies gives you a chance to see our students shine, and it is also a great way to keep informed as to what is happening in our school. Assembly dates are always advertised in the newsletter or posted in the information boards at the front doors and by the K-3 entrance.

Please don't feel that you may only visit us on assembly days or parent-teacher interview days, your presence is welcome in our school at any time. Please feel free to come visit your child's teacher, or call, to sort out any issues or questions that you may have.

Together we are better!

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:

- Remembrance Day Service on November 10th.
- Report Cards sent home on November 13th.
- Grade 4-9 Interviews November 17th and 18th.

***Coming Events***

- Guy Fawkes judging on November 5th.
- Guy Fawkes Day on November 5th.
- School Assembly on Friday, November 6th at 9:00.
- Remembrance Day Service will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at the Ralston School Theatre at 10:30. Everyone welcome.
- No School on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Remembrance Day.
- Report cards for K-9 will be sent home on Friday November 13th.
- Grade 4-9 interviews will be taking place on Tuesday, November 17th and Wednesday, November 18th.
- Taco-in-a-Bag on Friday, November 20th.
- No School on Monday, November 23rd for Teacher Professional Development Day.

**Notice To Parents**

Please be advised that school buses in Canada legally do not have to have seatbelts on them. However, if the bus is equipped with seatbelts they are legally required to use them.

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

**Joseph Campbell**



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT  
THE SCHOOL FEES WERE  
DUE ON OCTOBER 30TH.**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO HAVE ALREADY PAID!**

***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!

Grade 4 Ceramics will be starting on  
Friday, November 20th at 9:00



*Thank You*

A big thank you to Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Simmons for  
all your help during the library fair. It was greatly  
appreciated!!

Mrs. Hansen

**Chat 94.5 FM Food Drive**

**We will be accepting non-perishable items for the food bank drive  
until Tuesday, November 17th. Please go through your cupboards  
and find some items that will help those less fortunate.**

**PLEASE DONATE TODAY, IT COULD BE YOU!!**



## **Weather Issues: School In-Days and School Closure**

Living in the Canadian Prairies can present some unique challenges when it comes to winter weather. While the Medicine Hat area is not known for particularly harsh winters, we do have the occasional day when it is cold or stormy for students to go outside, or we may even have the odd day when school must be closed for the safety of all.

### **In Days at School**

While it rarely gets lower than -20 Celsius for long, schools in the Medicine Hat area have students take outdoor breaks down to -20 degrees Celsius. We follow the same criteria in Ralston School, but we naturally use our discretion on day to day basis if the wind comes up or it just “feels too cold” as well.

### **School Closure due to Weather**

The school may close due to cold weather, dangerous driving conditions due to extreme weather or a combination of both. The important things to remember are:

- School Closure will be announced on BFBS Radio, MY 96 Radio and CHAT 94.5 the morning of the closure around 7:00 am.
- The bus driver should contact you by phone if your child takes the bus to school, and the bus is not running.

Once school starts, we stay open until the end of the day at regular time regardless of the changes in weather.

If they predict poor weather the next day, we usually send a note home reminding people to listen carefully to the radio the next morning. We try to get the closure on the radio before, or at 7:00 a.m. but we cannot control the radio announcers and sometimes they make it by 7:00 a.m. and sometimes they don't.

The window to notify is rather tight as the policy does not let Principals close schools until 6:30 a.m. officially and then every school in the area is trying to close at the same time. We do our best and thank you for your cooperation in advance.

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

“If there were no school to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers”

Edgar W. Howe



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.**

**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.



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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!

# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Guy Fawkes Day	6 School Assembly at 9:00 in the school gym.	7
8	9	10 Remembrance Day Service at 10:30 at the Ralston Theatre	11 NO SCHOOL 	12	13 Report Cards for K-9 sent home today.	14
15	16	17 Grades 4-9 Parent/Teacher Interviews	18 Grades 4-9 Parent/Teacher Interviews	19	20 Taco-In-A-Bag Day	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL PD DAY	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					