

ARROWWOOD SCHOOL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



“DARE TO SOAR”

How SUCCESSFUL you are is determined by your ATTITUDE



Principal's Message for December

This past month has been filled with good news for Arrowwood School. Two weeks ago we were informed that our school would be receiving a portion of the funding recently given to Palliser by the Alberta Government. As of Monday November 28th, Ms. Goodkey was welcomed on board as a full time staff member at our school. This has allowed us to change our timetable to better meet the needs of our students. Ms. Goodkey will now take over the responsibilities as the Learning Support Teacher. She will also teach grade 5/6 and 7/8/9 PE as separate classes for the remainder of the school year. With the extra teacher time we have been allotted, our grade 9 Science and Social Classes will now be separate from the grade 7/8 classes. This will greatly improve the quality of learning in PE, Science and Social at the junior high level.

Also, the Northwest Recreation Board has given us another grant, of \$1500.00 this year, to help pay for new multi-use standards and nets for volleyball and badminton. Hopefully we will be able to purchase these standards prior to Christmas so that the community adult volleyball group and students can begin to enjoy these new items in the New Year.

Thank you to all parents for coming to parent, student, teacher interviews for the first semester. We had a great turnout. If you have not yet met with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to meet before the Christmas break. Research has proven that increased parent involvement in their child's education, increases the child's success in school.

Mrs. Kirk and the staff and students of Arrowwood School created a wonderful Remembrance Day Service on November 10th. Thank you to Mrs. Kirk for your hard work and yearly dedication in organizing this very important event in our school. Thank you to all of the parents for taking the time to attend the service, as this helps our students understand how important it is to take time to remember those who have fought for the freedom we are fortunate enough to have today.

Thank you to our hot lunch parent team. The first hot lunch of the year was a delicious success. The spaghetti was enjoyed by both staff and students. Thank you also to Mrs. Sherstabetoff for preparing the first hot dog lunch. Students enjoyed a hot dog and juice/milk last Friday. We look forward to future hot lunches and hot dog days.

December is a shorter but very busy month. Please mark our Christmas concert date on your calendars. If you are planning to go away for Christmas, it would be wonderful if you could wait until after the concert to leave. The students work hard and are excited to share their special abilities with you through their performance on December 21st. We will once again have an afternoon performance starting at 1:30 and an evening performance at 7:00. Come early to hear the musical talents of our piano and guitar students.

On December 22nd, our last day of school before the Christmas holidays, the students and staff will sit down to enjoy a festive turkey dinner together over the noon hour. Hopefully all students will be at school on this day to enjoy this special time with their fellow classmates and teachers.

The next parent council meeting will be on Thursday Dec. 8, 2011. Please plan to attend as very important information is shared, discussed and voted on at these meetings. Your involvement helps to shape the future of Arrowwood School. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jody Beagle

GR. 1/2

In Language Arts, we are working hard on our individual word sort cards. With these cards we sort them every day. Then we test other students in our group, practice writing the words and eventually write sentences using some of those words. We have started writing sequence stories and have been making lists. We also took the time to write thank you cards to Veterans for Remembrance Day.



In Math, we have begun more group work. The grade 2 class is currently working on ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and showing how to make larger numbers using 10 frame cards and rods (which are worth 10) and units (which are worth 1). The grade 1 class is working on estimating and creating numbers up to 20, they also use 10 frame cards and other objects. We will be continuing to work on building on a number, understanding more and less than a number and what makes them equal or unequal.

In Social, we have looked at what the land, weather and water is like around Iqaluit, Meteghan and Saskatoon. We have also looked more closely at the early days of Iqaluit, Meteghan and Saskatoon and what the communities would have looked like and how the people of that time would have survived. We have talked about specific items in each place, like Inukshuk's and igloos in Iqaluit, boats and the British and Acadians in Meteghan and how Saskatoon has changed from a rural community to an urban one.

In Science, we are close to finishing up our hot and cold unit. We did experiments about heating a potato and understanding how it changes, and freezing popsicles and understanding why they change. We have been focussing on talking about insulators and the different kinds and where and in what we can find these different insulators. We will finish off with our big project on trying to keep a small item cold. I would just like to say thank you again to all those parents who have contributed items to the class to create these designs!

