

Swan Hills School Newsletter

December 2010

Newsletter #4

<p>Inside you will find:</p> <p>Cold Weather Information Aboriginal Traditional Feast School Advisory Council</p> <p>And much more</p>	<p>Volunteer: Once again we would like to invite parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and members of the community to Share the Gift of a Story with our elementary and junior high classes. Everyone loves stories and it is always a special treat to have someone read to you. Show our students that you love stories too by choosing a favorite Christmas story of your own or one from the library's collection with Mrs. Kilpatrick's assistance. There are ten groups, from Kindergarten to Grade 9. Call soon and sign up for a library class. Contact Mrs. Kilpatrick in the school library 333-4471.</p>
--	--

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As December descends upon us we are reminded of how lucky we are to live in a country such as ours, where food is plentiful and few people lack the necessities of life. Our school takes pride in moving towards an attitude of "doing for others", not only in the sense of helping others, but helping others - help themselves. During the month of December we are asking our students and their families to give generously to Santa's Elves and help our school help those less fortunate in our community.

All schools in Pembina Hills School Division participate in a school review every five years. One portion of this review includes all parents, staff, & grade 1-12 students being surveyed. This is an opportunity for all involved to reinforce what we are doing well, so it will be continued, and also to make recommendations for improvement. ALL parents will be contacted by phone starting this Wednesday, Dec. 1st @ Noon on. The callers will be operating between Noon and 8:00 PM each day. They will make three attempts to call you and will not be leaving a voice message.

The second phase of the review involves an 'External Team' visiting our school and doing personal interviews as well as making observations. This will occur between February 7th to 9th, 2011 and February 14th and 15th, 2011. Please let us know at the office 780.333.4471 if you would like to be interviewed in person. Your participation at this level would be greatly appreciated as well!

In addition to the above we will be 'reviewing' the entire process at our upcoming School Council Meeting on January 19th at 7 PM in our school library's research center.

Bryan Richardson
Principal

Angie Bachand
Associate Principal

December Issue - School Newsletter

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION / CONCERTS

On Wednesday, December 15/10 at 7pm the Grade 1-3 students will be performing the musical "A Berry Merry Holiday". The Kindergarten students and Handbell Team will also be performing that evening.

On Thursday, December 16/10 at 7 pm the Grade 4-6 students will be performing the musical "Santa's Holiday Playlist". The Handbell Team will also be performing that evening.

Thank-you to the Jr/Sr High Handbell group (Adrienne Dyck, Ashley Langford, Jasmine Perreault, Kirsten Hamel, Nadine El-Halabi, Victoria Dyck, Megan Armstrong and Casey Sperling) who did a wonderful job performing at the Craft Show held recently. Your time in giving to your community is greatly appreciated.

Please note that the Grizzly Cubs will be selling "Pride Products" before and after the xmas concert performances. Come out and support your school by purchasing Smencils, Smens, and winter toques which will be on sale both evenings. If you need something sooner, please call Charlotte at 333-4741. These items make great stocking stuffers or inexpensive gifts for friends and co-workers.

ABORIGINAL PARENT CIRCLE

A traditional feast will be held on **Monday, December 20, 2010 from 5:30-7:00** in the large gym of our school. This will be a "pot luck" event and all participants are asked to bring enough food to feed their family and at least three other individuals. Activities will be offered for the children following the meal. We are hoping to have a few Elders to provide teaching on Traditional Parenting and a Sharing Circle. Numbers of children attending (for activity planning) and the numbers of family members attending the sharing circle are needed by December 16th, 2010. Please contact Mr. Richardson if you would like to register for this event! Email him at brichardson@phrd.ab.ca or call him at 1.780.907.9573 (his cell) or at the school: 780.333.4471.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Thank you to the parents who came to the School Council meeting on November 24th! We had great discussions regarding our EBS policy and the next steps we are taking in making our great school even better. Our next school council meeting will be held on **January 19th at 7:00 p.m.** All parents are welcome to attend! Hope to see you all then!

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to the Grizzly Cubs organization for once again organizing incredible fund raisers for our school. From Magazine Product Drives to Ipod/Comic raffles they do it all and do it all so well.

Please support this Grizzly Cubs upcoming fund raiser. Tickets on sale on the following dates:
December 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16 IPOD / Antique Comic raffle – Draw to be made at
Christmas Concert **Tickets are \$1 each**

DECEMBER SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Social Justice Committee has been busy planning out this year's projects. We are going to be taking an approach which involves helping people in the local community, in our province and internationally. Our projects will be a hands-on approach where we, not only raise funds, but will also raise awareness. Look for more details in the New Year!

