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March 2011



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- ❖ APRIL 1 – Parent Association Meeting 1:30 pm
- ❖ APRIL 5 - School Council Meeting 7:00 PM
- ❖ APRIL 5-7 –Science in Motion Presentation
- ❖ APRIL 15 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Meeting /Teacher Collaboration
- ❖ APRIL 21 – Spirit Day Lunch And Assembly
- ❖ APRIL 22-MAY 1 INCLUSIVE – EASTER BREAK

**Principal's Message - Mrs. T. Bullin** – The staff would like to wish you a relaxing holiday and a Happy Easter.

April brings us to the downward spiral toward year end. We have many things to accomplish in a short space of time!

Registrations are upon us for next year already. Please remember to return your registration forms as soon as possible so that we can organize our staffing.

The Kindergarten Orientation is on the evening of April 13<sup>th</sup> @7:00 p.m. in our library.

Also, *Science in Motion* will take place during Education Week. This will be on April 5, 6, and 7. It is a wonderful opportunity to have fun with science. Parents are welcome to come as well.

Each year we look forward to the many new people who volunteer to carry forward the work of both our Parent Council and Parent Association. In the next month we will be asking people to volunteer their time on various committees, such as Spirit Day, Casinos and School Council. Many activities do not require a lot of time, and we know that there are many talented people out there. **WE NEED YOU!**

**IS YOUR CHILD STARTING KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER OF 2011?** - There will be an orientation meeting for the parents of children registered in

Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. It will be held in our school library, Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM. Babysitting will be provided. We are looking forward to meeting all of you. See you then.

**Please also be reminded if you haven't returned your registration form yet, we need them A.S.A.P. Spots are filling quickly**



**EASTER HOLIDAYS:** Easter Holidays will commence on Good Friday, **April 22, 2011** and will conclude on Sunday, **May 1, 2011**. School resumes on **Monday, May 2, 2011**.

### **SCHOOL PARKING**

Once again we are asking for parent cooperation regarding parking. The safety of your children is at risk on a daily basis due to the fact that some parents are continuing to park in inappropriate places. Also, we have had complaints from people in the neighborhood about driveways being blocked and crosswalks that are jeopardized.

Parents, we ask that you please set a good example for our students by using crosswalks and not cutting across the street or around safety patrollers. We would like students to exit the schoolyard on the sidewalks.

We would truly appreciate it if all parents would comply with these parking rules:

1. No Parking on crosswalks
2. No Parking in front of neighborhood driveways
3. No Parking in school parking lots.

### **STUDENTS STAYING AFTER SCHOOL ON THE PLAYGROUND**

– A reminder to parents that students who want to stay on the playground after school must be accompanied by an adult. Students not registered in the Before/After School Program should be going

home after school; not staying to play without adult supervision.

**STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2011/2012** – As with all organizations, planning is a major undertaking. One of the biggest planning problems for schools is the preparation and planning involving STAFFING. It goes without saying that this is a critical issue and should be of concern to parents, because ultimately, staffing becomes an issue of pupil-to-teacher ratio. While there has been much research and literature on the effects of ‘p.t.r.’ and student achievement, it is safe to say that no one wants their children in overcrowded classes.

In order for us to adequately prepare and plan for next year, we need ‘good’ information. Specifically, we need to know, as accurately as possible, the number of **students who will be attending Ross Glen School in the Fall.**

A **BLUE registration form** was sent home with report cards for you to verify the information contained therein. Thank you for attending to this document and for returning it to the school. If your child is not returning next year, please indicate where they will be attending next year and return the form. We asked that all forms be returned by March 24, 2011. If your form has not been returned, please do so A.S.A.P.

Students registering for Alexandra Middle School for the 2011/2012 school year need to know, registration forms are now due. If you have not returned yours, please do so A.S.A.P. These may be brought to RG to be forwarded in the inter-school mail.

**KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE REGISTRATION FOR 2011/2012** - We will continue to accept Kindergarten and Grade One Registrations for as long as it takes to get all children registered. If you know of anyone, who has not been registered, please encourage the parents to contact Ross Glen School (529-2960) as soon as possible. Your cooperation and support are appreciated. **FOR THOSE PARENTS WHO HAVE REGISTRATION FORMS OUT, PLEASE RETURN THESE TO THE OFFICE ASAP.**

### EXEMPLARY STUDENTS



These students have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, outstanding and consistent effort, outstanding citizenship, and/or above average improvement in work habits or academic achievement. These students' certificates were posted on the bulletin board outside the library.

Lainee Cross Child 1A	Carter Terrill 1A
Zoe Hogan 1B	Kadence Mann 1C
James Carlin 1C	Alexis Martin 2A
Toon Bijman 2B	Natalie Truscott 3B
Elizabeth Thorpe 3A	Madison Pederson 3C

Justyn Price 4A	Natalie Johnson 4A
Nicholas Rothfus 4A	Jordan Flaig 4A
Kiara Gnam 4B	Abdiel Castillo 4B
Braeden Long 4B	Le Sicotte 4B
Damien Clarke 5A	Niamh Hogan 5A
Jevon Gackle 5A	Ishaan Patel 5B
Caydin Cleland 5B	Cassie Orich 6A
Ohnesty Marr 6A	Michael Semko 6A
Emily Kress 6B	Aasron Lassey 6B
Eric Harbidge 6B	Krisz Kacsanyi 6B



### LUCKY WINNERS FOR PRINCIPAL PALS LUNCH

Carter Terrill 1A	Zack Klug 1B
Grayson Price 1C	Brandon Bourke 2A
Ella Nichols 2B	Neleh Bryska 3A
Logan Terrill 3B	Damien Kosi 3C
Wol Marac 4A	Taylor Johnson 4B
Jessica Schmitt 5A	Sarah Edison 5B
Branson Zee 6A	Artur Gergely 6B

### NEWSLETTER DRAW:

Chai Brown KB	Alex Kumm 3A
Abby Lunge 5B	Ryan Lunge 3B
Emily Kress 6B	Sofia Piercey 1A
Alexis Martin 2A	Jayden Picray 1C
Braeden Long 4B	Jessica Schmitt 5A
Justyn Price 4A	Grayson Price 1C

**ROSS GLEN SCHOOL HATS** are available to be purchased at the office. They are **\$5.00 each**. Please see Mrs. Baumbach or Mr. King-Hunter to purchase yours.



**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** – Congratulations to our students for the month of March, **Jada Harper 3B**, **Neleh Bryksa 3A**, and **Jillian Hullah 1B**.



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS!**

March has been another busy month for our School Council. Thank you to all of our students and their families for working so hard on the spell-a-thon. Tests were written on March 16. We appreciate the support of our teaching staff who administered and marked the tests for us. Each student received a treat after the test. Please return pledge sheets and money to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Our final totals and prize winners will be announced at the April Spirit Day Assembly.

We hope that you took advantage of the opportunity to join with your child and his or her teacher for student-led conferences in March. This is a great way to be an active partner in your child's education! Please make sure that you have returned your child's registration forms for next year.

It is hard to believe that two reporting periods have come and gone already this year. We are currently planning a Spring Family Dance for Thursday, May 5. Watch for more details about this fun event. We have two more Spirit Days (April and June) prior to our free hot dog lunch on Fun Field Day in June. Thanks in advance for your support. As well, the end of the year brings many opportunities for parents to volunteer for field trips and special events. Your child's classroom teacher will send home details about these events shortly.

April's School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm in the staff room. Please join us to help plan the Spring Dance and other events. We have scheduled the May School Council meeting for Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm. This will likely be our last regularly scheduled School Council meeting this year.

## **MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76**

**EDUCATION FOUNDATION TELETHON** – After waiting for an extra half hour before our performance, the Ross Glen School students took to the stage with a

poise and confidence that reflected the experience of any seasoned professional group.

Our poetry readers, under the direction of Mrs. Mandel shared personal thoughts on various aspects of their lives. Their voices projected well, and each student recited their original poem.

Our Telethon choir under the direction of Mr. Maier sang their hearts out with "Sin-A-Ling" and "Each of Us has a Light". Choir members sang out with their wonderful voices. We heard several positive comments about how clear the words were, and how expressive they sounded.

