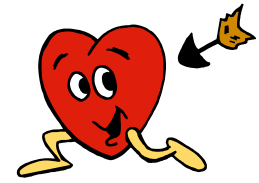




# C.B. McMurdo School

## February 2012



4705 47 Avenue • Wetaskiwin, AB • T9A 0J6 • 780.352.3655 • cb@wrps.ab.ca

Mrs. C. Fiveland, Principal • Mrs. S. Wilson, Vice-Principal

Dear CB McMurdo Learning Community,

*"Substantial evidence exists showing that parent involvement benefits students, including raising their academic achievement. There are other advantages for children when parents become involved — namely, increased motivation for learning, improved behavior, more regular attendance, and a more positive attitude about homework and school in general"* (<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19308/>). **How can you be involved?** One of the most important factors is communication. If you have questions or **want to touch base with your child's teacher, a note to school or a phone call is the best** way to accomplish this. If you are worried about something or have questions or concerns, a phone call and an appointment to meet with the teacher are probably the best route. Please remember that teachers are scheduled to be with their classes **all day and the drop in approach isn't the best as 20+ other students are needing their** teacher. We value parent involvement at CB and encourage communication between school and home. We hope you find these newsletters share some insight as to what goes on in our school. Interim progress reports also go home this week. The goal of the interim progress report is a quick check in. How is my child doing in their subjects? **If you have questions about the interim progress report please call your child's teacher.** There should never be any surprises on interim progress reports or on report cards if home and school communication is occurring. Most importantly, is to update the school when you get a new phone number. Numerous times in January, we have been unable to get ahold of parents when we need to. Happy February!

Yours in education, Mrs. Cordalee Fiveland Principal

## Change in School Policy

- No cell phones, iPods, Nintendo DS's, or other electronic devices

Due to continued misuse by many, CB students are no longer allowed to use any personal electronic devices during the school day. All cell phones, **iPods, Nintendo DS's etc... are encouraged to be left at home.** If your child needs these items for use before and after school, when they are no longer on school grounds, they must keep these items in their lockers or backpacks at all times. Any items being used will be confiscated to the office. Thanks so much for your support in this matter. -Mrs. Fiveland

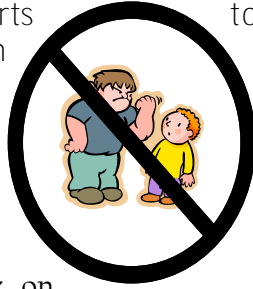


Wetaskiwin  
Regional  
Public Schools

# Pink Shirt Day

CB McMurdo School will be taking part in Pink Shirt Day on February 29, 2012 to raise awareness about bullying at school and in the community.

Pink Shirt Day originated in Nova Scotia where two students took a stand against bullying at their school by handing out pink shirts to students in their class in protest of a grade nine student who was being bullied. Pink Shirt Day now occurs annually in many communities across Canada.



So don't forget to wear pink on FEBRUARY 29th!

CTS courses will continue as originally scheduled in August. We polled students and parents in Junior High to see if they would like art and leadership to carry on in term 2. While there were a lot of good reasons to keep these classes going, we had more responses indicating they would like the CTS courses to change into rec and fitness and digital editing 2. Thanks for sharing your input! -Mrs. Fiveland

## Junior High Late Policy

**In order to cut down on classroom interruptions, we have put in place a new junior high late policy. Students in junior high who arrive after O Canada (8:55 a.m.) or between classes must wait in the office until the next bell. As well, these students are required to return to the office for the first recess (or half of lunch recess). Elementary students are still allowed to join their classes as soon as they arrive at the school after they have checked in at the office. If students are away for an appointment the consequences do not apply.**

## Stingers Basketball

Basketball Season is underway. Both of the boys and girls teams have one game under their belt. The girls had their first victory in their first game. We are looking forward to an exciting season. The first week of March will be the playoff week.

## Book Fair time again...

The book fair will be returning on March 9, March 12 & 13 – and we will be having a Luau!! Bring your grass skirts as we will be saying Aloha to many great books! If you are able to help with the book fair please contact the school, as volunteers are needed for set up, take down and during the day for student sales if possible, thank you for your help.



Book club is going very well. We have 20 members in book club and have made our book marks and had some really great **discussions. I am looking forward to doing more exciting things...** come join us on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:15. Enjoy the break!