Mrs. Tunnell

Kirk's Grade 3-4 Class

Wow! Only 27 days until Christmas! Only 17 school days until the concert! On that note, the students are busy practicing and learning how to play their recorders. I am encouraging your child to take his/her recorder home so they can review what we are doing in class.



In science we are starting our lights and shadows unit. Here the students will learn about the various sources of light, how to take care of their eyes, reflections of light, and spectrums. In social studies, we completed our publisher assignment on the mountain region of Alberta. They are hanging on our bulletin board. Come by and have a look. They are fantastic! We are now learning about the Foothills Region.

In writing we are starting to write our research information into paragraphs. We will continue to work on writing better sentences using "dress-ups" and sentence "openers". When you are reading with your child and you come across an interesting sentence, don't forget to point it out. Discuss what makes that sentence so fascinating or attention-grabbing.

Home Reading is due Friday, December 9, 2011. There are two students done all of their reading assignments and book talk. Is your child one of them? Keep reading!

Mrs. Davis Forman's Gr. 5/6's

The 5/6 class has been a flurry of work this past month as we prepared for Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences, report cards and our usual busy schedule of instruction. Thank you so much to everyone that was able to come out on either of the two evenings to discuss with your child and myself all the important things they are doing and learning at school. If you weren't able to attend in November but would still like to meet, please contact me at school.

Grade 5/6 worked hard on creating poems about their neighborhood. The students were specifically working on sentence fluency. It is usually much easier to detect fluency when you can hear the piece. Students used a program called Audacity to record their poems and then they listened to them several times over looking for ways to improve their fluency. In math we have moved on to the Numeration unit. We have started by learning the next step in the place value chart. Grade 6 is having fun with millionths and Grade 5 is learning about numbers in the hundred thousands.

The grade 5/6 class had a very informative guest speaker, early in the month, talking about Off Highway Vehicles. We learned a lot about safety and we couldn't believe how the mini helmet protected the egg.

Dee, the interpreter from the Waterton ESI camp, will be here next week for a follow up visit. We are excited to see what she has to say. Some students in class are running short on supplies. Please check with your child to see that he or she still has pencils, an eraser, ruler, scissors and glue.

This past month in the Jr. High classroom has flown by! In Science, both the grade eights and nines have started new units. The grade nines have started a chemistry unit and the grade eights have started looking at cells and systems. The focus this far, for grade nines, has been the difference between chemical and physical changes. We have made "elephant toothpaste" and pancakes to deepen our understanding of this concept. The grade eights have explored four of the human body systems and created raps, songs, and skits about the processes that take place.

We have started doing Math in four rotations that include instruction, basic facts, review and practice time. Students have been able to practice basic facts using a variety of methods from online programs to number searches. All students in Junior High completed a research project on what a google is and why Google may have chosen that for their engine search name.

The month of December will be busy as we finish up the current units in Science and Math.

Miss Goodkey

Junior High Language Arts and Social

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of the first reporting period. In Language Arts over the past term, we have worked on demonstrating mastery of outlining and summarizing short informational paragraphs as well as writing either a story or poem of Remembrance.

We will now be moving onto essay writing over the next term while continuing to master the use of a variety of sentence types and lengths in our writing. We will be learning how to add decorations and triple extension to our writing as well. We are continuing to work in either guided reading groups or literature circles. Please ask your child about the literature circle roles they are currently learning.

In Social 7/8 we will be finishing our study of Renaissance Europe so that we can move onto the Spanish and the Aztecs in the New Year. In Social 9 we will be looking at the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens and how citizens can become active participants in our nation's government. I am so excited to have time to teach each grade level separately in Social Studies now. It gives me the opportunity to focus on the specific skill levels and needs of the students in each class. We will be able to do more activities that meet various learning styles without fear of distracting other students working in the classroom.

Mrs. Beagle



VOLUNTEERS

DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME DURING SCHOOL HOURS?