Our dancers took charge of the stage with their rendition of Dynamite. Choreography and leadership came from Mrs. Kuehn and Mrs. Boodhoo. The girls hip-hopped their way through the song, all over the stage, and into the hearts of the audience.

Each of us that worked with the students is so proud of their hard work, and that they gave up their time to be part of the groups. Thank you for representing Ross Glen School. You did an awesome job!

## **SAFETY PATROL NEWS** — Spring Driving Hazards

At this time of the year, the driving conditions can change drastically. With temperatures fluctuating above and below zero, the condition of the road surface can change from one day to the next, and even within the same day. Above zero and the road is wet. Below zero and that water on the road has changed to black ice. When patrollers work in the morning, the road could be icy, but by afternoon, that ice could have changed to water. Another factor affecting road conditions, particularly around intersections is the gravel on the road which was spread all through the winter, but has yet to be picked up. Stopping distance on gravel is very similar to ice. Because of the poor traction, a vehicle is going to take a long time to stop on gravel. Patrollers have to keep this in mind when patrolling at this time of the year. The snow and ice may be gone, but the gravel remains, so stopping distances are increased because of it.



**Congratulations to Justice Sperling for being chosen as the March Patroller of the Month!**

**PLEASE SIGN, CUT OFF, AND RETURN THIS FORM TO SCHOOL** if you have read the Roadrunner Reporter thoroughly with your child. A draw will be held each Spirit Day assembly in which your child's slip could be drawn for a reward. We hope this will create more interest and awareness of the great past, present, and future events of Ross Glen School! Have a great month!

My child (ren), \_\_\_\_\_ in Grade \_\_\_\_\_ A / B, and I have read the Road  
Runner Reporter.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE



# April 2011




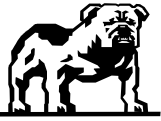







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PARENT ASSOCIATION MTG 1:30	2 GRADE 4 GAMES @CHHS
3	4	5 SCHOOL COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM 	6  SCIENCE IN MOTION PRESENTATIONS	7 	8	9
10	11	12	13 NEXT YEAR KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION 7:00 PM LIBRARY	14	15 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS TEACHER COLLABORATION / STAFF MEETING DAY *RED CROSS BABYSITTING COURSE 9-3	16 HOME ALONE COURSE 9 - 3
17	18	19	20	21 SPIRIT DAY LUNCH AND ASSEMBLY 	22 GOOD FRIDAY EASTER BREAK BEGINS 	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30 
EASTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL THIS WEEK CLASSES RESUME ON MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011						
MAY 1	2 FIRST DAY BACK FROM EASTER BREAK	3	4 PRIMARY MIND CHALLENGE PM	5 *JUMP ROPE FOR HEART PM  SCHOOL COUNCIL SPRING DANCE	6  *PARENT ASSOCIATION MTG 2:00	7

\*All color groups (12:20-12:45pm)



# April 2011



<b>Monday</b> <b>JUNIOR</b> (grade1&2)	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>INTERMEDIATE</b> (grade 3&4)	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>SENIOR</b> (grade 5&6)	<b>Thursday</b> <b>GRADE 1-3</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>GRADE 4-6</b>
				1  Open Gym <b>and</b> Wrestling (12:20-12:45)
4 <b>T-Rex Tag</b>  	5 <b>British Bulldog</b>  	6 <b>Free- for -all Revenge Dodge Ball</b>  	7  Open Gym (12:20-12:45)	8  Open Gym <b>and</b> Wrestling (12:20-12:45)
11 <b>Soccer</b>  	12 <b>Soccer</b>  	13 <b>Soccer</b>  	14  Open Gym (12:20-12:45)	15  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
18 <b>Parachute Fun</b>  	19 <b>Toilet Tag</b>  	20 <b>Chicken Kick Ball</b>  	21  <b>SPIRIT DAY</b>	22  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
25  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>



## Medicine Hat School District No. 76

601 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 4Y7 Fax: (403) 529-5339 Phone: (403) 528-6701

March 17, 2011

Dear Parents:

### **Re: A Message to Parents Concerning Education Budget Announcements**

The trustees of Medicine Hat School District No. 76 want to keep you informed about how the recent budget announcements from the Government of Alberta have presented a challenge to us in our efforts to continue to provide a top quality education to your children. In order to do this a little background information is useful.

