



Griffin Park School

Parent Newsletter

April, 2013

Kathleen Jensen
Principal

Bag 750, 805 4th Ave West, Brooks, Alberta, T1R 1B6
Tel:(403) 362-7555 Fax:(403) 793-2106
<http://griffinpark.grasslands.ab.ca/>

Rob Suik
Vice-Principal

2013 Music Festival Performances

Griffin Park staff and students would like to congratulate 3PA, 2ST, 3TO, the grade 2 choir and the grade 4 to 6 choir on their great performances at the Music Festival. Thank you for your hard work and for representing Griffin Park. We are very proud of you!

As well, congratulations to 3TO who received a recommendation to attend the Provincial Music Festival in Edmonton in May. Many of our students participated in other categories during the festival and should be proud of their fine performances.



The Great Griffin Garage Sale A Huge Success

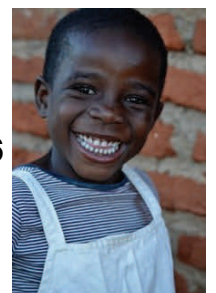
The grade four garage sale raised just over \$610.00 for the Malawi orphanage. Thank you to the grade 4 teachers for organizing this event. We would like to thank the grade four parents for their support in allowing their child to bring items for the sale and to all the staff who donated items. Also, thank you to all the staff and students who participated and purchased these wonderful items. Our own Mrs. Paul spent part of last year at the Agape Orphanage volunteering.

Here are some hard facts about life in Malawi:

- Malawi is 1/6th the size of Alberta with a population of 16 000 000 people and a predicted population of 45 000 000 by the year 2050.
- 1 in 8 children will die before their 8th birthday.
- There are over 1 million orphans who have lost one or both parents.
- 47% of children under 5 suffer from stunted growth due to malnutrition.
- 55% of children entering primary school actually finish the 1st 8 full years of primary school.
- 75% of the people exist on less than \$1.25 a day with very little government social programs.

All about Hannah

Born August 2nd, 2006. She is a charming girl full of spirit and joy, everyone calls her Hannah Banana. She came to the orphanage at 2 months old. She is a single orphan, meaning her father is still alive but he is very ill. Hannah wants you to know that she is 6 years old in grade 1. She loves to dance and do well in school. Hannah would love to have a sponsor to grow up writing to and share her life journey.



If you would like to more information go to: www.agapeorphans.com

Looking Ahead...

Staff will soon be developing class lists for next year. If you have any considerations regarding your child's placement, we ask that you submit this to Mrs. Jensen in **writing** by Wednesday, May 29th.



Board Bits for April

Spring is here and our school year is in the home stretch!!! April 21st - 27th is Volunteer Week. The Grasslands Board of Education would like to thank the many volunteers who are a part of our schools and communities. We appreciate all that our volunteers do; the time that you commit to our students, staff and schools does not go unnoticed. Being a volunteer in our schools is a beneficial support to the students' learning and achieving and to our teachers teaching. Without volunteers our schools and communities would not be the same.

The Alberta Government has announced the 2013/2014 budget. Many sectors have been hit hard, and one of them is education. Grasslands financial team, senior administration, school administrators and trustees have started discussions about the impact the budget has on Grasslands Public Schools. In the next month, all departments will be finalizing their budgets for the next upcoming year. The Board of Education stays committed to making the best decisions possible in the best interest for our students and their education. We continue to support our students in learning, achieving and succeeding.

GRASSLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LEARNING...ACHEIVING...SUCCEEDING

Lost and Found

Are you missing pieces of clothing? Has your child come home without their mitts or sweater? The lost and found will be displayed April 22nd – 25th. Please encourage your child to look through the items. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.



Easter Week Camp-Brooks Recreation Services

Date: April 1st– 5th Price: \$80.00/ Child Ages: 5-12 years old

Location: Lakeside Leisure Centre

This is a camp that your children will be sure to remember! We offer a variety of fun games and activities for children to enjoy. These five fun-filled days are a great way to meet new friends, learn new skills, and have fun doing it! Activities include a variety of sports, games, crafts, swimming, and more!

