

February 2011 Newsletter



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"Effort Today.....Excellence Tomorrow!"



Pictures are Grade
4's Skating at
Kinsmen Park





It is hard to believe how quickly the year is flying past. This week already marks the half way point in the school year! With that in mind we want to remind you of a couple of **upcoming events**. Tomorrow night, Thursday, January 27, beginning at 6:30 pm, we will be holding the Wonderful Works of Westmount in our gym. This event highlights our students in K – 4 and their amazing interests and hobbies. Stop by between 6:30 and 7:30 to see what our amazing students have been up to! Next Wednesday, February 2 we will be holding our February Westmount Elementary School Council Meeting in the school library. Please come by and join this dedicated group of parents as they continue to support Westmount School so spectacularly!

As the weather continues to fluctuate, we find ourselves struggling with a messy or icy school yard and **playground** area. Should the warm weather continue we are concerned that the conditions out on the playing field might continue to diminish in quality. With this in mind we may be allowing students to temporarily play games on the pavement that are usually reserved for the large field. Please be aware of the students and the games they are playing if you find yourself out on the playground during one of our recess breaks. We also are trying to encourage our students to stay off of the ice (or out of the puddles) while they are out on recess.

Recently, some of you will have received a survey in the mail from Alberta Education. This survey is an integral part of our **Accountability Survey** that we conduct every winter. Each grade 4 student and all of our staff fill in an online survey, while parents of grade 4 students respond to a mail survey. The responses we receive are reflected in our accountability report every September. If you received a survey in the mail, we ask that you fill it out and send it back to Alberta Education to help us with this project.

It is the time of year where we start to project towards the next school year and with that in mind we are excited to announce the dates of our **kindergarten registration**. On Monday, February 14 and Tuesday, February 15 we will be holding our kindergarten registration for the 2011-2012 school year. An important change has occurred recently in that Golden Hills School Division #75 has moved the entry age to be the following: Any student who turns five (5) on or before February 28, 2012 is eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. It should be noted that students who turn five after August 31, 2011 do not have to be registered for kindergarten during this year. If, you as the parents are concerned with the readiness of your child for kindergarten and they will turn five

after August 31, 2011, that student can be held out of school for a year and be registered in kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. This coming school year we will again be offering a full day kindergarten program. As parents, you will be able to choose a Monday/Wednesday program or a Tuesday/Thursday program.

Lastly, I just want to pass on a big thank you to the extended Westmount School Community for the support we received during the Blizzard and State of Emergency that surrounded Strathmore and area over the first weekend in January. As most of you know, Westmount was chosen to act as an emergency shelter for any stranded travelers. We received so many offers of support that it was impossible to accept it all.

I know that was a lot to digest, but I want to say thank you for reading through this information. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the office and set up a time to meet with me. Have a great February!

Yours truly,
Wayne Funk

NEWS FROM THE GYM

Volleyball Intramurals

Volleyball Intramural Winners – Red Coyotes #3

The teachers enjoyed playing volleyball against the students last week.

Floor Hockey Intramurals

Floor hockey intramurals began for students in Grades 3-6 and will continue for the next month.

Winter Walk Day/Games Day

Students at Westmount will have the opportunity to participate in our annual Winter Walk Day on February 9 at 2:00pm. Games will follow.

Family Beach Dance (PE Fundraiser)

The Leadership Students and Mrs. Brassard are planning a family dance to take place during March. Look in the next newsletter for more details.




Kindergarten Registration


*February 14 & 15 – 9 – 3
at the School Office
Please bring your child's
Birth Certificate and
Alberta Health Care*


Classroom News

1C Hello and welcome to the first edition of Grade 1 C News in the year 2011! We hope that the upcoming year brings only the best to you and your family! The children returned from the holidays full of enthusiasm and had many exciting stories to share. They were all very excited to see our furry little friend, Theodore

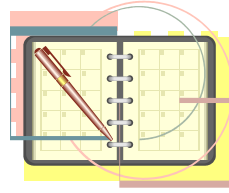
 Bunny, who was happy to see everyone after spending a couple of quiet weeks at school over the holidays.

In Language Arts we have been kept busy refining our skills with both New Year's, Winter, The Mitten story and Groundhog's Day Activities. The children have been eagerly

 anticipating Mr. Groundhog's prediction this year. As we move into the month of February our focus will be Valentines, Friendship, and 100 Day. Swimming lessons are also a highlight during February. We hope you are able to come and watch one day.

Thank you to all the parents who devote a tremendous amount of time and energy to nightly reading with their child. Your 

effort and enthusiasm provides important practice and reinforcement for their developing reading skills.



I would also like to extend my appreciation to all those parents who faithfully read and sign their children's daytimers on a daily basis. Your organization and dedication are to be commended!

In closing, to the fabulous group of parent volunteers that have dedicated so many valuable hours to our classroom - THANK YOU !!! You are truly wonderful and I sincerely appreciate you support!



An extra big thank you to Laurel Sims for organizing our fabulous group of volunteers! Sincerely, Janice Sumner



If you are interested in ordering a School DVD you are still able to do so.

The single DVD for \$25.00 will have individual photos of each class as well as photos of our Spirit Day's and activities that happen in and around the school and likely the Christmas concert.

If you order the double DVD for \$35.00 the second one will have the Drama performance on it. Call the Office.



The Story of Temperature by the Grade Twos



We began our science unit on Hot and Cold Temperatures. January 10th was a perfect lead into this unit!! To get the students excited about what we were going to be covering we asked them to change the temperature on a thermometer. We had many great ideas come forth!



After we discussed the goals of this unit they were asked to make dioramas showing how temperature affects our daily lives. As a whole group we came up with a rubric to decide what would make a good diorama. They were so excited and did a wonderful job!



