



# Griffin Park School

'Living to Learn, Learning to Live'

## Parent Newsletter

September, 2012

Kathleen Jensen  
Principal

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

Rob Suik  
Vice-Principal

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## Welcome Back

*"A smile is the universal welcome."*

*Max Eastman*

A big Griffin welcome to all of our students and families! Our school has been buzzing these first few days with visiting and preparing for a great new school year.

We extend a very warm welcome to all of our new students and families in grade two and any other families who are beginning their journey at Griffin Park School. Transition can be a little bit overwhelming, but we know that it will take no time at all to adjust and feel at home.

Our current enrollment is at 416 students. We have expanded to five grade two classes and four grade three classes. We are excited to see so many new faces in our school.

We are also pleased to welcome some new staff members: Mrs. Slenders and Ms Storch in grade two, Mrs. Paul in grade three, Ms Mennes in grade four and Miss Hemsing in grade two and three. Please feel free to stop by or call if you have questions or concerns or you just want to visit! We look forward to a great year at Griffin!

Mrs. Kathleen Jensen  
Principal



## Campbell's Labels for Education

Continuing this year is the Campbell's Labels for Education program. This program allows our school to collect labels from eligible Campbell's products and redeem them for a wide range of educational resources and materials. Families are encouraged to save Campbell's soup product labels as well as, V8 beverage labels. Simply have your child bring the labels to Mrs. Carpenter, where they will be collected. Visit [www.labelsforeducation.ca](http://www.labelsforeducation.ca) for a complete listing of eligible products. We thank you for your continued support and partnership.



## Meet the 2012-2013 Griffin Park School Staff

As we begin the new school year, we are pleased to introduce to you the 2011-2012 Griffin Park staff.

### Grade 2 Homeroom

Ms. Storch  
Ms. Turner  
Mrs. Olson  
Miss Wruth  
Mrs. Slenders

### Grade 3 Homeroom

Mrs. Petrie  
Mrs. Toma  
Mrs. Morris  
Mrs. Paul

### Grade 4 Homeroom

Miss Mennes  
Mr. Wells  
Miss Wolfer

### Grade 5 Homeroom

Mr. Peel  
Mr. Saranchuk  
Mr. Snider

### Grade 6 Homeroom

Mr. Harrison  
Mrs. Hamre  
Mrs. Osadczuk (Thompson)

### District Levels Program

Mrs. Carpenter  
Mrs. Sykes (Norrish)

### Support Staff

Mrs. Bloor  
Mrs. Bosman  
Mrs. Dube - Librarian  
Mrs. Finlay  
Mrs. Gauthier  
Mrs. Hamm - Admin Assistant

Mrs. J. Jensen

Mrs. Lamotte

Mrs. Laychuk

Mrs. Marshall

Mrs. McCall

Mrs. McColm

Mrs. Mercer

Mrs. Mowat

Mrs. Shannon

Mrs. Tapia

Mrs. Williams

Mrs. Winter

### Innovations

Mrs. Hendricks  
Mrs. Irwin  
Ms. Thackeray  
Mrs. Helmer-Desjarlais

### F.S.L. Counselor

Naghmana Ahtesham

### Custodians

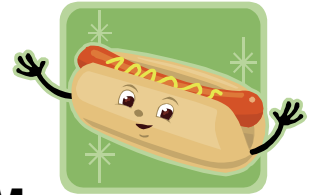
Mrs. Dominguez  
Mrs. Langevin  
Mrs. Zhang

### Non Homeroom

Mrs. Gurski - Learning Assistance  
Mr. Berg - ESL  
Miss Hemsing - Gr. 2 and 3  
Mr. Stone - Music/Band  
Mrs. K. Jensen – Principal  
Mr. Suik - Vice Principal



## Welcome Back BBQ & Meet the Staff Night



**Thursday, September 20, 2012 6:00 P.M.**

To get the year off to an exciting start, the Griffin Park Staff invites your family for a hot dog supper. It will give parents a chance to meet the Griffin Park staff and tour the school.