Register now as this camp will fill up fast and there are limited spots!

Call Recreation Services at 403– 362-3622 to Register

Your child will need to bring:

- A nutritious lunch with lots of snacks (No peanuts)
- A re-usable water bottle
- Indoor shoes; No outdoor shoes allowed in the gym!
- A bathing suit, towel, and extra change of clothes. Also bring a re-usable shopping bag to store wet clothing.
- Please be sure to label all your belongings.

Camp runs from 8:00am-5:00pm. Drop-off time 8:00-9:00am, and pick-up 4:00-5:00pm.





Shine A Light on Autism



World Autism Day — April 2nd, 2013

How you can LIGHT IT UP BLUE and participate on Tuesday, April 2nd

- Come to Canadian Tire from 10:00am-2:00pm

Visit the information table where there will be balloons, puzzle piece cookies and puzzle piece face painting.

- Wear blue clothing and ask friends, co-workers and schools to wear blue too. (Take a group photo and upload it to the gallery at www.LightItUpBlue.org)
- Light your home blue—change your outdoor light bulb to blue.
- Tweet about Light it Up Blue and change your Facebook profile photo to the Light It Up Blue logo on April 2nd.
- Ask if retailers, owners of buildings, landmarks or places of worship if they have the capacity to light up the place blue.. (Cover lighting fixtures with blue lighting filters or gels, change light bulbs from white to blue.
- Restaurants can print menus on blue paper, blue napkins, etc.

Members of the local Disability Support Group, facilitated by LINKS program at The SPEC Association for Children and Families, would like to raise awareness regarding Autism.

Participants of the Disability Support Group, Marie Vahl and May Whynot are parents of children with Autism and want to let the community know about resources on autism and create awareness for the Autism Speaks and their Light It Up Blue campaign.

The Disability Support Group in Brooks meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm in room 207 at The SPEC Association for Children & Families.

**** Background Information

Each April 2, Autism Speaks celebrates Light It Up Blue along with the international autism community, in commemoration of the United Nations- sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day. Light It Up Blue is a unique global initiative that kicks-off Autism Awareness Month and helps raise awareness about autism. In honor of this historic day, many iconic landmarks, hotels, sporting venues, concert halls, museums, bridges and retail stores are among the hundreds of thousands of homes and communities that take part to Light It Up Blue. In 2012, more than 3000 iconic buildings and landmarks in over 50 countries on six continents turned their lights blue in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day.

See also www.LightItUpBlue.org

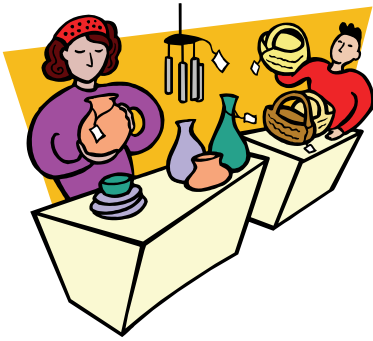
It's easy and fun to Light It Up Blue! Register your Light It Up Blue events today. Whether you're joining as an individual, or the manager of a building, store, school, cultural institution, restaurant, or media entity, you can pledge to Light It Up Blue and share your events.

Contact Information

For more information or to let us know how you would like to participate in the local Autism Awareness Day, please contact May Whynot at (403) 427-0110.

For more information regarding the Disability Support Group contact Janessa Truscott at LINKS at (403) 501-5556 or links@spec.ab.ca

Griffin Park School Craft/Home Fair



Griffin Park School
Saturday, April 27th, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Free Admission



Come out for an exciting day of craft sales, home-based business booths, bake tables and raffles!

After the show, why not continue the browsing? Eastbrook School will also hold a fair on this day.

All proceeds from the table rental fees and raffle ticket sales will be donated to Mrs. Toma's grade 3 class, for their trip to the Provincial Music Festival.



Innovations News



Happy Easter to all of our students and families at Griffin Park School. Enjoy your holiday and remember to spend some time as a family!

Our family programming for April is "Let's Get Moving". We will be meeting at the Lakeside Leisure Center at 6:30 on Tuesday April 30 to listen to a speaker talk to us about fitness and then families are invited to stay for a free swim from 7-8 p.m.

