

October 1, 2009

Issue 2

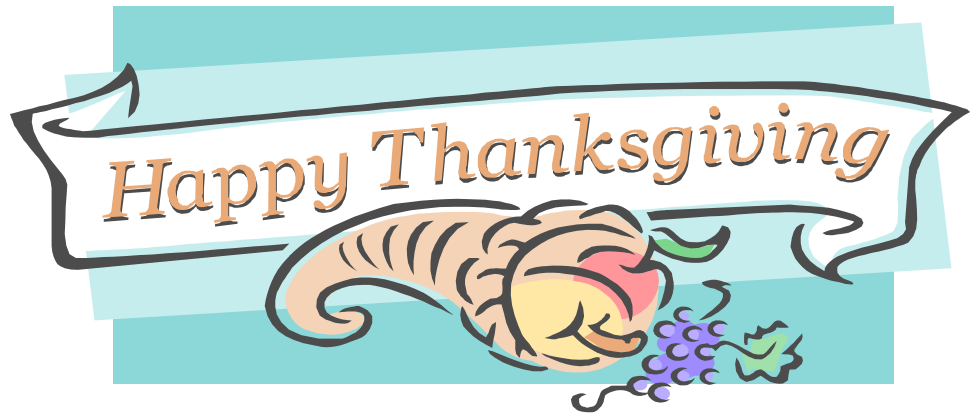


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Principal's Message From the Desk of Mr. Kyle

The year is going by very quickly, and we are looking forward to a busy month in October with many things planned for students.

Some recent events at the school include our well attended School BBQ, a visit by the Light Cavalry Band, the CFB/School Terry Fox Run, a Grades 5-9 tour of BATUS equipment and the participation of our school Cross-Country Running team in the EBHS meet.

We also had our regular "Last Friday of the Month Assembly" to showcase student talents with a class presentation and to recognize students for displaying acts of Citizenship. All parents are invited to this assembly to come enjoy the student presentations and to celebrate with us as we recognize students who go above and beyond in terms of Citizenship Awards.

In terms of October, we have a few things planned as well. Of course, Halloween is coming and the children will be having a Costume Parade assembly in the gym, starting at 1:00 pm, On Friday, October 30. All parents are invited to attend. Our local Military Police will also be doing classroom Halloween Safety Presentations to ensure that our children stay safe Halloween night. As we are having class parties and a Costume Parade that day, our regular month end assembly will move to Nov. 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Our Bullying Presentations from the John Howards Society continue into October as well. Please remember that you are a vital link in our effort to curb bullying behavior in our school. If your child mentions incidents with other children at school to you, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately. We do our best, but we cannot catch everything and really appreciate your help in this regard.

Time does fly by fast, and sometimes it is important to remind ourselves to take time to visit and touch base with our children's teachers. While many other things happen in our school, our single most important function is the education and social development of our students. This effort is not only accomplished by teachers and students; parents play an integral role in this process. Please feel free to come and take the time to stop by your child's class at the end of the day to touch base with the teacher. The closer we work together, the better the results for your child. Don't forget to check their home-work on the school web site as well and in the student agenda books that all students are required to have.

We are better together! Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any issues or concerns.

Special points of interest:

- School closed for Thanksgiving Monday, October 12th.
- K-3 Parent Teacher Conferences October 20th and 21st.

Coming Events

- Grade 5 and 9 Hepatitis B needles on Thursday, October 1st.
- Parent Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Jubilee Arms.
- Subway Days will be taking place on October 9th and 23rd.
- No School on Monday, October 12th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Safety City visiting Kindergarten on Wednesday, October 14th.
- K-3 Parent/Teacher Conferences being held on Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st. Notices for times will be sent home shortly.
- Grade 4 Field Trip to Medicine Hat on Thursday, October 22nd.
- Next school assembly will be on Friday, November 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym.



**Scholastic Book Fair taking place on
Tuesday, November 3rd!!**

Watch for Posters

**If anyone is interested in volunteering
their help for the day please contact me at
the school.**

Thank You!!

Mrs. Hansen



We have sent out school fee notices to the Canadian families. These notices were sent on September 23rd with your child. Please note that the fees are due by Friday, October 30th.

The fee schedule can be found under school documents at www.ralstonschool.ca

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.



"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about"

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!



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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!



Raptor Cross Country Team



Our team consists of Thomas Powley, Ryan Macpherson, Chloe Dangerfield, Euan Mackinnon, Megan Rook, Lara Passmore, Casja Taylor, Katelyn Fox, Shaun Docherty, Aaron Mann and Will Holland.

The teams first meet was on the 19th of September at Echo Dale Park put on by Eagle Butte High School and finished within each of their divisions as follows; Thomas-3rd, Ryan-4th, Chloe-6th, Euan- 1st, Megan-7th, Lara-2nd, Casja-5th, Katelyn-2nd, Shaun-2nd and Aaron-6th. Great job!! The regional finals will be on Wednesday, October 7th. Regional's will have over 1500 competitors.

Mr. Craven

From Your Public Health Nurse.

Head Lice Happens!

It is one thing to have kids in the classroom scratching their heads over their teacher's tough questions. It's quite another to have them scratching because of head lice.

Head lice are six-legged wingless insects, beige to dark brown in color, one to two millimeters long, about the size of a sesame seed. They do not jump or fly but spread from person to person through direct contact with the hair or through items such as combs or brushes, headbands or hats, clothing, or pillows and towels. Head lice feed on human blood and can survive only for a short time, about 48 hours, away from the body.

