

ARROWWOOD SCHOOL

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



“DARE TO SOAR”

How SUCCESSFUL you are is determined by your ATTITUDE



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that September is almost over. This first month of school has passed so quickly. I must say that my first month as principal of Arrowwood Community School has been fabulous. I couldn't ask for a more amazing staff and student body to spend each day with.

The staff at Arrowwood has already been a part of two professional development sessions within Palliser. In August we spent a day in Vulcan celebrating years of service of our colleagues as well as hearing two exceptional presentations by John Antonetti on student engagement and success. It was powerful, thought provoking and entertaining all at the same time. On September 19th the teachers, secretaries and librarians met in Vulcan once again. We spent the morning learning about new technology we can infuse into our lessons and assignments. The afternoon was spent collaborating with teachers in grade/subject specific teams. This learning opportunity will occur on three other dates throughout the school year. It is a wonderful chance for teachers to develop lessons and activities that are engaging for students as well as meeting the diverse needs in the classroom.

Thank you to all of the parents who came out for our meet the staff evening. We did change things this year

by having students take their parents on a school/classroom tour before eating supper. It was hard to walk away from the tantalizing smells coming from the kitchen. Thank you so much to Mrs. Sherstabetoff, Mrs. Neustaeter and Mrs. Banman for planning and preparing the meal, as well as the many other women who brought the delicious desserts. If you weren't able to make it out on September 20th then please pop by the school and introduce yourself to your child's teacher. As teachers we want to develop a strong relationship with our students and their families over the course of this year.

Option classes have now begun. Please ask your child (ren) about the different options they are participating in. The teachers, support staff and volunteers have been able to offer a large variety in options this term. It is very exciting to see a wide range of learning taking place in our school.

Please remember to sign your child's agenda every night. Ask your child to share what he/she has been learning each day in school because showing an interest in your child's learning has proven to increase their success in school.

Hello, everyone,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

To our students and their families, I say thank you for entrusting Palliser to meet your educational needs.

This year, Palliser Regional Schools has adopted a theme of “TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More.” Those few words speak volumes about our division's values. We view education as a shared responsibility, best served through the meaningful collaboration and partnership of all parties – school administration, teaching and support staff, students, parents and others in the community.

As a society, we all benefit when our children are educated, literate and independent thinkers. Likewise, our students benefit when the people around them support their learning needs. Even something as simple as a consistent message that school is important can make a difference to a child and his/her attitude toward learning.

How can you be a partner in education? One of the best ways to do this is to attend school council meetings. Through school council, parents/guardians can provide valuable input and stay informed about what's happening at the school. You don't have to commit to attending every meeting of the council, but come once, and we think you'll see the value of it and you'll come back for more.

Grade 3-4

In Social Studies we are studying Alberta - The Land. We discussed where Alberta is in Canada and the provinces or territories around it. We looked at land forms, river systems, and resources. Now we will be taking an in-depth look at each of the six regions of Alberta.



In Science we are discovering that Waste in our World is a problem. We learned the difference between biodegradable and non-biodegradable, types of waste and ways we dispose of them. Now we are looking at ways to reduce waste at school. We have a vermin-compost set up in our classroom and we are discovering what the red wigglers will eat. We know about reducing, reusing, and recycling. Next students will be looking at ways to reduce waste in their own homes.

In Math we will be using the Math for Success program so we will be working on numbers, operations, shapes, measurement, and data analysis throughout the year. This month, we reviewed 2D shapes and 3D solids. The students learned about vertices, faces, and edges. We have been learning about different types of fractions. Your child should be bringing home flashcards to practise. Each set will focus on an addition or subtraction mental math strategy. Please practice these as often as possible; it should take a minute or so every night.

In Language Arts we are building a routine for our Daily 5 program. The children are doing read to self, buddy reading, journal writing, and words their way. Spelling words will be in their day timers weekly. We are also doing a cursive writing program called Handwriting without Tears. We do cursive writing activities for ten minutes every day. Home reading will be starting at the beginning of October.



Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Cross Country Run held in Vulcan on September 22. The following students were fortunate enough to qualify for zones at Elk Island Park near Medicine Hat on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011. Good Luck to Josh Holloway, Clayton Manson and Anna Reimer.

Run hard & fast!

NOW HIRING:

Palliser Regional Schools is accepting applications for Spare Bus Drivers across the Division.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Dan Ryder at Palliser Central Office at 403-328-4111. or 1-877-667-1234



Student's Union 2011-2012

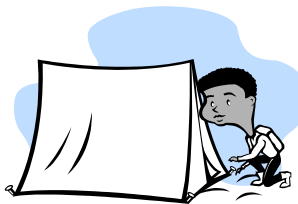
What an amazing amount of interest our junior high students showed in being a part of the 2011-12 Arrowwood School Students' Union. Although there were a few seats that were won by acclimation many seats were gained after the Candidates prepared and presented speeches to our grade 5 – 9 students. Our secret ballot voting occurred immediately after the speeches and the results were:

Clayton Manson	President
Blain Cockwill	Vice President
Secretary	Sara Neustaeter
Treasurer	Ethan Yellow Old Woman
Sports Rep.	Josh Holloway
Social Rep.	Mya Ingraham
Concession Rep.	Liam Kirk

I raise my hat to all of the students who ran as the results for each position were very close and each of you did a tremendous job presenting your speech.

