



Sunnyside School Newsletter

March 2015



Dates to Remember:

- March 4 Mini Basketball League starts
- March 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 10 'Scientists in Schools' – Grade 3/4
- March 12 Sunnyside School Council Meeting – 3:45 p.m.
- March 13 Grade 1 field trip
- March 13 Report Cards sent home
- March 17 Kindergarten field trip
- March 17 Grade 2 field trip
- March 17 ♣ St. Patrick's Day ♣
- March 19 Interviews / Student-Led Conferencing – 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- March 23 'Scientists in Schools' – Grade 1
- March 26 Assembly - 2:30 p.m.
- March 30 – April 2 Sunnyside School Days in Lieu – NO CLASSES
- April 3 – 12 Easter Break
- April 13 Classes resume



Principal's Message

Welcome to the month of March! As always we have a lot going on over the next few weeks. One of the most exciting events planned will be the 'One School, One Book' reading event being launched next week. Our approach will be slightly different from last year, so stay tuned for details. I'm sure our students are going to love the book that has been chosen. I know, too that like all great books, this one will inspire our students to read even more!

March brings our second reporting period and I'm looking forward to reading student report cards over the next couple of weeks. This is always a wonderful way for me to learn more about each student and to celebrate their success. Please take note of the dates that we've set aside for student-led conferences which give parents a chance to share the learning experience with their child.

I welcome your comments and suggestions about anything that we're doing in the school. You can call, send an email, or stop by the office. Together we can make this gem of a school even better!

Best,
Connie

Report Cards and Student-Led Conferencing

The second report card will be sent home with students on Friday, March 13. Parent / Teacher interviews will be held Thursday, March 19 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. These will be student-led conferences for all students. In addition to the student led conferences, teachers will meet with some parents to discuss specific learning needs. You will be contacted if your child's teacher would like to have an additional interview. Please complete the interview form and return it to the school by Wednesday, March 11.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registrations are now being accepted in the school office for September 2015. Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2015. Please have your child's birth certificate and your 911 emergency address when registering. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee payable at the time of registration. An additional school fee of \$10 will be invoiced in September to help offset purchases for special kindergarten projects. Kindergarten classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with additional Wednesdays after the Easter break.

Thank you to....

- the parents who helped with Valentine parties.
- Rod Chapman for taking in the bottle recycling.

Hot Lunch

March Menu:

- March 2 - lasagna
- March 9 - Taco Time
- March 16 - Boston Pizza
- March 23 - Subway

Early Learning Program Registration

Registrations for the Early Learning Program for the 2015 - 2016 school term are now being accepted in the school office. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2015 to register. There is a \$10 non-refundable fee payable at the time of registration. Please have your child's birth certificate and your 911 emergency address when registering. The E.L.P. schedule will be Monday / Wednesday mornings or Tuesday / Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Palliser E.L.P. fees will be \$80 per month for two half days of programming per week. We will be accepting post-dated cheques dated the first of each month payable to Palliser Regional Schools, or payment in full of the yearly fees, from now until the beginning of the program. An Early Learning Program orientation/developmental check-up will take place the spring. More information will follow.

Early Learning Program News

I would like to start by saying thank you to all who came and enjoyed our Teddy Bear/Valentine's Day Party. All the children enjoyed showing their favorite teddy or stuffy to their friends, eating a delicious snack of berries, fishy crackers, and handing out/receiving Valentines. We will be having our Easter parties on March 25 & 26.

Mrs. Amanda Hudson

Assembly

The assembly for March will be held Thursday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m. and will wrap up the 'One School, One Book' event as well as feature the grade one class.

Field Trips

The Grade 1 class will be going to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre on Friday, March 13. The kindergarten class will be going to Fire Station #1 for a field trip on Tuesday, March 17. The grade 2 class will be visiting SAAG on March 17.