Our first project will begin this week. We are asking students to bring food and unwrapped presents in to help a needy family at Christmas time. Non-Perishable food donations or the presents can be brought in to the school anytime until December 10th. After this time the United Way Church can be contacted with donations as they will be re-distributing these items to our needy families over the Christmas season.

STUDENT UNION SECRET SANTA AND HAT DAY INFORMATION

This month at Swan Hills School we have a couple events to look forward to. Secret Santa Exchange will be happening on Dec. 17th. Secret Santa is a school wide exchange where students young and old who have signed up are given a person to give a gift or good deed to. Candy Cane's will be for sale at the school for 25 cents each from December 13 – 16. Candy Canes will be handed out on the 17th, so make a friend happy for the day and buy them a candy cane! Hat days this month will be on the 3rd and the 17th.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

School fees were due October 15th. Thanks to all parents/guardians who have settled accounts with us. Please let Irene know in the office if you would like to set up a monthly payment plan to settle any outstanding accounts. Please be advised that your child's involvement in extra curricular activities and field trip opportunities will be limited until school fees have been paid or arrangements have been made regarding your outstanding fees.



SCHOOL BUS REMINDER:

This is a reminder for parents to call 333-4145 before 7:30am if their child does not need to be picked up in the morning. Also a reminder to be dressed appropriately for the cold weather in the event that the bus breaks down and students have to walk to school.



Thank you for your support!

OUR HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The last monthly hot lunch for 2010, will be held on Friday, December 17th. Monday, December 20th and 21st lunch selections will be limited as we attempt to reduce the food we will need to keep on site over the Christmas Holiday.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

On days with severe cold temperature (-26 degrees or colder) or heavy rain or blizzard conditions, students may come into the entrance areas and may remain there (behavior permitting), until the bell rings. The staff on duty will let the students know if the weather warrants this. Recess is held indoors on days of heavy rain/blizzards or a combination of severe cold and wind meeting the -26 degree mark (including wind chill). Indoor recesses will be held when the temperature is -26 C or below, (including wind chill), as reported by the electronic thermometer set up at our school for this purpose.



On most days, students have their recesses outdoors. Please remember students must be dressed for the weather. At the school we have the ability to obtain mittens and hats in case your child needs these. Students merely have to see a staff member and we will facilitate getting these items to your child(ren). Please note that the bell to enter the school rings at 8:30 a.m. Certain weather conditions may delay your arrival time to the school, therefore we ask that parents consider leaving approximately 5 minutes early when dropping off and picking up your children. This should help to avoid any unnecessary lates before and after school.

We ask that you not send your child to school too early for supervision outdoors begins at 8:20 a.m. Children should not be left unsupervised before this time. We cannot be held responsible for the children who are left unattended. Also, children must be picked-up promptly after school as there is no provision for them to stay in the school after hours. If you are unable to pick up your child(ren) on time, please contact the school.

RECESS POLICIES

Please remember that that all children need to go outside for recess when the weather is above minus 26 degrees. Fresh air is important and vital to your child's learning. If your child is too sick to go out for recess, we ask that you please consider keeping them at home until they are well enough to participate in all school activities, including outdoor recess.

LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL

Just a reminder to parents about late arrivals to school: **please ensure that your child stops in at the office to get a late arrival notice!** If students are arriving late to school and are in class without stopping into the office for a late stamp, it causes Mrs. Crozier to make unnecessary attendance phone calls (which in turn increases parental stress). If students do not check in at the office, our secretary is unaware that your children have arrived at the school.

Many thanks to those of you, who when arriving to school after the bell has rung and O'Canada has started, stop and "freeze" to listen to the morning announcements and acknowledge with respect our National Anthem. This is great role modeling for our students!

CANCELLATION OF YELLOW BUSES IN SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Our transportation system has an excellent record for service. However, given the possible extremes of Swan Hills weather and the potential for unexpected mechanical difficulties, it is impossible to guarantee buses will run on time or at all. A route can take 50% longer in adverse weather conditions. Parents are advised that if a bus does not arrive within twenty minutes of its scheduled time, they are to assume the bus is not coming. Parents must ensure that their child knows to return home or to a pre-selected location and the parents must make alternate arrangements to get their child to school.



