



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



Box 59  
Ralston, Alberta  
544-3535

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>Principals Message</i>	1
<i>Coming Events</i>	2
<i>School Year Calendar</i>	4
<i>September Calendar</i>	5

Finally, now that we are back in school, it has stopped raining and we are getting our long awaited summer weather. Even though it was an enjoyable summer break, it is great to be back in school and see all our wonderful staff and students.

A few changes for this year involve staffing and programming. Mr. Dave Blemings (who was the Principal at Ralston School for many years) has returned to provide our teachers with Technology specialist support. Mrs. Duckmanton has decided to go part time this year and will be focusing primarily on providing music programming to our students. Mrs. Wahl, who video-conferenced French lessons to our division two students last year, is now at our school three days a week to extend French programming across all grades. Mr. Regehr is our homeroom teacher for Grade Four this year and has met many of our students as a substitute teacher at Ralston School over the past school year.

Additionally, we have a structural change to primary years programming at Ralston School. Mrs. Breneman and Mrs. Herrell are teaching our Kindergarten/Grade one classes and Miss. Davies is teaching our FS2/Reception class. The FS2/Reception class will run in the mornings during the month of September and move to morning and afternoons in October.

Prairie Rose School Division has moved from an early 2:00 pm dismissal to a regular 3:02 pm dismissal time on Fridays. This is to accommodate the decrease in instructional minutes as a result of the nine "School Improvement Days" that have been approved by the board. A great deal of collaboration occurred last year to problem solve the funding shortfall in Prairie Rose School Division. The transportation dollars saved across Prairie Rose School Division as a result of not bussing students on these nine days are substantial. Extending the dismissal to 3:02 pm on Fridays ensures that every school has maintained required instructional minutes despite the reduced number of days attended.

Please continue to check our school website. Under the "Calendar of Events" tab, you will see monthly calendars that are frequently updated with the activities, field trips etc. that are happening at Ralston School. Reminder notes are sent home as needed, but checking the school website regularly keeps parents and community members in the loop.

We are looking forward to our "Meet the Teacher" Pancake breakfast at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 15. This is a great opportunity for parents to introduce themselves to their children's teachers. Please ask your children's teacher(s) for their contact cards so that you can make direct contact with them as needed. The teachers have voice mail boxes where a message can be left if they are teaching classes. Some of our teachers will also provide you with times throughout the week that are preferable when making contact with them. If a more urgent contact is required, please call the School office.

Parent Council will be meeting on September 20 at 6:30 pm. In recognition of the many commitments of our members, we make every effort to keep our meeting length to an hour. We are welcoming new members and hope to continue moving forward with the excellent level of support our students received last year through Ralston School's parent council group. Brochures explaining the role of Parent Council were made by last year's parent council group and are available at the office. They will also be distributed at the Pancake Breakfast.

Please let your child's teacher know if he/she will be absent from school as far in advance as possible. Attendance directly impacts achievement and teachers will attempt to provide work to compensate absences; however, this is not a substitute for the student learning that occurs in the classroom. If your child will miss five or more days, please ask your child's teacher for an "Absence Request" form. If your child's education is impacted due to absences, the Unit Welfare Officer and Education Officer will be notified and/or follow up through Prairie Rose Absence Policy will be initiated.

To receive this newsletter electronically please log on to our website @ [www.ralstonschool.ca](http://www.ralstonschool.ca) and subscribe to newsletters.

### *Coming Events*

- School Pictures on Monday, September 12th.
- Meet the Teacher pancake breakfast on Thursday, September 15th at 8:00 a.m. at the school.
- No School on Monday, September 19th for Professional Development day.
- Parent Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 at the school.
- Grades 4-9 in Medicine Hat attending the Portrait of Honor Presentation.
- Cross Country run on Saturday, September 24th at Eagle Butte.
- Grades K-4 Terry Fox Run on Wednesday, September 28th.

### **School Emergency Procedures**

As you may already know, Ralston has a District-wide Emergency Response Plan, which would be implemented in the event of a local disaster or school emergency. The primary objective of the plan is to ensure the safety of your child.