Yours in Reading, Mrs. Breitkreuz

## A focus on Study Skills: Test Anxiety

For students who suffer from test anxiety, ask the question: How prepared are they for the test? Anxiety will often surface if the student did not properly prepare. In order to prepare for a test:



- Secure test date from the teacher – know when the test is going to occur
- Ask the teacher what kind of questions are going to be on the test
- Ask for a study guide and be aware of the outcomes that are being tested
- Daily review from the date the test is announced until it is written
- Make study cards (flash cards) for each test. When you get older you can keep your flash cards and you have the start of study cards for your final exams. It is important to compare your study cards and exam post-test.

## Canteen Prices

White or Chocolate Milk - 75 cents  
Orange or Apple Juice - 75 cents  
Bottled Water - 75 cents  
Yogurt Tube - 75 cents  
Cheese String - 75 cents  
Mandarin Orange Cup - 75 cents  
Granola Bar - 75 cents  
Rice Krispie Squares - 50 cents  
Pepperoni Pizza - \$2.00  
Chef Boy-R-Dee Ravioli - \$2.00  
Popcorn (every other Tuesday)  
\$1.00

## Accountability Pillar Surveys

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4-9 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4-9 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

## Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, WRPS schools will remain open. Buses, however, may be canceled. For bus cancelations, please check the division website at [www.wrps.ab.ca](http://www.wrps.ab.ca) or listen to local radio stations.



Gwynne Valley Ski Area  
Cardboard Toboggan Event  
February 19, 2012

2 - 3:30 pm

For More info please call  
Shirley at  
780-352-9659.



Children's Indoor Play Society



### Diaper Drive

For the month of February 2012 CHIPS is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Diaper Drive. This is a month long challenge put out to the Wetaskiwin community as a way of gathering much needed diapers for two of

our most used community organizations; The Salvation Army and NOW (Neighbours Outreach Wetaskiwin).

To kick off our Diaper Drive and help meet our goal of 25,000 diapers, CHIPS is donating \$2000.00 toward the purchase of diapers!

Your donations can be dropped off at; the Drill Hall Mondays and Thursdays through February from 9:30 to 11:30am, or to Susan Duncan (Event coordinator) at 217 Pine Crescent Wetaskiwin, anytime.

## ECS Registration

Monday, March 5, 2012  
6:30 pm  
in the ECS Classroom



Children  
must turn  
five  
by Dec. 31,  
2012

## Boys & Girls Club After-School Programs

New 6, 8 or 10-Week Classes  
start January 2012!

Spots Available in the  
following programs:

Young Chefs—Ages 10 to 14  
years (cooking and eating  
healthy)

FUNDamentals—Ages 6 to 9  
years (physical movement  
and games—held at CB  
McMurdo)

Power Up— Ages 6 to 12  
years (homework help)

Call the Boys and Girls Club  
at 780-352-4643 for more  
information.

## B's Safety Training

### Babysitting Course

Designed for youth 11 years and  
up who want to become a babysit-  
ter. The course covers the respon-  
sibilities of a babysitter, safety  
tips, basic child care skills, and  
what to do in case of an  
emergency.

Cost: 57.75

Upcoming Dates:

February 20th

March 12 & 13th

Call Brianna  
Buskas at

780-312-4640

[b.safetytraining@hotmail.com](mailto:b.safetytraining@hotmail.com)



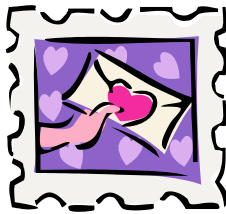
# What's the Buzz?

## ECS

In the month of February, Kindergarten will continue to learn the lowercase alphabet.

We will be focusing on the letters d,g,u,i and e. We will also be working on printing numbers from one to six, as well as memorizing our phone numbers. In math we will be learning about measurement and finishing up on graphing. In class we will be working on showing RESPECT for people and places in our social studies unit. On Wednesday, February 8 we will be walking to the Post Office to mail our letters and learn about how the Post Office works. Very exciting!

- Mrs. McDonald



## 2

We are so enjoying being able to play outside in this beautiful weather.

Our class will continue to read fairy tales and fables until after our February break. We have been constructing our castles and have started creating the story that will go with our castle when we present it to our class. Our story must have characters that live in or use the castle, describe the setting our castle is located in and tell of an event that has happened with our character and the castle. Thank you to all who contributed to our castle materials.

We have also completed several projects, including a dragon as part of our art projects and in honor of Chinese New Year.

Our next unit in **Science...Magnets!**

Addition and subtraction are now our focus in math and we will be practicing our math mad minutes daily.



Our 100th day is on February 1, 2012. We are looking forward to some special projects on that day.