Throughout the evening beginning at 5:30, Grade 2-6 homeroom teachers will be scheduled in their classrooms to meet with you. Watch for more information from your child's teacher. In addition to this, Mr. Stone will hold a Band Meeting for grade six band students in the theatre at 6:45. Band information packages will be available.

### Reverse Noon Hour Reminder

Just a reminder about how we run our noon hour. 11:40 to 12:02 will be outside recess and then the students will come in to eat lunch from 12:02 to 12:25. If your child goes home for lunch and returns after 12:02 they should come in to their classroom and not play on the playground as all the supervisors will be inside. Research has shown that students eat a better lunch after playing and the eating time helps to settle the students so they are ready to get back to learning at the end of the noon hour.



### Breakfast for Learning Griffin Park School Sept. 12th

Our Breakfast for Learning date is September 12th from 8:15 – 8:45. Parents are welcome to bring their children and join us for breakfast. This is a great time to see other parents and share the breakfast provided by the Breakfast for Learning Committee. Parent volunteers are needed please call Karen Hiebert at 501-5812 if you can help.



### Picture Day



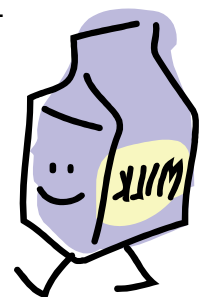
Student individual pictures will be on October 11th. Watch for more information coming home.

### Milk Sales

The grade five students will once again be running the milk program for the school.

At noon they will deliver the milk to the classroom. Milk can be purchased for \$1.00 cents a carton or milk tokens are available from Mr. Saranchuk for 10 for \$10.00.

**Thanks to the grade 5 classes and their teachers for providing this program for Griffin Park.**



## BOARD BITS for SEPTEMBER 2012

The Grasslands Board of Education would like to welcome our students, staff and parents back to school, for a year of "Learning...Achieving...Succeeding". We give our new students, staff and parents a very warm welcome to our jurisdiction! We hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer, and are rested up for a fun and exciting school year.

Our Trustees are rested and ready for also what we hope to be an exciting year of advocating for our students education. Our goal is to always make the best decisions in the best interest of our students. Alberta has one of the best education systems in the world and our decisions and lobbying efforts continue to make our students education even better.

For more information on the Grasslands Board of Education, bus routes, school status (due to weather), policies and other needs please visit our website at [www.grasslands.ab.ca](http://www.grasslands.ab.ca)

Best wishes for a very successful 2012/2013 school year!!!

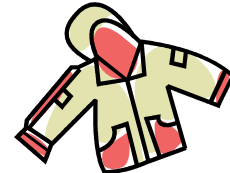
### GRASSLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS - LEARNING...ACHIEVING...SUCCEEDING

## Lost and Found



During the changing Fall weather, jackets and sweaters are more likely to be forgotten outside as students play hard, get warm, and take them off. Students, please take extra care to keep track of all of your belongings. If you notice that you are missing something, check the blue "Lost and Found" boxes in each of the three main hallways as soon as you can. Parents, if you can help to label belongings

clearly, it should be easier for students to identify items that end up in the blue boxes. Near the end of each month, items remaining in the Lost and Found boxes will be on display for two or three days. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. September items will be on display from September 24th to September 28th.



## Parent Volunteers

Parents who are interested in volunteering in the school are asked to see Mrs. Jensen or Mr. Suik to obtain the necessary paperwork to obtain a criminal record check from the Brooks RCMP. Parents who have provided a CRC in priors years at Griffin Park will not need to submit a new CRC. Grasslands Public School policy requires that all volunteers have a criminal record check completed and on file. It takes sometime for the CRC to be obtained from the RCMP so it is advisable to get this taken care of as soon as possible.



## School Routines

At this time of year, students and teachers are working hard to establish routines that will help students be successful throughout the school year. One routine that many of our classrooms do each day is to use the agenda as a method of communication between the classroom and the home. You can help by checking with your child's teacher if they would like you to sign the agenda each evening indicating that you have read any notes or homework for that day. Thank you for your help.