The Emergency Response Plan is a preparatory measure. Statistics show schools are still among the safest places to be on a day-to-day basis, due to the strong commitment of educators, parents, and communities to their children. Nevertheless, disasters do happen and because of that no community can be complacent in its efforts to make its schools even safer. For this reason we have implemented the Plan, so please do not be alarmed by this precautionary action. If you wish to learn more about Hour Zero please feel free to visit the Prairie Rose School Division website at <http://www.prrdweb.com/>



### **Lunchtime News**

- **Microwave is available from Grades 4-9**
- **Sending a thermos of soup or leftovers is always a nice break from a cold lunch for younger children in Grades K-3**

E-mail Contacts  
Principal  
carol.carlson@prrd.ab.ca  
Vice Principal  
boyd.craven@prrd.ab.ca  
Secretary  
evelyn.squires@prrd.ab.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 we 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!**



## Raptor Cross Country Team



Our team consists of Caia Gagnon, Caitlin McCulloch, Megan Rook, Katelyn Fox, Dean Leask, Ashley Brentley, Niall Wright, Thomas Powley, Cameron Smart, James Sheppard, Ty Kennedy and Dallas Loeffler.

The teams first meet is on the 24th of September at Echo Dale Park put on by Eagle Butte High School. Good Luck!!!

Mr. Craven

Coach

## **Peer Pressure**

*Whether it leads to pink hair or body piercing, peer pressure is a powerful reality! Peer groups impact much of teen's decision-making. Research indicates that teens consider what their peer group will think of them. Peer pressure is as often positive as it is negative. Negative forces could lead to experimentation with tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs. Parents have a tremendous influence over their children, especially teenagers. Here are some things parents can do:*

- ~Teach children how to refuse offers of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs through role-playing peer pressure situations
- ~Talk to them about how to avoid undesirable situations
- ~Let them know it is okay to seek an adult's advice no matter how small or silly it seems
- ~Nurture and encourage strong self-esteem (e.g. be generous with praise)

***If you would like more information on this or other topics please go online to [www.aadac.com](http://www.aadac.com) to view the parent information series; How can I teach my young child to deal with peer pressure? Or contact our toll free 24 hour hotline 1-866.332.2322.***



## 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 Wednesday afternoons and for the full day on Thursday's. Appointments can be made by contacting your child's teacher or by calling Tanya directly at 502-2126.



**Policy Governance – Executive Limitations**

**Policy EL #12**

**2011-2012 School Year - REVISED**

**School Year – 2011-2012**

School Improvement Day	August 29, 2011
School Opening Date:	August 30, 2011 Staff (Full Day)
	August 31, 2011 Student (Full Day)
Labour Day	September 5, 2011
Division PD Day	September 20, 2011 (Tentative)
Thanksgiving Day	October 10, 2011
School Improvement Day	October 24, 2011
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2011
School Improvement Day	November 14, 2011
School Improvement Day	December 5, 2011
Christmas Break	December 22, 2011 to January 4, 2012 (inclusive)
School Improvement Day	January 23, 2012
Second Semester Begins	January 31, 2012
Family Day	February 20, 2012
Parent/Teacher Interviews	February 21-22, 2012 (time in lieu)
Teachers' Convention	February 23-24, 2012
School Improvement Days	March 22-23, 2012
Easter Vacation	April 6 – April 15, 2012 (inclusive)
School Improvement Day	May 7, 2012
Victoria Day	May 21, 2012
School Improvement Day	June 4, 2012
School Closing	June 28 2012 – Last Day for Students (Full Day)
	June 29, 2012 - Last Day for Staff (Full Day)

**Days School Closed for Students**

School Opening	1
Division Professional Development	1
School Improvement Days	9
Parent-Teacher Conferences	2
Teachers' Convention	2
School Closing	<u>1</u>
Total Non Instructional Days	16

**Approved: June 15, 2010**  
**Revised: May 10, 2011**

# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 No School	6	7	8	9 Gr. 5 & 9 Immunization Presentation Terry Fox run Gr. 5-9 @ 10:00	10
11	12 School Pictures	13	14	15 Meet the Teacher Pancake Breakfast @ 8:00	16	17
18	19 <b>No School</b> Division PD Day	20 Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30	21	22	23 Exhibit Portrait of Honor @ Cypress Centre for Grades 4-9	24 EBHS Cross Country Meet @ Echo Dale Park
25	26	27	28 Terry Fox Run Gr.s K-4	29	30	
31						