



Sunnyside School Newsletter

May 2015



Dates to Remember:

April 27 – May 1	Quest Theatre Artists in School Residency Program
May 4 to 8	Education Week: Theme - 'We are Teachers'
May 10	Happy Mother's Day!
May 12	K to Grade 6 Field Trip - Feel the Beat: 'Peter & the Wolf'
May 13	Achievement Test - Grade 6 Language Arts Part A
May 13	Mini Basketball final games/party
May 14	School Council Meeting - 3:45 p.m.
May 15	Last day for Religion classes
May 18	Victoria Day - NO CLASSES
May 19	Staff Professional Development Day - NO CLASSES
May 21	Volunteer Tea - 2:15 p.m.
May 28	Assembly - 2:30 p.m. / Western Day
May 29	Barn Dance Set up & Kid's Dance - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
May 30	Sunnyside Community Association Spring Barn Dance
June 5	ELP & Kindergarten Developmental Check-ups 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Principal's Message

The month of May is filled with lots of opportunities for our students to learn and grow. We begin the month with two theatre presentations. Our Grade 1-6 students have enjoyed the creative process working with Quest Theatre and it has been a wonderful experience for all of us. As well, we are looking forward to attending the Feel the Beat presentation of *Peter and the Wolf* later in the month.

The month of May also brings the annual barn dance, a fundraiser hosted by the Sunnyside Community Association. This year our students will be donating artwork for the silent auction. The art exhibition will be on display at the school beginning the week May 25. We are so grateful for the generous donations, and hard work of so many people. Thank you to all our volunteers for planning and delivering such a great event that benefits all students.

Thank You to...

- Donna Reimer and Bruno Toews who have volunteered their time on Fridays to present the Religion program to students. The last class will be May 15.
- the Urasaki family for donating books to the school library.
- Barb Davis for doing a presentation on Peru to the Grade 3/4 class.

Upcoming Events

- Children's Barn Dance - May 29
- Spring Barn Dance & Auction – May 30
- Sunnyside School's Track and Field Day is planned for the morning of Thursday, June 4.
- The last day for students - Friday, June 26.

'Feel the Beat' Presentation

Students from kindergarten to grade 6 will attend a University of Lethbridge 'Feel the Beat' presentation of 'Peter & the Wolf' at Southminster United Church on May 12th. This is a 50 minute performance which begins at 2:00 p.m. Students will leave the school at 1:15 p.m. and return by 3:15 p.m.

Staff Appreciation Day

The staff of Sunnyside School would like to express our gratitude to the Sunnyside Community Association for the wonderful Staff Appreciation Day on April 16th. The staff enjoyed snacks in the staffroom, a delicious lunch, gift certificates, and recess supervisions covered by the parents. Thank you to everyone involved who made this such a special day. Thanks also to Karen Barby of Green Haven Garden Centre for her generous donation toward the gift certificates.

Hot Lunch

May Menu:

- May 4 - Pizza 73
- May 11 - Tim Horton's
- May 18 - **no school**
- May 25 - Swiss Chalet

Assembly

Our monthly assembly will be at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28 and will feature the kindergarten class. This will also be 'Western Day'.

Early Learning Program Registration

Registrations for the Early Learning Program for the 2015 - 2016 school term are 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. Developmental check-ups will take place June 5, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact the school office to book a time for your child.

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 in May and June.

Volunteer Tea

The staff and students would like to thank all volunteers who have helped out in the school throughout this term. A volunteer tea will be held in your honour to 'Thank You' on Thursday, May 21 at 2:15 p.m. Please return your invitation RSVP to the school office by May 15 if you plan to attend. Thank you for being an important part of our school.

Hats Off for Mental Health

To raise awareness of the importance of good mental health, students in our school and across Alberta are encouraged to wear a special hat to school on May 6th. We hope to see many students participating!

Basketball

The Grade 5/6 Snipers basketball team played a great game at St. Joseph's School in Coaldale on April 29th. Our mini basketball season will wrap up on May 13th with the final games being played followed by a pizza party for the team players. Thank you to Mr. Van Cleave for running this program.

Achievement Tests

Parents with children in Grade 6 are reminded that the annual achievement tests will be written on the following days:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Wed., May 13 | - Language Arts Part 'A' |
| Wed., June 17 | - Language Arts Part 'B' |
| Thurs., June 18 | - Mathematics |
| Fri., June 19 | - Science |
| Mon., June 22 | - Social Studies |

Sunnyside School Spring Fund-Raiser

Sunnyside Community Association will be hosting a Barn Dance for adults as this year's spring fund raising event. This will be a beef dinner, dance and auction to be held Saturday, May 30, 2015 at JC Performance Horses (directions on back of ticket). Cost is \$20.00 per person. Music will be provided by Foxx Worthee. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available in the school office or from the Barn Dance committee members. Proceeds of the event will be used to enhance an outdoor community gathering space. We are asking families from Early Learning to Grade 3 to

participate by donating a dessert for the auction and families from Grade 4 to 6 to help with clean up on Sunday, May 31st from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

To allow our children to enjoy the barn dance as much as those that attend on the Saturday, we will have a **Friday Night Kid's Dance**. This will run together with the event set up. We invite all families to JC Performance Horses on Friday, May 29th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Music will be playing with pizza and refreshments for the children to dance while parents help set up for the Saturday event. Please remember to return your orange Barn Dance sign up form to the school.

Superintendent's Message

Collaboration is a powerful thing

As you know, on Monday, April 20th, students had a day off from school so our teachers and administrative assistants could attend a professional development day. For many parents, the mention of "PD" sparks an internal groan, as children have "another day off."