# Grasslands

## Public Schools

### Fair Notice Letter

**Notice to parents and community that Grasslands schools are required to respond, as provided for in local policy, in all cases of students posing a threat to themselves or others.**

The safety of our children is a top priority for all of us. Grasslands Regional Division and all of our schools have protocol in place for responding to all situations in which students may pose a threat to themselves or others.

The response begins with a threat assessment in collaboration with our community partners – the RCMP, Alberta Mental Health, Alberta Child and Family Authority – and will lead to the development of a report which is normally added to the school and student files.

The Grasslands policy requires that Threat Assessment Teams complete formal threat assessments in all cases of students making significant threats to harm themselves or others. This message is intended to provide fair notice to all that, as a school community, we will be responding to all high risk and worrisome behaviors to ensure that we can protect the existing healthy, caring learning environment.

If your child comes home to tell you that a student has behaved in a threatening way at school, please contact the school to be sure that the administration is aware of the situation. Please be assured that your principal will take measures to deal with the situation in a positive and proactive manner. If your principal invites you to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that policy is being followed and the goal is safety, not punishment.

Principals will address this at an early school council meeting and in their communications with students and parents through school opening for the 2012/2013 school year.

## Griffin Park School Terry Fox - Run Day - September 27

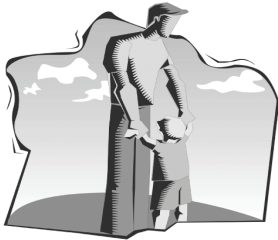
Griffin Park students will be taking part in a walk about town on September 27th in support of the Terry Fox Run. Students will first meet in the theatre at 1:00 for a presentation and then go out on a walk at 1:30. Students are encouraged to bring in a loonie or toonie donation. As well as a great cause, this event serves as a wonderful way to reinforce our character development program. Many of our Griffin families have been touched by cancer and we hope that this whole experience will bring about more understanding and a knowledge that we can make a difference in other people's lives. We invite all our Griffin families to join us for the walk. All you need are good walking shoes and some enthusiasm. We guarantee some exercise and a great time!



**As Terry Fox said, "if you've given a dollar, you are part of the Marathon of Hope".**

## Diabetes Association Pop-tab Collection

The diabetes association collects pop-tabs to raise funds for children with diabetes to go to special diabetes camps. If families would like to help please set aside a small container or zip-lock bag and collect the tabs. These may be brought to Mrs. Toma's class or deposited in the water bottle container in the library.



A monthly publication provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education.

# Resources for Families

September 2012

### Active children do better in school

Lots of studies have linked physical activity with better school performance. Research attributes the mind/body connection to increased blood and oxygen flow during physical activity that enhances brain function and triggers the release of "feel-good" endorphin hormones.

Other benefits for students who participate regularly in sports activities include better classroom concentration, more energy, greater confidence and improved sleep habits.

### Help your child stay active

Physical activity is essential to children's health. But how do you ensure that your child gets enough activity? Experts recommend that children get at least 60 minutes of activity every day. With homework, after school activities, television and computer games competing for your child's time, getting enough exercise takes guidance and planning.

### How much and what kind of activity?

Experts suggest children and adolescents age six and older need at least an hour a day of physical activity. Most of the hour should be either moderate or vigorous aerobic activity. In addition, children should participate in muscle-strengthening and bone-strengthening activities at least three days a week. Classic activities such as playing on playground equipment and jumping rope meet all of these needs at once.

### Help your child move more

Here are some tips from the Mayo Clinic to help your kids build healthy habits for lifelong health:

#### Set a good example

Model an active lifestyle for your child. Make physical activity a priority for yourself or, even better, make it a family goal. Good activities include playing catch or taking a walk or hike. Make sure to praise and encourage your child. Being active should be fun.

#### Limit screen time

The more time children spend in front of a television, computer or video game console, the less time they spend moving their bodies. Set time limits on screen time, don't place a TV in their bedrooms, and turn it off during meal times. If your child plays video games, choose active games that require movement, such as dancing or sports games.

