



“Striving for Excellence and Caring”

Swan Hills School Newsletter

March 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:

- PAWS Calendar
- Book Fair
- PAWS Love and Logic Parenting Sessions
- Triple P Positive Parenting
- Cooking on a Budget

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Administrators' Message

February was a very busy month with a new report card system rolling out, and we thank our parents, students and staff for their patience as we worked hard to get all the “bugs” out of our new reporting system prior to sending report cards home to parents. With any new system there are always “growing pains” and we had our share this round. Hopefully, our June reports run smoothly. If parents have any comments they wish to provide to administration on the new report card, please do so using the template provided in this newsletter (see back page). We appreciate you taking the time to tell us what you like and what you believe we should look at changing.

On Friday, February 26th our school hosted an “Addiction Awareness Afternoon” which was a wonderful event put on by a student committee of our school. We would like to thank our presenters and guests and of course the committee who worked hard to make this a great event at our school.

A NOTE TO OUR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS: when our school hosts such events it is imperative that you ensure your child is in attendance that day. Organized events like the Addiction Awareness Afternoon our part of our regular school day and as such count as an unexcused absence on your child’s attendance

record. Only a written note excusing your child, or a phone call with the reason for the absence clearly stated; will excuse your child from such events. Otherwise your child will be held accountable by our school staff upon their return the next school day.

Our next school-wide event celebrates the Olympics with a fun and competitive event on March 12th. We invite anyone who wishes to come out and watch to do so. It will be a fabulous event for our school community and will be a wonderful close to this year’s Olympic event.

A reminder that this **Friday, March 5th, 2010** is a Jurisdiction Professional Development Day. There will be no school as all staff are involved in professional development activities in Barrhead that day. If you have any questions for admin, please do not hesitate to call us or just stop by. Thank you for your support of our school and its programs.

Bryan Richardson
Principal

Angie Bachand
Associate Principal

Important Dates to Remember

Jurisdiction PD Day
March 5, 2010

Parent/Teacher Day in Lieu (no school for students)
March 19, 2010

Alternate Day & Spring Break
March 26, March 29 to April 1, 2010

Good Friday/ Easter Monday
April 2 and April 5, 2010

Early Dismissal
March 24, 2010

Spring Photos
April 7, 2010

Hot Lunch Specials

March 25, 2010
Pizza Pockets/Corn Dogs \$ 3.00

April 20, 2010
Taco in a Bag \$ 4.00

Home Computers

www.onemotion.com

Play with spiders or snakes. Sketch & Paint, Breakdance or control the Drum Machine. This is a deceptively simple looking site with some fun activities of varying complex-

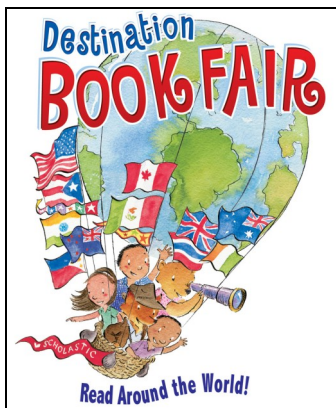
Just For Fun

www.storyplace.org/preschool/other.asp

Choose a theme from trains to bath time and find animated stories with online craft activities to share with your child as well as reading lists for books related to the theme.

Preschool

Scholastic Book Fair



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

Our school is taking applications from our parent community who may wish to be provided with a computer for home use (see the back of this newsletter for the application form). These computers will be provided to families based on the following criteria:

1. Family does not currently have a computer, or has a computer that is old and unable to link to the Internet, nor is there the likelihood of a computer being purchased prior to school start up in September, 2010. The family has a genuine desire to connect to the school's technological supports that are coming in over the next year (Powerschool, schoolprocesses.com, etc..)
2. Family has the means to support Internet hook up from their home for a period of one year (September, 2010 to June, 2011). Please contact your Internet Service provider to determine hook up and monthly maintenance costs and your family's ability to make this monthly financial commitment.
3. The family understands all computers awarded as such remain the property of Swan Hills School and are loaned in good faith on a year by year basis.

Literacy Day Celebration

As a town focused on literacy we are working towards our goal of reading 1,500,000 minutes of literature (100 Days of Reading) prior to May 27, 2010. At this time only 25,000 minutes have been posted at the website. If you have minutes to post, please go to

www.schoolprocesses.com

Username: family

Password: reading

to access the site and put in your minutes or reading. If we all work together we can meet our literacy goal by the end of May. READ, READ, READ.



Parent Advisory Council Meeting

We have a **very important Parent Advisory Meeting on March 23rd, 2010** as we are looking at next year's programming changes and discussing the implementation of same. We hope to see as many of our parents as possible out to this very important meeting. The meeting is in our school library research lab and commences at 7 PM sharp. Come one – come all.

