



Griffin Park School

Parent Newsletter

March, 2013

Kathleen Jensen
Principal

Bag 750, 805 4th Ave West, Brooks, Alberta, T1R 1B6
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<http://griffinpark.grasslands.ab.ca/>

Rob Suik
Vice-Principal

Dates to Remember

Thurs. March 7	Great Big Crunch - (remember to bring an apple)
Fri. March 15	Grade 6 Ski Trip (6:15 A.M. - 5:15 P.M.)
Wed. March 20	Gr. 3 & 4 Gym Riot (3:15 - 4:30 P.M.)
Thurs. March 21	Gr. 5 & 6 Gym Riot (3:15 - 4:30 P.M.)
Mon. March 25	Report Cards
Wed. March 27	School Council 7:00 P.M.
March 29th to April 7	Easter Holidays No school
April 16th	Griffin Park Talent Show 6:30pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

March 27th

at

7:00 P.M.

(Griffin Park Library)

Everyone Welcome!

(Babysitting Provided)



Are You 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 2013, please contact the school and let us know. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Board Bits for March

Election time is fast approaching, and voters will be deciding who will shape and direct local education for the next four years. Elections for school trustee will take place on October 21, 2013, and it's not too early to think about who you would like to see as candidates for this important office.

Having good trustee candidates in the upcoming elections is critical because they decide how education is delivered locally. School Board trustees manage millions of dollars in public funds, employ hundreds of teachers and support staff, and play a key role in the care and education of our local students. Their policies and decisions directly impact the development of our youth and community.

That's why Grasslands Board would encourage people with an interest in our students and in local education to consider running for trustee. Nomination day is September 23, 2013.

During the months of March and April, the Alberta School Boards Association is hosting information sessions for school board candidates. Sessions in Southern Alberta include:

Medicine Hat - 7pm - March 19th

Lethbridge - 7pm - March 20th

Calgary - 7pm - April 4th

Registration is online at www.asba.ab.ca or by contacting Noreen Pownall at npownall@asba.ab.ca or 1-780-451-7102.

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta is hosting a candidates session.

High River - March 8th

Registration is online at <https://publicschoolswufoo.com/forms/governance-session-high-river/>



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 25th to March 28th. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.



Thank You



Thank you to Christie DeBoer 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 made of a colorful paper butterfly with a sweet treat attached as the butterfly's head and the message "My heart flutters for you Valentine". These were delivered by staff and students to the Newbrook Lodge, Sunrise Gardens, and Orchard Manor on Valentine's 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 7th 2013

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. We will do a school wide crunch at 10:00 a.m. 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

We will share our Choral Speech poetry at 9:00am Monday, March 11th in the Griffin Amphitheatre. Grade 2ST is preparing two poems to share in the upcoming Brooks Music Festival. Mrs. Paul's Grade 3 class will performing "The Duel" and "Cat!". Mrs. Toma's Grade 3 class will perform 'The Unicorn and "Face in Places".



The choirs will perform on March 12th starting at 9:00am. The Grade 2 Choir will be singing two Canadian folk songs at the Music Festival as well. There will be many young voices singing the Newfoundland folk song "Donkey Riding" and the French "Acadian Lullabye." The Grade 4 to 6 Choir will perform following the Grade 2 choir. Families are welcome to come listen and cheer us on!

The Grade 4 to 6 Choir is also looking forward to their fieldtrip to Rosebud Theatre on March 22nd. The students will participate in a singing workshop and take a tour of the theatre.

Hot Lunch Warmed Many Hearts

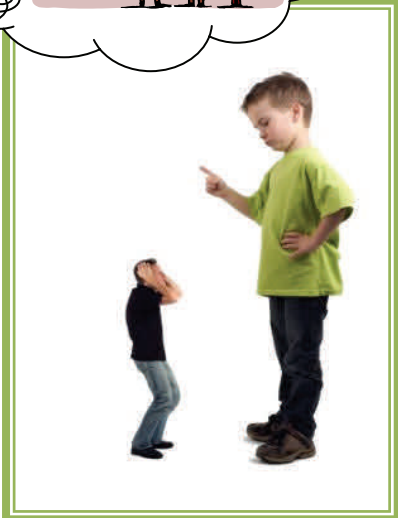
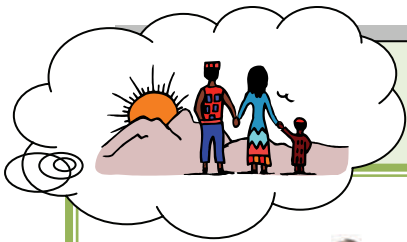


Thank you Griffin Park for your generous support. Through donations collected with our hot lunches last month, we raised \$1026.31 for the children of Agape Orphanage in Malawi. This will be a true blessing for these children. If you would like to get to know some of the children better, check out the sponsorship page on the Agape Orphanage website (<http://agapeorphans.com/>). There are some biographies posted.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Grasslands
Public Schools

March 2013



A while back Barbara Walters asked in an ABC News 20/20 segment, "What could turn intelligent, independent-minded adults into virtual wimps?" What we saw in video clips were well intentioned parents trying to keep the peace by giving in to their kids while their children ran the show.