Please call Terisha Thackeray at the school – 362-7555 - to register for the family programming. There has been a link to a survey posted on the Griffin Park website for parents to complete. Go to <http://griffinpark.grasslands.ab.ca/> and look under Latest News about half way down on the left hand side. Click on **read more** and it will take you to the links.

This is a yearly survey done by the Innovations team. All results are compiled and reported to our funder – Alberta Health Services. Please take a moment to complete this survey. If you do not have access to a computer at home you are welcome to call Kathy Irwin at the school – 362-7555 and she will arrange for you to use a computer at the school.

Volunteers & Field Trip Chaperones

If you are interested in volunteering at the school or chaperoning any field trips, please make sure that you have completed the necessary paper work as soon as possible.

A letter from the school indicating you are a volunteer will allow you to obtain a current criminal record check from the RCMP at no cost. Please ask for the volunteer package at the office or request that your child's teacher send one for you. The completed record check must be brought to the school along with the names and numbers of two people for a personal reference check.

A meeting will be scheduled with Mrs. Jensen or Mr. Suik to discuss school policy and sign a confidentiality agreement.

We thank you for your interest in volunteering to help with activities for Griffin Park students.



Pitch-In Canada—April 22nd Earth day

Griffin Park students will once again be participating in Pitch-In Canada. On April 22nd, each class will be walking to their designated area in the west end of Brooks to pick up litter. Wearing plastic gloves and carrying plastic bags, each student is encouraged to help clean up the neighborhood. This is done once a year to assist the city of Brooks in some spring cleaning. It is also an opportunity for our students to practice being responsible environmentally friendly citizens. Not only are we doing our part in tidying up the neighborhood but we are showing that Griffin Park students show consideration to others by doing something extra for the people who live near our school. Should the ground still be too wet due to all of the snowfall this winter, an alternate date shall be picked.



From A Child's Perspective

Lee Westre, Behavior Consultant
lee.westre@grasslands.ab.ca
www.leewestre.com

Strategies to Improve Behavior



April 2013

Each of us begins our day hoping to have our needs met.

- Acknowledgment
- Nutrition
- Communication
- Socialization
- Touch
- Humor
- Physical Activity
- Structure
- Relaxation
- Encouragement

Some children can focus on nothing else until their needs are met.

L. Tobin

What Kids Have Told Us

Why do I steal (fight, yell, skip school, etc)? It gets their attention.

They ask me "Why?" but I don't know why I did it.

I'm like my dad. He always acted up in school. He enjoys the trouble I get into - at least I think he does.

No one asks me how I feel, wishes me a good day at school, looks into my eyes, or hugs me.

I liked it when mom and dad had time to spend with me.

My world changes every day. I never know what will happen next or who will be at my house when I wake up.

I like my teacher but mom doesn't. I feel stuck in the middle.

Try to identify what your child needs, and meet that need.

Is it nutrition? Sleep? Your time? A hug? Or something else?

Communicate regularly with your child's Learning Team. Work together to identify strategies and supports.

Increase the amount of positive adult attention you give your child

Learn when to ignore minor misbehavior and redirect your child toward a positive activity.

Play together

Show them you care. Make sure they know the rules and be sure to enforce them.

Find ways to have your child learn to make friends. [clubs, sports, games, etc.]

Resources

What Do You Do With A Child Like This?, L. Tobin (1998)

Getting Your Children to Listen to You
<http://goo.gl/aIpXW>

The 7 Worst Things (good) Parents Do, John C. and Linda D. Friel (1999)

Kids are worth it – giving your child the gift of inner discipline, Barbara Coloroso

Challenging Behaviors Tool Kit, Autism Speaks
<http://goo.gl/FAiwu>

Ideas for ways to have proper conversations with your kids
<http://goo.gl/fuvSH>

Gym Riot Wrap-Up BBQ

The final Gym Riot for this school year will be a BBQ starting at **5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 24th**. All grade 3-6 students, who have been attending gym riot this year, are welcome to attend and bring their families. **Please note that activities for Gym Riot will not begin at 3:15 as they usually do. Students will need to go home at the end of the school day and then return at 5:30 P.M, as they will not be supervised until this time.**

