



Griffin Park School

'Living to Learn, Learning to Live'

Parent Newsletter

November, 2012

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Principal

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Rob Suik
Vice-Principal

Please Help Us Be More Environmentally Responsible

We are trying to conserve paper and photocopier costs when publishing the monthly school newsletter. Starting next month we have identified the oldest child in each family attending Griffin Park School and we will send a copy home with that child.

You can also do your part by signing up to receive the newsletter by email. To do so, go to our website at:

<http://griffinpark.grasslands.ab.ca/>

Look in the bottom left corner and enter your email address and then click the subscribe button. Once you have subscribed please call the school at 403 362-7555 or email me at robert.suik@grasslands.ab.ca to say that you no longer require a paper copy. Thank you for your help.

Student Absences

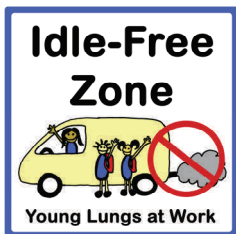
Please inform your child's teacher if you know that they will be absent. If your child is sick in the morning, we would greatly appreciate a call to let us know that they will be at home. Please contact us at 403-362-7555. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Coming Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| * Thurs. Nov. 8 | Formal Day
Remembrance Day Ceremony
(for students) 1 P.M. |
| * Fri. Nov. 9 | Lieu Day (No School) |
| * Mon. Nov. 12 | Teacher P.D. Day (no school) |
| * Wed. Nov. 14 | Grade 4 Classes - Outstanding in
the Field Day (Agricultural fair at
Silver Sage Arena) |
| * Wed. Nov. 21 | Picture Retakes |
| * Wed. Nov. 21 | Gr. 3&4 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30 |
| * Thurs. Nov. 22 | Gr. 5&6 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30 |
| * Nov. 19 - 23 | Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox collection |
| * Wed., Nov. 28 | Parent Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. |
| * Tues. Nov. 27 | Alberta Opera Presents
Sleeping Beauty |
| * Fri. Nov. 30 | Term One Report Cards |
| * Tues. Dec. 18 | Christmas Concert #1 |
| * Wed. Dec. 19 | Christmas Concert #2 |

A Request From Your Parent Council



When picking up and dropping off your children please refrain from idling your vehicles. Fumes from the vehicle exhaust can be harmful to yours and others children. Please help us to make the pick up areas around the school an idle free zone.



Lost & Found

October lost and found will be on display November 27th to 29th and then will be packed and donated to a local charity. If your child has lost something please take the time to come and check the items displayed in the main hallway past the kitchen.



November Board Bits

The Government of Alberta has released the Accountability Pillar results for the 2011-2012 school year. Grasslands is pleased with the improvements we have made in many areas with our Accountability Pillar. We have improved in eight out of sixteen areas from our previous three year average and are above the provincial average in six out of sixteen areas that are measured. Grasslands has made substantial improvements in our 6 Year Transition Rate and are above the provincial average and our previous three year average. Our dropout rate is the lowest in four years and is currently at 4.0%. Our staff and students have made a concerted effort in this area, and we are pleased with the results. With our student, parent, and teacher surveys, Grasslands has very high achievement in the areas of Safe and Caring Schools, Overall Quality of Education, Student Citizenship, and School Improvement. Grasslands also has high achievement in the areas of Program of Studies which include, Drop Out Rate, Transition Rate, Work Preparation and Parental Involvement. Our positive results can be attributed to the dedication of our students, staff, parents and communities.

Grasslands has many areas to celebrate, we also have areas that have been identified as focus areas. As we are improving in the area of the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence on Diploma Exams, we also need to continue with our focus on improving the number of students who achieve both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence at all grade levels. Our Diploma participation rates have improved in some subject areas. we still see an area of growth. We also see an area of concern with the Provincial Achievement Test results. The composite Provincial Achievement Test results were down from the previous year. Although Grasslands has a higher percentage of English Language Learners and a larger percentage of students with special needs writing these exams as compared to the provincial average, the averages are lower than we have achieved in prior years.

Grasslands Board of Education supports our students, staff, parents and communities to insure we continue to give the best education possible. We are proud of students and staff for their hard work and continued dedication. We also must thank our parents and communities for their continued support.

