



“Striving for Excellence and Caring”

Swan Hills School Newsletter

February 2010

School Fees

If school fees are not paid students may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular events. Examples are ski trips, year end trips, grad, etc.

Check out:

- Grizzly Cubs for the Future
- PAWS Calendar
- Family Day Events
- Literacy Celebration Bookmarks

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Administrators' Message

January has proved to be a wonderful month for weather and school happenings. This month we held a “school change” meeting that was well attended by our parent and non-parent community. At the meeting school administration discussed the introduction of new programming strategies intended to increase student achievement in our school. The following new programs will be implemented in February 2010.

- 1) ABC Program for Grades 7 to 12 (includes Approaches to Learning—ATL) see the school website for more information.
- 2) ABC Bridges Program for grades 7 to 9 (entrance and exit criteria will be posted on the website in mid-February)
- 3) ABC “Baby” Bridges Program for Grade 2-5 (possible implementation in March 2010)

The following new programs will be researched and recommended for possible implementation next year.

- 1) International Baccalaureate Programme for Grades K-7 (in consideration and feasibility stage currently) (see www.ibo.org for more information)

The following new programs will be implemented next year:

- 1) Quality Daily Physical Education Programming for Kindergarten to Grade 10
- 2) French as a Second Language programming for

- Grade K to 6
- 3) High School Quad Programming (10 week—2 course sessions) - this will replace our semester system at high school
- 4) Junior High Semester Programming (September to end of January; February to June)

With the implementation of new programs come numerous questions. Parents and non-parent community and businesses can have their questions answered at our next School Advisory Council Meeting which will be held in February, 2010, starting at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome.

Congratulations to Kayla Neudorf for her exceptional ambassadorship of our school while carrying the Olympic torch in Banff on January 21, 2010. Way to go Kayla! We would also like to take a moment to thank Rose Bishop for her outstanding leadership of our students union over the past five months. Rose is vacating her position as President for this next term to concentrate more fully on her academic studies. We wish to welcome Cheyenne to the position of Student Council President and look forward to her leadership in the months ahead.

Student reports cards will be out by February 12, 2010.

Bryan Richardson **Angie Bachand**
Principal **Associate Principal**

Important Dates to Remember

Teachers' Convention Dates:

February 4 and 5, 2010
Alternate Day/Family Day
 February 12 and 15, 2010
Early Dismissal
 February 24, 2010
Spring Photos
 April 7, 2010

Hot Lunch Specials

February 23, 2010
 Pizza Bagel \$ 2.00
March 25, 2010
 Pizza Pockets/Corn Dogs \$ 3.00
April 20, 2010
 Taco in a Bag \$ 4.00

MS Read-A-Thon

www.mrpicassohead.com

Reminiscent of Mr. Potato Head, Mr. Picasso Head is a fun online drawing program with stylized faces and features that you can choose from to create your own character. Then you could make up a story about him or her to extend the fun and learning.



Carol from the MS Society is demonstrating to the Division 1 students how having MS can be like trying to tie your shoes with big mittens on your hands, backwards.

The MS Read-A-Thon is well underway. Students are recording every moment that they read and helping to raise awareness and funds to help the thousands of Albertans afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. Ask them about this disease, you might be surprised at how much they know!

Feb. 3rd is 'Snuggle Up and Read Day'. Students in Grades 1-6 will be wearing their PJ's and bringing their favourite blankets, pillows and stuffies so that everyone can get super comfy while we all read together in the gym for a period.

Just For Fun

www.storyplace.org/preschool/other.asp

The Storyplace Preschool Library has online stories for you to enjoy with your child as well as activities and reading lists related to each one.

Literacy Day Celebration

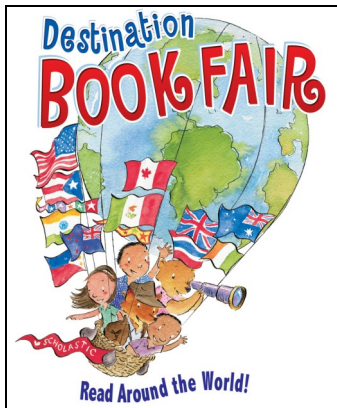
Literacy Day was held on January 27, 2010. This celebration is kicking off a “Year of Literacy”. The elementary students visited the public library for stories which were read by local seniors from our community. What a great way to share the joy of reading. At 3:00 everyone from the community as well as the students from Swan Hills School attended an assembly to kick off this amazing celebration. In conjunction with this event, a mini book fair was held by Usborne Books. High quality books were made available for sale or to order in the school from 11:45 to 12:45 and in the gym from 3:00 to 4:30.

For more information about Usborne Books, please review their website at www.usbornebooksathome.ca.