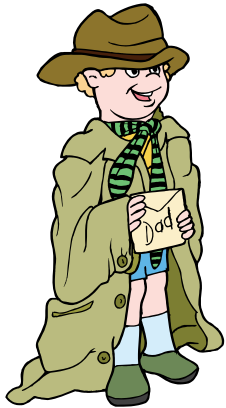


At this time, we would like to thank Mr. Everett and his volunteers for giving their time to organize the fun activities at Gym Riot for our students this year.

Spring Children's Clothing & Toy Sale

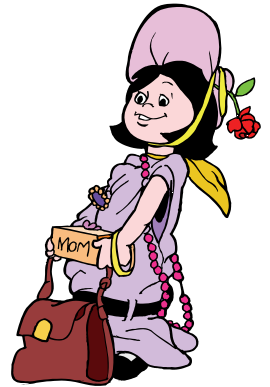
**Friday, April 26th, 2013 7:00p.m.
& Sat, April 27th 9:00am-12:00pm**

Brooks Alliance Church
304 Cassils Road East



Payment accepted by: Interac and Cash only.

Be prepared to line up outside if you come early.



Good used children's clothes,
toys & accessories.

Sizes: newborn to 16

Maternity clothes

For more information and details call:

Tammy Mawer.....362-5519

Heather Roth.....362-6398

Sale organized by

Ladies Connection

A ministry of Brooks Alliance Church

304 Cassils Road East
Brooks, AB

T1R 1B8

Phone: 362-8908

Fax: 362-8920

Consignment Sale Guidelines:

** If you want to sell articles, you **must** contact one of the numbers to the left. No vendor numbers will be issued past 8:00pm April 25th, 2012.

** Articles will be accepted on Friday April 26th between 1:00PM and 4:00PM. Unsold articles **must** be picked up at 12:00PM, Saturday, April 27th

At 1:00PM sharp - all items not picked up will be given to charity.

** **Only** spring & summer clothing will be accepted.

** All articles must be labeled according to the instructions you will be given when you register to sell.

** **Articles must be clean and in good repair.**

** You keep 70% of your sales with the remaining 30% being used for the Ladies Connection program

MOVING???

If you know that you will be moving and/or your child(ren) will be leaving Griffin Park School before September of 2013, please contact the school and let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help in this matter.





**Grade One Orientation
and Open House For Students
Enrolling in Grade 2 in Fall 2013**

You are invited to attend
Griffin Park School or Eastbrook Elementary School

Griffin Park
Tuesday, April 16th, 2013
6:30 P.M

Eastbrook Elementary
Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013
6:30 P.M.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

To make your child's transition from Grade 1 to Grade 2 the very best it can be, we would like to invite parents/guardians and families to come to an open house at Griffin Park School on Tuesday, April 16th or Eastbrook Elementary on Tuesday, April 23rd. Each school will introduce the grade two teachers, the administration, our parent council and you will also have a tour of the school. As well, we will have juice coffee and some treats for you to enjoy while you visit.

We certainly hope you will be able to come and we look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Jensen
Principal
Griffin Park School

Clive Joseph
Principal
Eastbrook Elementary



Learning.....Achieving....Succeeding

April 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 Shine A Light on Autism - World Autism Day-see Pg. 3 for details	3	4	5	6
Easter Holidays—March 29th to April 7th—School Resumes April 8th						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Grade 2 Orientation/ Open House 6:30PM</i> Gr. 4 to 6 Choir Trip Rosebud Theatre	17 Griffin Park Talent Show 6:30PM (note this is a new date)	18	19	20
21	22 Pitch-In - Griffin Park students will be cleaning up the west end of Brooks	23	24 Gym Riot – Wind-up Barbecue 5:30 outside. Parent Council 7:00PM	25	26	27 Griffin Park School Craft/ Home Fair 10:00-3:00 Also checkout Eastbrook School's as well.
Lost and Found on display in main hallway						
28	29	30				