Are you in charge at your house? Can you answer "yes" to the following?

- ◆ I have a few rules that are enforced consistently (i.e. basic manners, consistent bedtime, a couple of regular chores, school attendance is not an option)
- ◆ I do not change the rules, or my expectations, because my child is mad at me, having a tantrum, or is arguing.
- ◆ I expect my child to contribute and do what he is capable of doing. I don't baby him.
- ◆ I am responsible for teaching my child the life skills he will need to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in the community. Some of those are Listening, Following the Rules, being Respectful to others, and Communicating appropriately.
- ◆ I know that being too strict (Authoritarian) isn't good but being too easy (Permissive) isn't either. I try to find the middle ground.

The goal is to create a home that is comfortable and safe and where the parent is in charge.

- Children AND parents do better with clear structure.
- A few rules
- Routines for bedtime and meals
- Clear expectations
- Be a warm parent not a pal.
- Enforce the rules. Don't give in to pleading, whining, bargaining, or threatening. Beware of the child who tries to manipulate you.
- Find time for you.
- SHOW more often than you TELL.
- Have the courage to say "No" when you need to.

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

RSVP by Friday, March 15, 2013

Have questions?
Want more information?

Contact Lee
lee.westre@grasslands.ab.ca

Drop In
For parents
Is
9:30 – 11 am
March 19

Resources

Books

THE 7 WORST THINGS (*good*) PARENTS DO
by John C. Friel and Linda D. Friel (1999); Health Communications, Inc.

From Innocence to Entitlement: A Love and Logic Cure for the Tragedy of Entitlement
By Jim Fay and Dawn Billings (2005); Love and Logic Press Inc.

Web Links

What Is Authoritative Parenting? <http://goo.gl/7DoaC>

BETTER KID CARE: GETTING CHILDREN TO FOLLOW RULES
<http://goo.gl/Gfe3x>

Parenting with Wit and Wisdom
<http://goo.gl/pw9MO>



INNOVATIONS NEWS

Happy March to all of our Griffin Park families!!

We had a very successful Hometown Heroes series in February. Special guest speakers for the Grade 5 & 6 girls were Constable Jolee Marianicz talking about cell phone and internet safety and Lilianne Smith talking about dressing respectfully. Guest speakers for the Grade 5 & 6 boys were Constable Jolee Marianicz talking about cell phone and internet safety and Josiah Johnson talking about skateboarding. There were about 50 students at each session. Watch for a flyer coming home in the next week about our March guests. Also, if you have any suggestions for speakers or topics for students or parents, please contact Terisha Thackeray at the school.

There will be a "Father-Son Basketball" night for Grade 5 & 6 boys and their dad/uncle/grandpa on Wednesday March 6 at 6:30 at Griffin Park

Our family programming for March is "What to Do When There is Nothing to Do". We will be meeting at the Brooks Public Library at 6:30 on Tuesday March 19th for a library tour, story time and crafts.

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.

Great Garage Sale

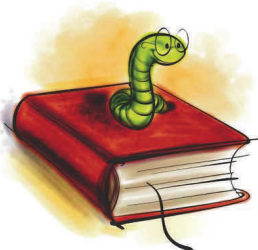


On Thursday, March 7th, the grade four students will be engaged in a great project to coincide with their Science, Math, and Language Arts programs. They are holding a fantastic garage sale in their classrooms. Students from grade two through grade six and staff have been invited to shop and find items at fantastic prices. Grade 4 students have learned about the 3 R's in Science - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and they will be practicing their math skills as they make sales.



Please allow your children to bring nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies, and toonies to buy items. No bills please. All money raised will go to Mrs. Paul's orphanage fund in Africa. The garage sale will be held in the Grade Four Classrooms. Thank you for your participation

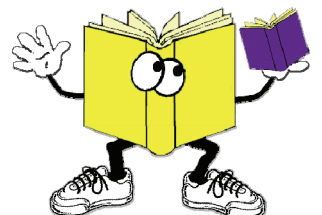
Library News



I hope everybody had a restful and fun-filled time during the February break. March will bring the countdown to that wonderful season of Spring and along with that wonderful day, the book fair will once again be arriving at Griffin Park. It will be opening on Friday, March 22nd, and end at 3:00 on Wednesday, March 27th.



For those people who cannot make it during the day, I will open the book fair to the public on Tuesday, March 26th, from 3:30-7:00p.m. This event is a great fund-raiser for, not only our library but also our school. Please spread the word and support this wonderful event.

Have a happy St. Patrick's Day.



March 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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3	4	5	6	7 Great Big Crunch - Bring an apple for a snack 	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Grade 6 Ski Trip 	16
17	18	19	20 Grade 3/4 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30	21 Grade 5/6 Gym Riot 3:15-4:30	22	23
24	25 Report Cards Sent Home 	26	27 School Council Meeting 7:00PM	28	29 Good Friday No School	30
31						
Easter Holidays - March 29th to April 7th - School Resumes April 8th						