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

First Term Report Cards

First term report cards will be coming home on Friday, November 30th. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress please feel free to contact your child's teacher. There will be no formal interviews at this time as they just occurred in the middle of October.



Photo Retake Day November 21, 2012

Dear Parents & Students:

Below are a few pieces of information to keep in mind for a successful retake day:

1. Please have your child take their proof envelope from original photo day to the photographer on retake day.
2. If you have lost the proof envelope, please send a handwritten note to request a retake including your choice of background color (blue, grey, purple, green or copper).
3. If your child was absent from school on original photo day or is new to the school please tell your child to have their photograph taken on retake day.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday, November 8th, Griffin Park will be having a "Formal Dress Day" in recognition and in respect of Remembrance Day. A Remembrance Day program will be held in our theatre for Griffin students at 1:00 pm. We would like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion and the various classes and individual students who will be participating in the ceremony. Poppies will be available at the office for a donation.



Just A Reminder



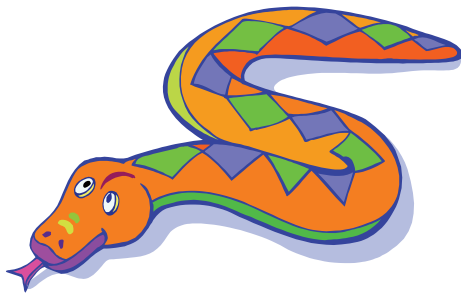
As the cooler weather arrives it is important for students to be dressed warmly so that they are comfortable when outside at recess. An important part of a child's physical health is time spent playing outside at recess. This is also a time for them to connect with friends and spend some time socializing with their peers. Students are out on the playground before school starting at 8:15 and then again during the morning, noon, and afternoon recess times. Please help to prepare them to be outside during these times by helping them to dress warmly. In case of extreme cold during the winter we keep students inside but even less cold days can be very uncomfortable if students do not have mitts or gloves, a hat or toque, warm jacket, and boots. Thank you for your help so that your children can have a safe and enjoyable recess time.

Library News

Griffin Park Library would like to thank all those who so graciously supported the book fair and volunteered their time. The funds raised, amounted to \$2829.45 which will be used to purchase new books for the school. Congratulations to Jake Passey, from Mr. Snyder’s room, who was the winner of the \$25.00 book draw. A very special thank you goes out to all the students who provided Mrs. Dube with cookies from the featured recipe of the month. The November contests will be starting, so get your entries in! Winners from the October contests were:

Trivia	“How Observant Were You?”
Jordan Wurz (2SL)	Kennedy Stenger (2OL)
Jhon Louis Jongay (3PA)	Morgan Franzen (3PE) Keleigh Drake (3PE) Chelsea Good (3PE)
Kyra Padilla (4WE) Talon Caithcart (4WE) Runner-up	Jace Baumgartner(4WO) Dakota Hanson (4WO) Austin Johnson (4WO) Carson Pearson (4WO)
Jaden Frankenfield (5SN) Runner-ups: Gabrielle Walliser (5SN) Shawn Duckett (5SN) Kaitlyn Heninger (5SN)	
Kayden Perini (6HR)	Jayden Isimeli (6OS) Derek Bayrack (6OS)

The stuffed snake in the Library is in dire need of some TLC. If you would like to be the owner of this very colorful snake please fill out this form, cut it out and bring it to the Library. A draw will be made in November.



Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Council Meeting Date

This month our school council meeting is November 28th. All interested parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. The meetings help to inform you of upcoming events, and also serve as a time for you to give input into the happenings at the school. Meetings are always under an hour long. Free babysitting is provided.

**Come Join
Us**

**Wednesday,
November 28th
at 7:00 P.M. in the school library**

**Everyone
Welcome**

Grade 6 Volleyball



Our Grade 6 Boys and Girls Volleyball teams are hard at work practicing and getting ready for the Annual Eastbrook Volleyball Tournament that will be held on December 1st. Watch for more details to come home from your children's coaches. Thank you to Mr. Harrison, Mr. Saranchuk, Mrs. Osadczuk, Miss Hemsing, and Mr. Peel for coaching. The lessons you teach go beyond the skills of the game and help the athletes to learn about fair play and good sportsmanship.

PHONE FANOUT

Please check to make sure your child has brought home his/her class phone fan out list. This list helps us to relay any messages to everyone in the school. This is especially important in the case of a school closure or emergency. If you do not have one, please contact your child's teacher so that they may send home a copy for you.