Lice are most frequently seen in children because they tend to have the most head to head contact, although any person at any age can acquire lice. School-age children are active and in contact with others. They are in different settings visiting friends, recreational activities, summer camps, and at sleepovers, where they could be in contact with lice.

Head lice management is not a school or health issue. They are inconvenient but do not cause disease or illness. Lice are not the result of poor personal hygiene and can affect children and families from all walks of life.

The detection and management of head lice is a parental responsibility. Parents should be checking their children's heads weekly for head lice, for example a routine of each Sunday night after the bath before bed. When checking the hair it is unlikely to see the actual insect; and much more likely to see the eggs or nits. Grayish-white oval shaped eggs, or "nits", are about one millimeter in size and found firmly attached to single hair shafts close to the scalp. The most common areas to find nits are the crown of the head, back of the neck and behind the ears. They can be removed by pulling nits down the shaft.

Symptoms a parent may notice that would indicate a need to check your child's head again include: a child frequently scratching their head, tiny very itchy red spots on the scalp especially on the sides and back of the head, and inflammation from scratching,

If a parent finds lice or nits in their child's hair there are several steps to follow.

1. DON'T PANIC!
2. Get a copy of the "Head Lice" pamphlet from the health unit and follow ALL the instructions very carefully.
3. Check your child's head daily and pick out any nits you see each day for at least two weeks.
4. If you are having difficulty eliminating the head lice please call Public Health Nursing at 403-502-8200.

Head lice aren't nice but they happen. Checking your child's head regularly and teaching them not to play with their friend's hair or share personal items will go a long way to prevent the spread of this bothersome little nuisance.

E-mail Contacts
 Principal
 brad.kyle@prrd.ab.ca
 Secretary
 evelyn.squires@prrd.ab.ca



Citizenship Awards for September

Ryan Pellerin	Grade4
Hannah Cross	Grade 4
Riley Morse	Grade 4
Mathieu Fortier	Grade 4
Niamh Agnew	Grade 4
Jordan Woodley	Grade 9
Shaun Docherty	Grade 9
Lara Passmore	Grade 9

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES FOR THE 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Thanksgiving Day	October 12, 2009
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2009
PD Day	November 23, 2009
Christmas Break	December 19, 2009 to January 3, 2010 (inclusive)
February Break	February 13, 2010 to February 21, 2010 (inclusive)
PD Days	March 18th and 19th, 2010
Easter Vacation	April 2-11, 2010 (inclusive)
Victoria Day	May 24, 2010
School Closing	June 29, 2010—Last Day for Students (Full Day)



Grades 4 and 5 are participating in the BOOK IT!® Reading Incentive Program which kicks off on October 1st and runs through March 31st. Your child needs your help to make sure they are meeting their reading goals!

BOOK IT! Is a reading incentive program that Pizza Hut has sponsored since 1985 and is currently used by more than 50,000 elementary schools. For more information, please visit www.bookitprogram.com

GRADE 4 FIELD TRIP



The first grade 4 science topic is “Waste in our World”. Sharing the Earth’s resources with our daily composting, and recycling classroom supplies will be continued this year. Also, we will be traveling to Redi’s two recycling centre's on Thursday, October 22nd to view their procedures for recycling in Medicine Hat. Hopefully by your child’s observation we will have a greener society!!



What is Thanksgiving Day?

Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside each year where people in the United States and Canada give thanks to God for all the blessings they received during the year by feasting and prayer.

History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day first started in New England. It was for thanking God for the abundant harvest of crops. This is usually somewhere in late fall when the crops have been harvested. People from many parts of the world have been holding some kind of harvest festivals for thousands of years.

Halloween Safety Tips



A message from your Public Health Nurse, Darla Fauth

Children love the excitement of Halloween. Dressing up and going trick or treating for candy with their friends is great fun for them.

Although Halloween can be loads of fun, sometimes tricks can be played on them. Parents and children need to be aware of the hazards and take precautions to avoid them.

Here are some safety tips to follow:

Halloween Costume Safety

- Costumes should be flame resistant
- Costumes should be the right length so they don't trip and fall over them.
- Apply reflective tape to your costume so drivers can see you.
- Make up is better than a mask. Masks are hard to see out of.
- Wear comfortable practical shoes.
- Do not share your hats or wigs as this can spread head lice.



Trick or Treating

- Never let children trick or treat alone.
- Plan your Halloween route ahead of time.
- Stay in areas you are familiar with.
- Stay on sidewalks and off the streets. Cross only at intersections and designated crosswalks.
- Only visit well lit houses. Stay out of back yards.
- Do not approach other people's pets or animals.
- Don't enter any houses or vehicles.
- Don't eat any candy until parents have had a chance to inspect it. Take some of your own snacks along to eat if children get hungry.

**Happy 
Halloween**

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Grade 5 and 9 Hepatitis B injections	2	3
4	5	6 John Howard Bullying Program	7 John Howard Bullying Program Parent Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.	8	9 SUBWAY DAY	10
11	12 Happy Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL	13	14 Safety City with Kindergarten	15	16	17
18	19	20 K-3 Parent Teacher Interviews	21 K-3 Parent Teacher Interviews	22 Grade 4 Field Trip to Medicine Hat	23 SUBWAY DAY	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31