Library Award for January 2010

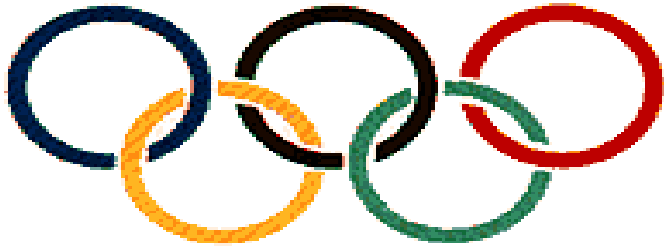


Congratulations GRADE 2/3!

The Library Award is presented to the elementary class that had the best record for returning library books for the month. We believe that seemingly small accomplishments like taking care of borrowed items and returning them when expected, demonstrate responsibility and organizational skills that will ease the passage through school and on through life.

Miss Bachand took great pleasure in presenting this award to the Grade 2/3 class.

Swan Hills School Winter Olympics



Swan Hills School Student Union has organized an event on March 12, 2010, known as “The Winter Olympics”. Each representative of the students union was randomly assigned a team, consisting of students from grades 1 through 12. Each team will represent a country, competing for first, second or third place. Prizes will also be given out due to participation. Each and every team will have the opportunity to get team pictures taken. Hot chocolate will be distributed throughout this event, bring warm clothing and bundle up. An assembly will be held for students before this occasion and they will then find out

what team they are assigned to. Events have been organized which will be comprised of: dog sledding, tug-of-war, biggest snowball, building the best snow fort, 3 legged race, snow soccer, shuttle race along with the biggest hole. Lets build school spirit and demonstrated pride for our Canadian Olympians. Lets look forward to the arrival of the winter Olympics and show other countries the athlete in you.

Kaitlyn Roach

www.robertmunsch.com
The official website of Famous Canadian Children’s Author Robert Munsch you can download MP3 files of the author reading his stories aloud! It also features some of his unpublished stories, kids art work and stories and lots of other cool stuff.

Grades K-3

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing
Dance mat typing—too much fun.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Student/ Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March 16 and 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

- Kindergarten students will have be scheduled at designated times on the mornings of March 16 and March 17.
- Grades 1-6 conferences will have scheduled times and students will be bringing home a letter to confirm the times on March 11, 2010.
- Junior and Senior conferences will be drop in with the teachers in the large gym. We have implemented new strategies to make conferences more efficient. Teachers look forward to speaking with all parents about their child’s successes .

All parents are encouraged to attend.

Grades 4-6

www.visualthesaurus.com
This is a very cool mind-map-style thesaurus. Unfortunately you’re only allowed a limited number of searches at a time without subscribing, but you can go back for free as often as you wish. It’s a wonderful place to go to search for that perfect word.

School Website

To find out what's happening between newsletters, check out our website at <http://www.swanhillsschool.ca> for the latest announcements and to find out more about the school and what's happening here. The Calendar of Events will tell you about all the fun Students' Union activities, sports events, hot lunch fund raisers, field trips and the many other exciting things going on.



Check out the Library page to see colour pictures of the Library Award presentations, some fun ones of our students and staff Caught Reading as well as details and photos of library programs such as Book Fair and the M.S. Read-A-Thon.

On the Links page, you'll be able to connect to Learn Alberta, where you can find out just what is taught in each grade in all subjects, as well as resources to help your child with their homework. There is also a link to record your reading for 100 days of Reading program. See the side bar in this newsletter for the usernames and passwords for both sites.

You can also view this newsletter online, read staff biographies and school documents. Let us know what you would like to see online and will do our best to get it there for you.

Grades 7-9

www.learnalberta.ca
The Online Reference Centre. In the ORC you’ll find resources that are not available to the casual surfer, subscription only resources that have been vetted by educators as being reliable and friendly.



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We are on the web at

www.swanhillsschool.ca

Grade 2-6 Homework Websites

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

Mar. 12, and Mar. 25 are Hat Days

Mar. 1 is Jersey Day and Mar. 2 at 3:00 we will be having an assembly to explain and kick off the Winter Olympics.

The Olympics will kick off at 12:45 with a brief Opening Ceremony and will continue until about 3:00 or so where we will end with Closing Ceremonies.

www.s9.com

S9 Biographical Dictionary from the creators: “S9.com is a Wikipedia type system and everyone can edit biographies or even create their own. “S9.com was established in 1997 and since then has grown into one of the largest biography sites on the planet.

Whether you have a passion for history or simply know an interesting fact about someone we invite you to contribute to this project.”

Swan Hills School Sports

Division 2

Basketball Skills - Doors open at 7:45.

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

Junior High Phys Ed

Has spent the last month taking part in various sporting activities. They have had the opportunity to participate in curling, skating, swimming and on March 4 went to Tawatinaw skiing.

Senior High Ski Trip

Senior high students have an opportunity to participate in skiing at Marmot Basin on April 12 and 13. Information forms are available at the school.



Grades 10-12

Upcoming Events



Wednesday March 24/2010 Division One students will be presenting the musical "Go Fish" at 7:00 pm. Kindergarten students and Handbells will also be performing.