4B Have performed their Shadow Puppet plays for their Grade 1 Buddies and the parents on Friday, Jan. 21st. They created many funny scenes while interpreting familiar fairy tales. Later that afternoon Grade 4B had a great time skating at Kinsmen Lake with all the Grade 4 classes. Thanks to the parents for helping on the ice and for bringing us treats.

Literacy Tip for February

Notice what interests your child, then help your child find books about those things. Help them build a personal library. Children's books, new or used, make great gifts and appropriate rewards for reading. Designate a bookcase, shelf or box where your children can keep their books.



Dear Parents,

It has come to our attention that there have been some concerns in regards to the hot lunch situation on January 5, 2011. For those of you who do not know, we had a miscommunication between ourselves and Quizno's which resulted in an unfulfilled soup order. We, the hot lunch volunteers had to do something quickly to ensure that the students who ordered soup got something to eat. So, with help from Joey's Only, who provided us with 100 bowls of chicken noodle soup at the last minute, we prepared packaged soup to fill the remaining orders. We understand that this was not an ideal situation and we extend our apologies to the students and parents who feel that they did not get what they paid for, but please understand that we acted with the best of intentions. Despite the fact that we did not have to pay Quizno's, we did have to pay Joey's Only and we did have to pay for the soup and containers that the volunteers prepared. No outside party reaped the benefits from this miscommunication. If anything the school gained a few extra dollars due to the volunteers doing additional work.

Quizno's has apologized and have ensured us that this will not happen again. We are hopeful that this is the case; however we understand that mishaps occur from time to time and trust that you the parents can too. We do the best we can to provide everyone with their order, but if someone has been overlooked please let us know immediately as it is easier for us to rectify these types of situations as they take place.

There has also been some criticism in regards to healthier choices being added to the menu. You will notice that we have added a few homemade items with healthier hidden ingredients, but please keep in mind that the idea of this optional program is to provide students with some fun alternatives to the everyday lunch routine and also to provide a small profit for the school. This profit is used to help fund field trips and subsidize bussing costs, making it cheaper for parents in the long run. If there are other suggestions we would welcome your ideas and discuss them to see if we can make them work into the program.

The hot lunch program is a valuable part of fundraising for the school so we appreciate everyone who takes part, but it is a volunteer based program. If you would be interested in participating please come to the school Wednesdays between 11:45am and 12:30pm.

We hope that this has cleared up any concerns that have come up.

Please send your comments or suggestions to:

Aerin Wheeler- aerin@myipplus.net

Connie Buss- westsidefinishing@shaw.ca

Michelle Lalonde- michelle13@shaw.ca

Heather Minshull- nham64@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for your support. The Hot Lunch Volunteers



Strathmore Minor Soccer Federation – Registration for the Spring Season will begin in February, available online or in-person at REVS, held February 9th, 2011 (3:30 pm – 7:30 pm). Contact Strathmore Minor Soccer Federation at www.strathmoresoccer.ca or 403-324-SPURS (7787) for further information.

WHEATLAND FURTHER EDUCATION - KIDS AND TEENS PROGRAMS

33. BABYSITTER'S TRAINING PROGRAM (11 – 15 YRS)

Becoming a babysitter is serious business. The Kidproof Babysitter's Training Program is packed full of activities and hands-on-practice to increase a student's confidence and give them the skills needed to be the best babysitter possible. During the full-day workshop, students will develop skills such as: • Finding and preparing for a babysitting job • Caring for kids of all ages • Dealing with difficult situations • Preparing safe and fun activities • Making safe choices while babysitting • Basic First Aid, including burns, cuts, poisons, choking...and more. This one-day workshop includes the Babysitters Handbook, and upon successful completion, each student will receive a wallet card. Minimum 10 students - Maximum 25 students.

Please bring a teddy bear or doll the size of a baby and a 'peanut-free' bag lunch.

1 class: Sat, Feb 19th or Sat, May 14th from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Fee: \$60.00

34. STRANGER SMARTS (7 – 10 YRS)

Kids participating in our Kidproof Stranger Smarts course will learn invaluable information in a non-threatening, entertaining environment; helping them to identify potential risks, and to make safe choices when approached by a stranger. This proactive and preventative workshop includes information on: personal space; trusting your intuition; recognizing tricks predators use to gain your trust; learning that not all strangers are dangerous. Maximum 15 students.

1 class: Wed, May 4th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Fee: \$30.00

35. AT HOME ALONE PLUS EMERGENCY FIRST AID (10 - 13 YRS)

Does your child spend time home alone before or after school due to your work schedule or other commitments? This popular and entertaining workshop is designed to prepare children to look after themselves during these times. Important skills are learned through interactive lessons and role play that help make both you and your child more confident when they are home alone. A Kidproof Canada At Home Alone Book plus First Aid book, wallet size completion card and Kidproof Canada Key Chain is included. Please bring a 'peanut-free' bag lunch.

1 class: Sat, Mar 26th from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Fee: \$50.00

36. NEVER BEE LOST (5 – 7 YRS)

Never Bee Lost is based on a story about a bee named Bob-Bee who goes to the flea market with his family, and gets separated from his Mum-Bee. Through games and interaction, kids will learn that they are never to go anywhere with anyone, what to do should they become lost or separated, and that they'll "Never Bee Lost" forever. Maximum 15 students. A Kidproof Canada Never-Bee-Lost Coloring Book and Crayons included.

1 class: Wed, Apr 6th from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Fee: \$20.00

For registration information

please contact Candace @ 403.901.1506 or John @ 403.480.1248 or
Joyce @ 403.934.5785 registration form: www.wfes.ca