As a student, I know I enjoyed PD days. But as a school leader, I can tell you the four division-wide days we set aside each year are incredibly well spent. They are contributing to the culture of Palliser, and they are definitely helping teachers elevate their practice as they learn and work side by side.

That has never been clearer to me than it was on April 20th. On this final division-wide PD day of the school year, teachers worked in more than 40 small learning groups, as they have on the three other days this year.

Teachers pick the topics and they open their groups to whoever wants to join. Teachers from schools separated by miles and with seemingly little in common might join a group because they share a grade or a subject. They pick what is most relevant to their work.

The task for each group on this day was to deliver a summary a quick one-minute summary of their work. Not a lot of time, but the presentations were jam-packed with information other teachers could use.

The topics were generally literacy or assessment related. Some groups created units they can share with other teachers. Some shared a list of apps or websites they find useful in their classrooms. One group is organizing a Choral Day to bring students from across the division together. Group after group shared the fruits of their labour this year, and each shared what worked in their classrooms to engage students, to support learning and to give students opportunity to express what they've learned. To advance the power of this sharing, one group created a website for sharing resources, whether they're fully developed, or still works in progress.

Collaboration is leading to more collaboration, and it is strengthening our schools and our teaching/learning communities. I was deeply impressed by our teachers' efforts and I applaud them.

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent
Palliser Regional Schools



The poster features the SARA logo on the left and the 2015 Southern Alberta Summer Games logo on the right. The central text reads: "Join us in Claresholm for the 46th Annual Southern Alberta Summer Games July 8-11, 2015". Below this, a list of sports and events is provided in a grid format. At the bottom, registration information is given, including the website, deadline, and contact details. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are also present.

Choose up to 3 Sports or Events to compete in:

2.5/5/10K Run	Athletics	Archery	Badminton	Ball Hockey
Basketball (3 on 3)	Baseball	Beach Volleyball	Cribbage	Cycling
Darts	Equestrian	Golf	Photography	Shooting
Soccer	Swimming	Tennis	Triathlon	

Registration forms will be online at www.southernalbertasummertimegames.com under "County of Lethbridge"
Deadline is June 1, 2015. For more information contact your Regional Director at commserv@coaldale.ca or follow us on Twitter and Facebook

See you at the Games!

Lethbridge County Southern Alberta Summer Games @LethCountySASG

May

2015

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Quest Theatre performances 1:30 & 6:30 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15	2
3	4 <i>Education</i> 	5 <i>Week:</i>	6 <i>'We</i>	7 <i>Are</i>	8 <i>Teachers'</i> Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15	9
10 	11  Tim Hortons	12 Feel the Beat 'Peter & the Wolf' Field Trip K – Gr. 6	13 PAT - Grade 6 Language Arts Part A Final Basketball games / pizza party	14 School Council Meeting 3:45 pm	15 Religion classes end Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15	16
17	18 Victoria Day NO CLASSES	19 Staff P. D. Day NO CLASSES	20	21 Volunteer Tea 2:15 p.m.	22 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15	23
24	25  Swiss Chalet	26	27	28 Assembly 2:30 p.m. & 'Western Day'	29 Stay & Play 10:15 – 12:15 Kid's Barn Dance	30 Sunnyside Community Association Barn Dance
31						

Talking to Your Child About Sex and Sexuality

For many parents, talking to their child about physical changes and sexuality can be challenging and sometimes uncomfortable. There are several reasons why parents may feel this way. Some parents aren't confident in their knowledge of puberty and sexual health, some are unsure about what topics are appropriate to discuss with their child, and some simply don't know how to start the conversation.

Alberta Health Services understands these challenges and has created the website teachingsexualhealth.ca to help you find the information you need to keep the conversation going with your child. The Parent portal of the website offers the following:

- Tips on how to discuss puberty, sexuality and sexual health with your child.
- Explanations on why and how to talk to your child about topics like sexual development and bullying.
- Outlines of the sexual health curriculum from grade 4 to grade 12.
- Webisodes (videos) that give examples of how to answer your child's questions about puberty and sexual health.
- Links to reliable resources and community agencies in your area of Alberta.



In school, your child will learn about a wide range of topics; from the basic parts of the human reproductive system, to the physical, social and emotional changes that occur during puberty, and much more. Sexual health is an important part of a person's health and wellbeing and influences a person throughout their life.

Bring the conversation of puberty and sexual health into your home for the benefit of your child's health and development. We encourage you to check out what teachingsexualhealth.ca has to offer!

Unstructured Free Play and Safety for School Aged Children

Unstructured free play is the time children spend being physically active on their own terms without guidance from adults, coaches or rules. It's kicking a ball with a couple of friends in the field, playing a game of hopscotch on the sidewalk, having a game of grounders at a local playground or skating with friends at the arena. Research tells us that unstructured play is very important for the normal development of physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills in school aged children. Simply put, kids need to learn naturally through play. Unfortunately, the amount of time children are spending in this type of activity is declining. Concern about safety is commonly described as a reason for not allowing free play. Parents may feel less control when their kids are outside playing, believing that organized sports and activities are safest.

How much supervision does your child require when playing outside your home? While babies and very young children are safest with an adult at arm's reach, you can allow your child more freedom as they get older. From kindergarten to grade 4, children playing outside should have an adult or responsible older child available and watching, but not hovering over them. For example, in a park, give your child boundaries and then position yourself where you can see them and they can see you. From grade 5 on, most children are ready to play outside with less adult supervision. Your child should demonstrate that they can safely cross a road on their own before you start to allow more independence. Start slowly by giving them boundaries close to your home (such as green space away from a busy road or a fenced in pavement area) and check on them at regular intervals. Gradually widen the boundary as both of you become more comfortable. Playing with a friend or group is safest. Always know where your child is, who they are with, and what time they are expected home.