#### Establish a routine

Set aside daily active time for activity. Take the dog for a morning walk, or head outside before or after dinner.



## Music Notes

All grades 4-5 students are reminded to bring their recorder for music class. If any student needs to purchase a high quality recorder it can be ordered for you through the school for a price of \$10.00. Please make cheques payable to Griffin Park School and have your orders in by Sept. 14th.

## School Fees

Student fees are due at the beginning of the school year, however recognizing this is a time when there are many financial commitments for school supplies, clothing etc., you may wish to arrange an alternative payment process, please come in to the school and see Mrs. Jensen (Principal) or Mr. Suik (Vice Principal). Fees are Grade 4 to 6 - \$60.00 and Grade 2 and 3 - \$70.00

## Dropping Your Children Off

There is a large volume of traffic around the school when students are being dropped off and picked up. To ensure the safety of your child and all of the children attending Griffin, we ask that you practice the following rules.

- ◆ Do not drive in the bus lane at any time. Also do not park in the alley that is directly West of the school as this restricts the bus drivers from entering from 4th Ave and getting into the bus lane.
- ◆ The safe area to drop off your child is along the fence past the grade 4 to 6 playground so that when you stop you are not blocking the buses from the bus lane.

Thank you for helping to keep all of our Griffin Park students safe.

## School Council Meeting

**Our first School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26th at 7:00 P.M.**

All parents are encouraged to attend these meetings to become involved in your child's education, to provide advice, and assist the school on many educational matters. Free babysitting is provided and it is a great opportunity to meet other parents.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

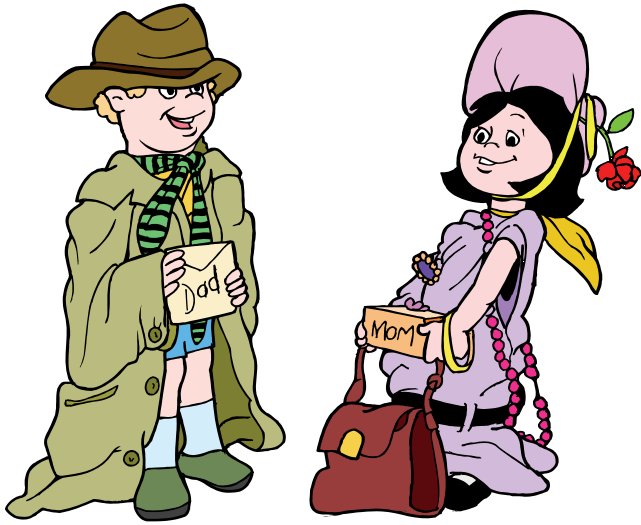
## Room Representatives

**(Can You Lend Us a Hand?)**

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a room representative for your child's class, please contact your child's home room teacher. A room rep. may assist the teacher by phoning parents for the awards programs, organizing help for classroom activities, **attending School Council meetings** and assisting with hot lunches. Your time and support is greatly appreciated!



# Fall Children's Used Clothing & Toy Sale



- 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

**Friday, Sept. 28, 2012**

**7:00p.m & Sat Sept 29**

**9:00a.m-12:00p.m**

**Brooks Alliance Church**

**304 Cassils Road East**

**Payment accepted by:  
Interac and Cash only.**

Be prepared to line up outside if you come early.

## **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 September 27, 2012.

\*\* Articles will be accepted on Friday September 28th between 1:00PM and 4:00PM. Unsold articles **must** be picked up at 12:00PM, Saturday, September 29th.

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

\*\* **Only** fall & winter 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 as well as a donation to other charitable organizations.



# September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Breakfast For Learning 8:15 - 8:45 	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20  Welcome Back Barbeque 6:00PM	21	22
	Grade 3 Swimming Lessons Sept. 17th—20th					
23	24	25	26 Parent Council 7:00PM	27 Terry Fox Run Assembly 1:00 Walk 1:30	28	29
	Grade 3 Swimming Lessons Sept. 24th—27th					
30						