Preschool

Scholastic Book Fair



Scholastic Book Fair is coming up March 16 and 17, 2010.

Library Award



Being prepared for each day is a skill everyone must learn. Getting organized so that each day goes smoothly contributes to becoming a positive responsible

adult. One way that Swan Hills School celebrates this skill building is with the Library Award. A plaque is presented each month to an elementary class with the best record for returning their library books. The plaque is displayed in the winning classroom for the month.

Division 2 is doing a great job of hanging on to the library award. Grade 5 was the winner for the month of December



Bring a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading.

Great Sites

Peer Support Group



School environments should be safe, foster friendships and make school a fun, positive place.

learn, play, develop and grow. Peer support can be used to promote inclusion through promoting friendships between children and young people. Through peer education children and young people can address mental health issues appropriate to their age and those who receive support and the supporters often have improved behaviour, attendance and academic performance. Not to mention, a lot of FUN!

www.berenstainbears.com

The official Berenstain Bears site, includes activities and lists of books

What is Peer Support?

Peer support has been used with great success in many school to help students develop confidence, communication skills and leadership qualities. Many early peer support interventions were developed to address bullying and there has been evidence that suggests that peer support can reduce the amount of bullying and negativity in schools. Peer support creates a calm and positive environment in which children can

Grades K-3

<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogeared>

DogEared is a blog ALL about books, written by students aged up to age 13. It's a great place to find what to read next. If the library doesn't have the book you decide you would like to read, Mrs. Kilpatrick would be happy to try to get it for you.

Peer Support Group in Swan Hills School

Peer support had a great first semester at Swan Hills School. Meeting little buddies, building communication skills, Wii, gingerbread houses, talking, laughing, supporting! Many schools across the globe have been creating school environments that are safe for kids and help to build resiliency, foster friendships and makes school a fun and positive place. Swan Hills School has welcomed a new staff member who brings with her experience in working with behavioural, at-risk and abused children and youth. She has had four years teaching overseas in Southeast Asia. As a new member to the staff at the school as well as the PAWs team, Crystal Cochrane is very aware of the benefits of getting students to form positive relationships within the school both socially and academically. So how can you participate?

Grades 4-6

www.wordle.net

Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and colour schemes. Use Wordle for title pages or posters.

How Can You Participate



Everyone needs a friend

As the senior high students being their second semester, Peer Support will be visited by a few guest speakers. We hope that

parents, older siblings and staff members will want to become involved and share a story with the group about their own experiences of growing up, school experiences that could perhaps give our students a boost towards a more positive outlook. If students share and support each other now, this would be a wonderful foundation for building positive role

modeling and friendships. When all students are supported in this manner, it is a stepping stone for success both academically and personally. The Peer Support Group meets once a week or depending on need. If you would like to be a guest speaker, please contact the school at 780-333-4471.

Grades 7-9



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Grade 2-6 Homework Websites

February 2010

We are on the web at

www.swanhillsschool.ca

Here are some websites for parents who want to help their child with homework.

www.math.com - has calculators, tables, tools

www.mathforum.org/dr.math - answer questions sent to them

www.homeworkhelper.ca - can navigate in 12 subjects

www.internet4classrooms.com - grade level help link

www.harcourtschool.com/activity/elab2002 - activities allow kids to practice - has corresponding answer key

Great Sites

Student Union

With senior high students out for final exams and semester break as well as the Teachers' Convention which is being held on February 4 and 5, 2010, the students union will be unable to get candy grams ready for sale for Valentines Day. Instead, roses will be on sale February 11 at a cost of \$3.00 each for junior and senior high students. Also, Hat Days for the month of February are February 11 and February 26. Fancy Fridays are February 19 and February 26.

www.cricketmag.com/activity_display.asp?id=207.com

The Slam-Share your work and opinions with others on this site for teen writers. Post your poetry or short stories, and see what praise or suggestions you receive or use this writing forum to critique other teen's work. Hosted by Cicada Magazine

Swan Hills School Sports

Division 2

Basketball Skills -

Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Grade 5/6

Curling

February 8, 9, 16 and 18

Junior High Phys Ed

Swimming

Week of February 16

Arena Skating

February 23-26, 2010

More information will be forwarded

Senior Girls Basketball

Basketball Tournament

February 19-20, 2010

Close to 30 Division 2 students are working hard every



Tuesday and Thursday morning improving their basketball skills. All grade 4, 5, 6 students are welcome to join. Doors open at 7:45.

Get in the Game

Jessica Luciuk, Coach

Grades 10-12

Swan Hills School Field Trips



Grade 6 students will be attending the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday February 17, 2010. Students will be listening to songs written by Vivaldi, Handel, Wagner and DeBussy.