



Griffin Park School

Parent Newsletter

March, 2012

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

Dates to Remember

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Tues. March 6 | Griffin Park Talent Show (6:30 P.M.) |
| Tues. March 6 | Resiliency Day - wear blue in support of the Resiliency Project |
| Wed. March 14 | Gr. 3 & 4 Gym Riot (3:15 - 4:30 P.M.) |
| Thurs. March 15 | Gr. 5 & 6 Gym Riot (3:15 - 4:30 P.M.) |
| Thurs. March 15 | Grade 6 Ski Trip (6:15 A.M. - 5:15 P.M.) |
| Fri. March 16 | Lieu Day (No School) |
| Wed. March 21 | Report Cards |
| Tues. March 27 | Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00 - 7:00 P.M.) |
| Wed. March 28 | School Council 7:00 P.M. |
| Thurs. March 29 | Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00 - 7:00 P.M.) |



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

March 28th

at

7:00 P.M.

(Griffin Park Library)

Everyone Welcome!

(Babysitting Provided)



MOVING???

At this time of year, the school must start to make tentative plans for the next school year. If you know that you will be moving and/or your child(ren) will be leaving Griffin Park School before September of 2012, please contact the school and let us know. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Board Bits for March

As trustees for Grasslands Public Schools, we are asked many questions from our community and parents, involving policies, transportation, and schools. One way we can help you get your questions answered is the Grasslands Public Schools website. The website is very easy to navigate and informative. Our policies are on the website for all to read. There are links to all of our schools, and you also can access the Alberta Education website. You can learn about the schools and staff in our jurisdiction. All the department and contact information is there for you to access. On the home page, you can also see the upcoming events in our jurisdiction, bus route information and the school status report. As the Grasslands Board of Trustees, we want you to be up to date with our jurisdiction and the website is a great place to stay informed. Please check it out at:

www.grasslands.ab.ca



GRASSLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS- LEARNING...ACHIEVING...SUCCEEDING

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a toque or a mitt. Please come and check the lost and found boxes located in the Grade 3/4 hallway and in the Grade 5 hallway. Lost and Found items will be displayed March 19th to March 22nd. Items will be kept for two weeks after, and then donated to a local charity.



Thank You



Thank you to Nancy Clark our hot lunch coordinator for organizing a very successful hot lunch this month. Also thank you to the many parents who come each time to help with the preparation and distribution of the lunches to the classrooms. The staff and students appreciate all your hard work and especially enjoy the treat of having a variety of nutritious hot lunches.

Griffin Park Students' Efforts Appreciated By Senior Citizens

Valentine's Day was a chance for our Griffin students to show their appreciation for all the contributions the senior citizens have made and continue to make in the Brooks area. In our Spirit groups, each student constructed a handmade Valentine packet containing a tea bag and had the message 'You're as sweet as the sugar in my tea'. These were delivered by staff and students to the Newbrook Lodge, Sunrise Gardens, and Orchard Manor on Valentines Day. Following the delivery of the Valentines, classes performed a short poem or song for the residents. Thanks to everyone for sharing in this experience.



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. It sometimes takes an extended period of time to get the criminal record check from the RCMP.

A letter from the school indicating you are a volunteer will allow you to obtain a current criminal records check 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.

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.



The Great Big Crunch

What: An awareness for eating healthy snacks

When: Thursday, March 8th 2012

Where: Classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums and workplaces across Canada and beyond!

Why: Because it's fun and apples are delicious and nutritious!



Griffin Park staff and students will be participating in the great big crunch to bring awareness to and promote the importance of healthy snacks. Parents if you are able please send an apple with your child to school on this day.

Griffin Park Students Take Part in Brooks Music Festival

Mrs. Toma's Grade 3 class and the Griffin Park Choir directed by Mr. Snider and Mrs. Jensen will again be participating in the Brooks Music Festival. 3TO will perform Monday March 19th at 9:30am and the choir will perform Tuesday, March 20th at 9:00 am. Parents are encouraged to attend.



Resiliency Day - Tuesday, March 6th

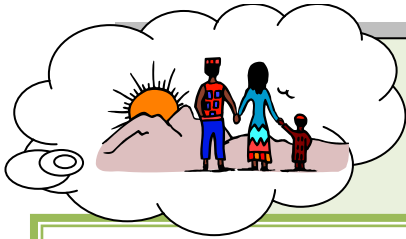
The Brooks and District Resiliency Committee is celebrating its 11th Anniversary on March 6th.

Everyone is being asked to wear blue on this day. Youth in our community will be giving blue ribbons to individuals, agencies and businesses who have made or are making a difference in the life of a child.

For more information on improving a child's resilience visit:

www.search-institute.org/assets





Using Visuals Can Help

Strategies to Improve Behavior



What do we mean by visual supports?

- Object** to represent an activity, location, or person. i.e. a plate when it is time to eat
- Object symbol** i.e. a mouse to represent a computer activity
- Picture** (photo, picture for a magazine)
- Line drawing** i.e. Boardmaker
- Written word**

"If you've told a child a thousand times and he still does not understand, then it is not the child who is the slow learner."
 Attributed to Walter Barbee

The Benefit of using visuals

- ◆ Reduces frustration
- ◆ Can form the foundation of communication skills
- ◆ Can provide your child with a positive and effective method of communicating needs, wants, information, feelings, and ideas.
- ◆ Helps if the child needs more time to process information
- ◆ Helps if the child has missed some of the verbal information due to inattention distractibility, or language difficulties
- ◆ Helps to clarify the verbal information.
- ◆ Good for Visual Learners
- ◆ Helps kids with Autism, Asperger's, ADHD, Down's Syndrome, Intellectual disabilities, Multiple Disabilities, and Speech Disorders.



Need more information?
 Have questions?

When? Last Wednesday of each month
 9:30 to 11 a.m. – Parents
Where? PUF Meeting Room
 * entry through rear entry of Sunrise School*

Register with Dawn by Friday, March 23, 2012
 (403) 362-8684
 dawn.schlosser@grasslands.ab.ca

Resources

GETTING STARTED!!! Using VISUAL SYSTEMS to promote COMMUNICATION

By Dolly Bhargava www.carsonst.wa.edu.au

Lee Westre, Behavior Specialist





lee.westre@grasslands.ab.ca
www.leewestre.com

Griffin's Got Talent

On March 6th at 6:30pm Griffin Park School will be holding it's annual talent show. Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Helland have been working hard helping the students to get ready for the big show. Come out and see our awesome singers, dancers, musicians and joke tellers. Students will have a dress rehearsal the morning of the 6th and the perform for the Griffin Park student body in the afternoon. The evening show is open to family and friends. We hope to see you there.



March 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|---|--|-----------------------------|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Griffin Park Talent Show 6:30PM Resiliency Day Wear Blue to show support  | 7 | 8 Great Big Crunch - Bring an apple for a snack  | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Grade 3/4 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30 | 15 Grade 6 Ski Trip  Grade 5/6 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30 | 16 Lieu Day No School | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Report Cards Sent Home  | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00 to 7:00PM | 28 School Council Meeting 7:00PM | 29 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00 to 7:00PM | 30 | 31 |