Scientists in School



Presenters from Scientists in School will be at Sunnyside on March 10 to give a workshop to the grade 3/4 students entitled 'Structures: Stable and Strong'. There will also be a 'Reasons for the Seasons' presentation to the grade 1 students on March 23.

Mini Basketball

Mini basketball is scheduled for Wednesdays after school starting March 4 and continuing for eight weeks until May 13 (no basketball April 29). There are six teams that will play three games each Wednesday. Games will run from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. Come and cheer on your Sunnyside athletes. The league will conclude with a wind-up pizza party.

Snipers Basketball Team



The grade 5/6 Snipers basketball team has played one game against Dr. Gerald B. Probe School in Lethbridge. Mr. Van Cleave is in the process of lining up more games. He will let the team know game times as soon as they are confirmed. All games will be played away as our gym is too small for 5 on 5 basketball. Please remind your child to take care of the uniforms and wash them after each game. See you at our next game, go Snipers!

Guitar Club



Guitar club has been practicing 'Happy Birthday' tabs for beginners and with some practice, I hope they can play for a school assembly. The more advanced students are working on various songs of their choice. Remind your child that practice is what it takes to learn an instrument.

Stay & Play

We had some really good attendance at Stay & Play in the fall but attendance has significantly dropped over the winter months. I would like to invite families to come on out for a Friday morning of fun with your children from 10:15 to 12:15.

There will be a Facebook page up and running on March 1st for Sunnyside Parent Link Centre, so check it out and like our page! Hope to see you soon.

Janet Fekete
Parenting & Family Coach

Christmas Concert DVD's

There are still some copies of the concert available for purchase in the office. The cost is \$2 each. Thank you to the Skiba family for providing these. Please put a note and money in your child's agenda if you would like to purchase one.

Lost & Found

We have had a lot of mittens, toques, scarves, lunch containers, jackets, etc. show up in the lost and found located in the hall. Parents, when you are in the school, please have a look and claim anything that belongs to your child.

Superintendent's Message

Literacy is a journey we're on together

This month, in schools across Palliser, our teachers are conducting the second of two literacy assessments of the year with students who aren't yet reading at a Grade 7 level. Some reach that reading level before Grade 7; others later.

You might wonder why this second assessment doesn't occur in June, like some sort of literacy final exam. It happens in early spring because this data informs instruction. We need this information while we still have time in the school year to adjust what and how we'll teach the individual student.

In a way, the two assessments are signposts on a journey of literacy.

Like any road trip, we don't just check our location at the start and end of the ride. Can you imagine

how lost we'd be if we travelled that way — trusting the car was pointed in the right direction and not checking till we thought we'd arrived?

On this journey, our teachers are checking the map all along the way. They're listening to students reading, individually and in small groups, listening for signs of progress and determining next steps.

Our teachers read the map and guide the progress. They can refuel the tank, offer directions and keep the student moving.

Sometimes, despite the teacher's best efforts, a student may not be progressing. In the driving analogy, the car is stuck at the side of the road. Fortunately, we have something in Palliser that's like a literacy auto club.

With a referral from the principal to Central Office, we'll send out "roadside assistance." In Palliser, it's not the AMA, but the AWA — the Academic Wrap-Around. Co-ordinated by Director of Learning Laurie Wilson, who brings expertise in inclusive education and special needs, and always involving our Literacy Coach Bev Smith and Technology Intervention Specialist Jason Kwasny, the team meets with the school principal, classroom teacher (sometimes more than one), learning support teacher if one's involved, and others as needed to discuss a single student who is either struggling academically or needing enrichment. They talk about the individual student's learning style, strengths and needs. They brainstorm. They follow-up with specific strategies or supports. They don't give up until they see the student back on the road and moving in the right direction.

The best part is the strategies offered for one student tend to benefit others in the class as well, and that teacher moves forward with new tools in the box for future use.

To see the team in action, I'd encourage you to watch a video of the team in action on our website at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/inclusive-education/success-for-every-student>.