School Fees

A reminder to parents that school fees are due. Thank you for taking care of these payments as soon as possible.

Grades 2-3\$70.00

Grades 4-6\$60.00

Please make cheques payable to Grasslands Public Schools.

**THANK
YOU**

Operation Christmas Child

We understand that with the volume of charities and fundraising activities in both the school and in the community it is difficult to support each and every one of them. However for those families who wish to be a part of Operation Christmas Child, you are welcome to send a completed shoe box with \$7.00 for processing.

Christmas shoe boxes will be collected at Griffin Park School from **November 19th to November 23rd**.

Some shoe boxes will be available at Griffin Park. Also, plastic containers the size of a shoebox are also encouraged and can be found at local stores.

Samaritan's Purse asks that **each shoe box have \$7.00** included in it to help pay the transportation costs. Shoe boxes will be distributed to the following countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uruguay, Venezuela

Fill your shoe box with a well-balanced variety of items from the following categories:

- School Supplies - Items such as pencils, pens, pencil crayons, note pads, and picture books
- Toys & Other Gifts - Items such as stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewelry, t-shirts, socks, and candy (loose, individually wrapped hard candy in a sealable bag)
- Hygiene Items - Please place soap in a sealable bag
- Personal Note - Include a personal note and/or a photo in your shoe box (not inside the donation envelope)

******* DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- * Toothpaste (due to customs regulations)
- * Food and any chewy, crumbly, or soft candy: Including gum (due to customs regulations)
- * Used items (due to customs regulations)
- * Playing cards (other card games such as UNO are allowed)
- * Liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze, or break - Shampoo, creams, lip balm, bath gels, mirrors, or glass, etc. (these can damage other items in the shoe box). Items that can scare or harm a child - War-related toys, knives, and toy guns, etc.
- * Using a backpack instead of a shoe box is problematic because it creates unfair circumstances at distribution events. Backpacks can also cause problems when cartons are being packed, and when shipments are going through Customs.



INNOVATIONS NEWS



Where has the time gone? A very busy October is coming to a close and November is upon us.



First of all, we would like to say I have never been more proud to call Brooks home. We have watched as our entire community and surrounding area has pulled together to help our people who have been faced with the challenges at Lakeside. We have seen many of you, students and parents, at work in our community doing your part and sharing your time! What a generous and compassionate community we live in!!

The Innovations Team would like to acknowledge the very generous donations from our community that help to fund our School Nutrition Program. Since school opened, we have served almost 600 lunches to students in our four schools. Thank goodness for the following donors who have made this happen: **Blue Line Trucking, Boss Wire Line, Logan Industries, Hopf Mechanical, Brooks Bearing, Shell Ryn Machining, Paramount Mechanical, Paramount Hydraulics, Swab Master, League Pipeline, Larry and Leann Woods, Cactus Group, Smith Group Holdings, Jaycee Welding and Brooks Masonic Lodge.** We would also like to say a huge thanks to **Enerplus and Conoco Phillips** for funding our family programming.

Dates to Remember for November:

November 13 – Central School Family Programming – Come and join us for an evening of family time as we make Santa plates and mugs to set out on Christmas Eve.

November 20 – Eastbrook Family Programming – Come and join us as we make a “mental health activity” Advent calendar.

November 27 – Griffin Park Family Programming - Come and join us as we make a “mental health activity” Advent calendar.


There will be afterschool programming at Eastbrook and Griffin Park. Tabatha is busy working with BAPS so students will be able to go the animal shelter to play with the cats and dogs.

Terisha has organized an afterschool art program on November 15, 22, and 29. To register your child or your family for any programming, please talk to the Innovations team member in your school.

Have a great month!

November 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Formal Dress Day Remembrance Program for Staff and Students IPM	9 Lieu Day No School	10
11 Remembrance Day 	12 PD Day No School	13	14 Grade 4 Outstanding in the Field Day at Silver Sage Corral	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Gym Riot Gr. 3/4 Picture Retakes	22 Gym Riot Gr. 5/6	23	24
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection - due by 9:00am on the 23rd.						
25	26	27	28 Parent Council 7:00PM Library	29	30 Report Cards Sent Home	