A reminder to all Grade 2 students to please keep reading each and every day.

- Ms. MacLeod

## 1

The students in grade one have been working extremely hard to become independent readers and mathematicians. The excitement of reading a book without assistance or the knowledge of adding two digits together is a sure sign of growth and success. A "proud" feeling is always buzzing around our room and is a sure delight to embrace. Our new science unit has lead us down the construction path to "Building Things". We will be building a house, furniture and even leprechaun traps. Social Studies continues to focus on our community and special landmarks. Did you know that Wetaskiwin has the oldest functioning water tower in Canada? Pretty cool when you really think about it.



- Mrs. McCubbing



# What's the Buzz?

**Miss Lee** Science 8 - The students are currently working through the "Mix and Flow of Matter" unit.

Social 7 - The grade seven class has just wrapped up the last unit "War and British Conquest". This chapter focused on the competition between France and Britain to control all of North America. We are now learning how the Thirteen Colonies chose to break away from British rule and become their own country.

Science 5 - The grade five class have been learning about mechanisms that use electricity. The students have been very busy being detectives and finding the mystery of how circuits and switches work. Next, the students will be using their knowledge that they have learned to create a burglar alarm.

Social 5 - The grade fives have been busy researching a First Nations tribe. Each student was given the task to research the culture, food, clothing, arts and crafts, shelter or storytelling aspect of their diverse group. The students did a great job presenting their projects to the class. The students are now learning about the different geographic regions of Canada. - Miss Lee

**8/9** In 8/9 we have just completed a novel study of Lois Lowry's, *The Giver*. The novel initiated a bevy of insightful class discussions. The final assignment had students transition from readers to authors as they took to writing their own final chapter to the book. In Social Studies 9, students are trying their hand at becoming entrepreneurs. Each team has formed a cookie company responsible for developing a cookie that they will manufacture and market to the 4, 5, 6 classes Wednesday afternoon. The top grossing team will be rewarded with a trip to Hawaii or a canteen card (which ever is cheaper).

- Mr. Bailer

**7** Grade seven has been working on Integers during Math and is doing a unit assignment which is creating a presentation on how to figure out how to add and subtract integers. In L.A. we are currently creating a blockbuster disaster movie in partners and we will be presenting them to the class. In science we have been experimenting with hot air balloons. In Movie Making we finished our tutorials and presented some of them to our class. In Computer Skills we are currently working on Front Page and created a web page for ourselves and now we are going to hyperlink a web page to a basketball team. In P.E. we are finishing up basketball unit and will be doing floor hockey this week. And in Health with Mr. Bailer we are working on the *Elementary School Survival Guide* individually and putting in together to make it like a giant book.

Written by Julia Hansen, grade 7 student

# February 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 100th Day of School! CTS Courses Change	2 Groundhog Day Boys & Girls Basketball Games at New Sarepta	3 Boys Basketball Practice at Clear Vista 3:30-5:30 pm
6 Girls Basketball Practice 3:30-5 pm @ Norwood	7 Parent Council 6:30 pm Girls & Boys Basketball Game at Gwynne	8 ECS Field Trip to Post Office	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No School - Teacher's Convention</div>	10 Boys Basketball Practice at Clear Vista 3:30-5:30 pm
13 Girls Basketball Practice 3:30-5 pm @ Norwood	14 Popcorn Sale Girls Basketball Game at Thorsby Boys Basketball Game at Griffiths Scott	15 Boys and Girls Basketball Games at Samson	16	17 Boys Basketball Practice at Clear Vista 3:30-5:30 pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No School PD</div>
20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No School Family Day</div>	21	22	23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No School—Second Year Round Break</div>
27 Girls Basketball Practice 3:30-5 pm @ Norwood	28 Popcorn Sale Girls Basketball Game at New Sarepta Boys Basketball Game at Warburg	29 Assembly 2:30 pm <b>Pink Shirt Day</b>		

# Preview Calendar March 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 Boys Basketball Practice at Clear Vista 3:30-5:30 pm
5 Girls Basketball Practice 3:30-5 pm @ Norwood ECS Registration 6:30 pm	6	7	8	9 Book Fair Boys Basketball Practice at Clear Vista 3:30-5:30 pm Second Term Report Cards Go Home
12 Book Fair	13 Popcorn Sale Book Fair Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Parent Teacher Interviews 4 pm to 8 pm	15	16 No School Day in Lieu
19 No School Professional Development	20	21	22	23
26	27 Popcorn Sale	28 Assembly 2:30 pm	29	30