Firstly, you should know that local school jurisdictions have only the revenue provided by the provincial government. Four years ago the government made a deal with the Alberta Teachers' Association that guaranteed salaries would increase according to a set formula. Previously, local school boards would negotiate with their own teachers to set wage increases. The provincial government believed at the time that this agreement would bring "labour peace" for five years. Local school boards across the province, including Medicine Hat School District No. 76, agreed to work with the government and the ATA to implement this agreement if the government guaranteed they would increase funding to the boards to cover the costs of these higher salaries. The government gave such a guarantee in writing. In the next year (school year 2011-12) that formula requires that teachers receive a salary increase of 4.4%.

Secondly, you need to know that the government provides money to school boards in a wide variety of grants. There is the "basic grant" and then there are a whole series of other grants. It is true that the government increased the "basic grant" by 4.4%. In the case of M.H.S.D. #76 this grant increase amounts to \$1,863,000. Thus the government claims that they have fulfilled their commitment to fund the salary increases. It is also true that the government has cut, and even eliminated, other grants. In our case these budget cuts amount to \$1,739,000 by the end of the 2012-13 school year. In effect, the provincial government has put money in one pocket while immediately removing it from our other pocket. Consequently, the government has put us in a position of being required to increase our salary expenses by far more than the dollars they provide to cover those required expenses. Unless some adjustments are made, our board will have a huge annual deficit of almost \$1.7 MILLION. Clearly this is unsustainable and some adjustments will have to be made.

Over the next two months we will work to put together a proposed budget with a view to do all we can to minimize the impact on children in the classroom. As has been our practice, we will release that proposed budget to the public in advance of any final approval by the Board of Trustees. We ask your patience with this process, and we will continue to keep you informed as updated information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Terry Riley  
Chair, Medicine Hat School District No. 76



### Sun Safety

As the days become longer and warmer it is time to think of protecting our skin from sunburns. We all need some sun exposure but unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can cause skin damage, eye damage, immune system suppression, and even cancer. Even people in their twenties can develop skin cancer. To stay safe in the sun:

- Stay out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Look for shaded areas
- Wear sunglasses, a wide brimmed hat and long loose cotton clothing
- Apply lip balm with SPF 15 or higher
- Apply sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher protecting from UVA and UVB rays
- Do not apply sunscreen to babies under 6 months
- Babies under one year should stay out of direct sunlight
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water.

[www.caringforkids.cps.ca/keepkidssafe/Sun.htm](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/keepkidssafe/Sun.htm)

### Three Underrated Foods

**Sunflower seeds.** Sunflower seeds are rarely in the spotlight. That's a shame, because sunflower seeds are as good as most nuts...and they're cheaper. For a snack, buy sunflower seeds in the shell. For tossing on salads or yogurt, buy them unsalted and shell-free. Roast them for richer flavor.

**Plain yogurt.** Plain yogurt has a tartness that's a perfect match for the natural sweetness of berries, bananas, or peaches AND it has more protein, potassium, calcium, zinc, and B vitamins than sweetened yogurt. Add a dash of vanilla for even more flavor.

**Watermelon.** Two cups of watermelon has 38 percent of a day's vitamin C and 32 percent of a day's vitamin A for only 85 fat-free and salt-free calories. Bonus: watermelon is one fruit with the fewest pesticide residues.

### Celebrate Screen-Free Week April 18 to 24

**Screen-Free Week** [www.screenfree.org](http://www.screenfree.org) (formerly TV-Turnoff) is an annual celebration where children, families, schools and communities are encouraged to turn off screens and turn on life. Time in front of screens is linked to poor school performance, childhood obesity, and attention problems. It is also primarily where children are exposed to "harmful" marketing.

Regardless of whether they are consuming "good" or "bad" programming, it's clear that screen media displaces all sorts of other activities that are integral to childhood. Instead of relying on screens for entertainment, rediscover the joys of life beyond the screen: read, daydream, explore, enjoy nature, and spend time with family and friends.