I commend our teachers for caring, for never giving up and for doing all they can to support academic success for our students.

Kevin Gietz is the superintendent of Palliser Regional Schools.

March

2015

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 lasagna  | 3 | 4   | 5 | 6 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15 | 7 |
| 8  | 9 Taco Time  | 10 Scientists in School Grade 3/4 | 11   | 12 School Council Meeting 3:45 pm | 13 Grade 1 field trip Report Cards Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Boston Pizza  | 17 Kindergarten field trip St. Patrick's Day  | 18   | 19 Student-Led Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 pm | 20 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15  | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Scientists in School Grade 1 Subway  | 24 | 25   | 26 Assembly 2:30 | 27 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Sunnyside Day in Lieu NO CLASSES | 31 Sunnyside Day in Lieu NO CLASSES | Apr. 1 Sunnyside Day in Lieu NO CLASSES | Apr. 2 Sunnyside Day in Lieu NO CLASSES | Apr. 3 Good Friday  | |

Parents as Role Models



Parents tend to be the strongest role models in their child's life and this can be a strong parenting asset. Imagine all of the wonderful things you want your child to be, for example, kind, respectful, and honest. If you choose to model those traits, your child is likely to follow suit. As a role model, it is important to recognize that you have a range of emotions and responses. It is not realistic to expect you can always model happy, calm behaviour. There are upsetting moments in life that can make you feel sad, frustrated or angry. However, if your child sees that you are angry, for example, but able to handle it appropriately, they are more likely to handle their own anger appropriately too. If you treat others with respect and consideration, chances are your child will do the same.

A similar outcome can be expected with respect to alcohol. If your child sees that you choose to celebrate special occasions without alcohol – they learn something. If alcohol is used, it is critical to model responsible drinking. This is not a moral judgement about choosing or not choosing to drink alcohol, but recognizing that what a child sees and experiences is more likely what they will choose for themselves. Here are some things you can talk about with your child to build healthy role models:

- **Share experiences** - Tell stories about family or friends who show real kindness or determination in their lives. Talk about who you admire, and why? This will help your child realize that different people behave differently. Your child may begin to consider which people they would like to try to emulate as they grow up.
- **Learn from others** - When you see strangers in public behaving in ways that are kind and considerate take the time to talk about this behaviour with your child. When you see strangers behaving in ways that are inappropriate, take the time to talk about this as well. Discuss different behaviours with your child, and encourage them by complimenting them when they behave well.
- **Learn from mistakes** - Everybody makes mistakes; it is part of being human. If you do make a mistake, such as losing your temper or over-drinking at a family function, it is possible to talk to your child about this without burdening them with adult problems. You can apologize and explain that you made a mistake but that you are trying hard to change. The important thing is to reassure your child that you love them and that adult problems are not their fault.

The information above was compiled from the Alberta Health Services' Parent Information Series. For more information on role modeling and other topics for parents please visit <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2434.asp>

What's Bugging You?

Have you ever seen a bedbug, a cockroach, or a mouse? Most pests are looking for food, water and shelter. If we provide them what they need they will stick around. Some pests carry germs, others do not. Some will bite humans while others will not. Pest control begins with some basics:

- Try not to panic. Most pests are harmless.
- Get a positive identification. If you know what you have you can find out how to prevent the pests from becoming a problem.
- Clean. Many pests will hide in clutter. Get rid of items you do not need. Get items off the floor.
- Fix water leaks. Pests need water. Turn off taps, do not have standing water around and fix leaks.
- Food. Clean up food spills. Keep food in tight containers.
- Travel. Keep suitcases up off the floor and off the bed. Check for bugs prior to returning home. Launder items when you return home and keep the suitcases outside in the garage. If you have brought any pests home they won't be brought in.

If you are renting the landlord should be providing pest control. If you have questions about what is bugging you please contact Environmental Health or visit www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph.asp