A HALF DAY, A FULL DAY, TWO DAYS

DO YOU LIKE READING WITH STUDENTS?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COME INTO OUR SCHOOL AND READ WITH STUDENTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS, STARTING IN JANUARY

ALL READING LEVELS

CONTACT JONI GOODKEY, LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER @
403-534-3825



REPORT CARDS WILL BE COMING HOME ON THURSDAY, DEC. 1. PLEASE READ OVER YOUR CHILD'S REPORT CARD THEN SIGN AND DATE IT AND RETURN IT BACK TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER. WE WILL BE

CALLING ANY PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED THE REPORT CARD TO THE SCHOOL BY DEC. 9TH. THIS IS DONE TO VERIFY THAT YOU INDEED DID RECEIVE THE ENVELOPE AND WERE ABLE TO GO OVER IT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE REPORT CARD, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.

Arrowwood School Staff & students will be having their annual festive turkey dinner. Each class will be responsible for bringing something to contribute. Please be watching for a note to be sent home from your child's teacher requesting what your child's class is needing to bring. It might be as simple as a can of corn or a package of juice.

**Students will also be doing a "Door Decorating" contest within their bird groups. They will be looking for ribbon, bows, paper, and any other interesting Christmas decorations that you might have. The doors will be judged by the community members on the evening of the Christmas concert, so start collecting any extra Christmas decorations that you may have.

Mom's Pantry

We are hoping that Mom's Pantry will arrive sometime between Dec. 6-7. They will be phoning to confirm their delivery date. As soon as we know, we will be letting you know so that you can make arrangements for pickup of your orders as soon as possible. We do not have enough fridge/freezer space at school to accommodate any of the products. Thank you again for supporting the Student's Union in this fundraiser.

FOR SALE!

If your child doesn't have headphones yet to use on the computers, we still have them available for \$15.00. Examples of use of these headphones are: listening to interactive websites, educational videos, audio books, publishing podcasts and recording their work.

**ARROWWOOD SCHOOL
COUNCIL MEETING**

DECEMBER 8
6:30 PM

Colleen Deitz will be sharing several proposed school calendars for the 2012-2013 school year and taking feedback from parents.

We encourage all parents to come.

Copies of the proposed calendars are available at the school office if you wish to review them.



FYI - Cases of headlice continue to be evident in our school. Although this is not a health risk it is perceived to be a nuisance. We would like to remind you that if your child(ren) have headlice please let the school know so that we may take precautions to help with the spreading of this "pesty little bug". All names will be kept strictly confidential. Also, a reminder that combing is the best solution for getting rid of the nits from your child's head. Along with diligent combing for removal you MUST also treat all bedding, pillows, carpets, stuffed animals & clothing, etc. as one little nit missed can multiply into hundreds more.

Thank you for your continued support with this "buggy" situation.

Thank you! Thank you!

The Book Fair was a HUGE success!

We reached our goal of \$1600.00.

This means lots of new books for the library and some resources for the classroom.

A special thank you to Shawna Wiebe for your help setting up and supervising at the book fair.

Also to all the students who helped at recess and while I went on my bus run.

Thank you to the parents for your generosity. See you next year.

Mrs. Sherstabetoff

Arrowwood School

Christmas Concert

Dec. 21, 2011

1:30 & 7:00 pm performances

No pre-tickets are needed!

**Donation to the Food Bank would be
greatly appreciated!**



DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Report Cards go Home STUDENT VS. PAR- ENTS Volleyball 5:00 pm	2 Flex Friday No School	3
4	5	6 Gr. 5/6 Basketball practice	7	8 Parent Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	9 HOT LUNCH Students vs Staff volleyball	10
CANDY GRAMS FOR SALE						
11	12	13 Gr. 5/6 Basketball practice	14 Staff Professional Learn- ing Communities 4:00-5:30	15	16 Hot Dogs Jr. High Students Union event	17
18	19 Team Door Decorating	20	21 Christmas Concert 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm	22 Student/Staff Christmas Dinner	23 Flex Friday No School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ENJOY YOUR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY						
SEE YOU BACK ON JANUARY 9TH						
						