Congratulations to this year's Students' Union!

Happy Harvest! Happy Thanksgiving!



The grade 5/6 class has had a great start to the year. We are the very lucky recipients of a free class camp trip to Waterton Lakes National Park for two nights and three days to learn about ecosystems. We are leaving Oct. 3rd bright and early at 7:00am and returning Oct. 5th in time to catch busses home. We sure are hoping the weather continues to be as beautiful as it has been.

In Language Arts we have begun the year working on reading. We have been practicing our fluency and building up our stamina to be able to read independently longer. Patterns have been our first focus in math. Can you figure out the pattern in the Fibonacci Sequence? 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13

In Social Studies we are looking at Ancient Athens and how it contributed to democracy. We sure are glad we don't have to follow their roles of society. And last, if you are walking past our classroom and see strange concoctions in test tubes and beakers, we are studying Classroom Chemistry in Science. Making mixtures and figuring out how to separate them is first on our list of outcomes.

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to hear all about our camping trip. We are certain it will be a BLAST!!!

Math 7: We started off the year with Coordinates and Design. In this unit we explored the *Cartesian Plane*. Students were able to identify and describe the location of points using a grid system. In this next month we are working with decimals, fractions and percents. Finding the relationship between these three concepts and also in our own lives will be a major focus.

Math 8: In the unit of Data representation we explored different ways of displaying, gathering, and interpreting data. Students were able to conduct surveys and identify appropriate ways of sharing their findings. Another aspect we explored in this unit was critiquing data. The next unit is working with decimal, percents and fraction. Exploring the relationships between these three concepts and connection our knowledge to real life examples will be the driving focus of this unit.

Math 9: In the unit Symmetry/Transformations/Enlargements students have been working with *scale factor*, and *ratios*. We have created and looked at many different examples of *horizontal, vertical and oblique* line symmetry. In this next month we will conclude this unit and will start looking at Rational numbers.

Science:

Safety is always first! We kicked off the year with WHIMS symbols. (Do you remember what WHIMS stands for?)

Science 8: The first unit in Science is Mix and Flow of Matter. Throughout this unit we have been exploring the *Particle Model of Matter*. (Can you remember the 5 key ideas?) We have been classifying solutions, looking at solubility and different ways of separating mixtures. We will continue on learning more about fluids by looking at *flow rate, viscosity, density, buoyancy, and fluid pressure*.

Science 9: What is *Biological Diversity*? Grade 9 students have been exploring this topic through projects and real life examples. (Can you remember a few examples?) We have looked at the variation within and between species and how this determines survival. In this next month we will continue in this unit by taking a closer look at diversity and how human activity affects the biological diversity of our world.

Ms. Goodkey

Junior High LA/Social

The junior high students have been engaged in reading and writing daily. They are currently spending time everyday reading independently. Over the past three weeks, the students have completed GRADE testing which will be used as a pre-assessment of reading levels for this year. The students will complete a year end GRADE testing at the end of May as well. The data received will be used to help determine reading levels for home reading, independent reading and guided reading as well as reading growth throughout the year. A writing pre-assessment was also completed two weeks ago. Again the information gathered from this testing will help to determine where students are at in their writing journey and where they still need to go. Finally a spelling diagnostic test was administered. The results are being used to place students in spelling groups so that the programing can be more individualized. We have also started working

through the Blended Structure and Style in Writing program which will assist student in making their writing more descriptive and engaging for the reading. This is a quick review and extension to what the students learned in grade ¾ with Mrs. Kirk. By mid-October we will be diving into the 6 Traits writing program.

In Social the grade 7/8 students have begun learning about Renaissance Europe. This will be an interesting journey into the discovery of how our society was shaped by the event of this period of “rebirth.”

Social 9 students have begun to explore the exciting world of politics. Students’ Union Elections is a great way to start into our learning although we are quickly diving into the Federal Government structure.

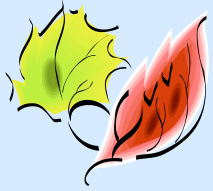
The grade nine students skipped ahead to learn about aboriginal rights in order to create a presentation to help us celebrate the signing of Treaty 7 which is important history to many

students in our school. I thank the students for taking this project so seriously and for presenting the information to the school in creative ways. A tableaux of the significant events was performed by all of the grade 9 students while Clayton and Rhianna presented their group’s PowerPoint quiz.

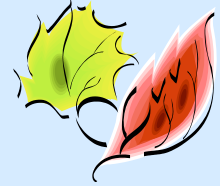


Please assist your child in staying educated on current events by encouraging him/her to watch the news or read the newspaper. Please look for our current events homework assignments which will be starting in October.

Mrs. Beagle



October 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Girls VB @ Vulcan	4 Gr/ 5/6 Waterton Trip	5 Cross Country Zones	6 Scholastic Book Orders Due	7 Flex Friday No School	8
9	10  No School	11 PD DAY No School	12 VB -Home Arr'd vs Milo	13	14	15
16	17	18 Picture Re-take Day 1:00 pm	19 VB - Away Champ Vs. Arr'd	20	21 Dan Doerksen at the school	22 Babysitting Course 9-4 School Library
23	24	25	26 VB-Home Arr'd vs Brant	27	28 Flex Friday No School	29
30	31 Happy Halloween 					