Parents should also ensure that:

- ♦ children are supervised at the bus stop
- ♦ children have a place to go in the event the bus does not arrive
- ♦ children have alternate arrangements for getting to school should the bus not arrive
- ♦ children are suitably clothed to withstand weather extremes

IMPORTANT DATES

December 9 th	** PAWS Craft Night	6:30 PM start
December 15 th	ECS to Grade 3 Concert	7PM start
December 16 th	Grade 4 to 6 Concert	7PM start
December 20 th	Aboriginal Traditional Feast	5:30 PM start
December 22 – January 4	Christmas Break – Enjoy!	
January 5 th	Classes resume	

** PAWS Family Craft night is planned for Dec. 9th. It will run from 6:30-8:00 pm and will happen in the atrium. Children do need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

COMMENTS FROM THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Very informative and good format – Thank you.

I like the color photos of staff and students.

The pictures of the students was a good idea – keep this up.

Is there a way to ensure the newsletters come out at the end of the month or 1st day of a new month?

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winners of the November Newsletter are:

Nicholas Baker Grade: 1
Winner of in car MP3 Player

Terin Christensen - Grade: 7
Winner of Hot Lunch with administration for her and two friends

My Secret to Success in School **Grade 6**

Study, practice and pay attention.

Stay on task!

Be prepared.

Be respectful to everybody that I know...and ones who I don't know.

Have good friends that I trust.

Pay attention in class.

Work hard and do my homework.

Doing the best of my ability in all subjects

Helping out around the class makes me a better students and that makes me a better learner.

I like going to the gym and getting in shape.

I use what I have learned to help me learn more.

Keeping track of my stuff: studying notes, duotangs.

My agenda keeps me notified.

Listening will not only help you understand more but it will also get better relationships. If you listen people will respect you and they will listen to you. Respect is the key.

Having good friends. We don't do bad things; we are supportive of each other.

I have awesome teachers.

When you don't listen to your teacher, you will get very mad and give up and that's not good.

Listening in class so you don't have to ask what to do.

Don't use bad language. If you don't get in trouble, maybe your grades stay higher than most.

Working with partners or working as a class.

Take notes.

Always be prepared and show up on time for class.

Stay away from bullies.

Stay out of trouble and keep a smile on my face.

Respect the teachers.

Have good friends to inspire you.

Sometimes you can do extra curricular activities.

I study for my spelling tests by writing them over and over again. I study for my other tests by reading about the test every night.

Use a dictionary to help find out how to spell a word.

The teacher teaches me new things to succeed.

When I get a good mark on a test I say, "Good!" But if I get a bad mark I say, "Try again later".

If I try harder then I can be ready for the next test. As it gets harder I try harder to pass.

I love to learn new words in Francais.
I wish school was longer so I could learn much more.
I have never had a detention or a yellow slip because I follow the rules
The teachers. They help me get through the rough spots.
That's how I will succeed in school.



Please have your child write a short story about a Christmas Tree in the area below and return it to the school office. They will be entered to win fabulous prizes.

[] Yes, I have received and read the December Newsletter.

Name of Student(s)

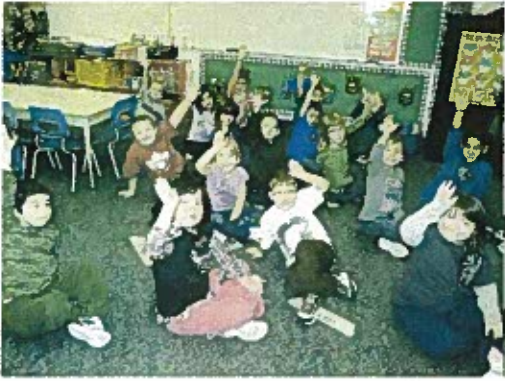
Parent/Guardian Signature

Comments: _____





Grade 3/4 hard at work



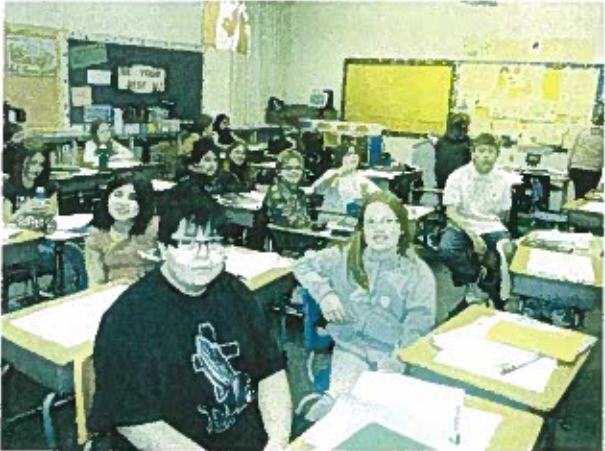
Our KinderBears answering questions



Grade 2s at the SmartBoard



Grade 1s are all smiles



Grade 6 posing for the picture



Grade 4/5 are an enthusiastic bunch