

Herald Hotline

Herald School
301 -5 Street SW
Medicine Hat, Ab T1A 4G5
403-526-4477
www.heraldschool.ca



Principal's Message – S.F. Jones

December, 2011

School Fees

Parents are reminded that the 2011 / 2012 School Fees are now due. Please remember that if you are having difficulty paying the School Fees, arrangements can be made at the school office to pay the fees over an extended period of time. I should also mention that if for any reason you are unable to pay the School Fees and are on government assistance, you should check with your worker to see if the fees can be paid for by the agency.

It is very important for the school to collect all of the School Fees each year. As you are no doubt aware, not only are the fees necessary to pay the day to day expenses of running the school, they also allow us to cover the costs of school supplies such as: paper, pencils, erasers, etc., all of which we supply to our students at no cost.

Kindergarten Promotes a Happy Christmas

Mrs. Heller and her Kindergarten children are once again collecting Canadian Tire money and are hoping that you have some CT money that you would be willing to donate to their worthy cause. This is becoming a tradition for our Kindergarten students and as in years past all the money donated will be used to buy Christmas gifts for children from the Angel Tree. Last year enough money was collected to 12 beautiful gifts. The goal for this year is to double that amount. We are asking all our parents, grandparents and neighbors to help us with this endeavor. All money can be brought to the Kindergarten class and placed in our special can for safe keeping. Mrs. Heller and her students will take their shopping trip the first week of December.

Thanks you so much so helping us learn about the gift of giving during this Christmas season.

Criminal Record and Child Welfare Checks

One of the recent changes to District practice and policy is that all volunteers working with children in any school within Medicine Hat School District No. 76 must now have both a Criminal Records and a Child Welfare check on record with the school in which they volunteer. This also applies to any person wishing to volunteer to participate in Outdoor Education camps, field trips, etc.

Although I do not believe there is a cost to obtain a Child Welfare check, which you can obtain from the Child Welfare Office in the Provincial building, I believe the typical cost for obtaining a Criminal Records check from the Medicine Hat Police Service or the RCMP is 50+ dollars. However, because we - Herald School - require these checks, the cost for the Criminal Records check will be reduced to \$10.00 if the person requesting the check - the volunteer - presents a letter from Herald School stating that we require the Criminal Record check in order for the person to volunteer. In addition, if the volunteer requests it I will reimburse the \$10.00 if the volunteer provides me with a receipt for the cost of the check from either of the Police agencies.

I will gladly provide a letter for these checks to any person who wishes to volunteer to work with children. This letter can be obtained by contacting me through the school office. Please be advised that there may be a waiting period of 10 or more working days to obtain either one or both of these checks from the respective agencies. If you

are planning to volunteer on either an ongoing basis or for a particular event, you should apply for the letter well in advance of the activity in which you wish participate.

Babysitting Course

As promised, the Herald School Babysitting course will begin shortly. Ms. Kuester is currently ironing out the final details and once this is done registration will take place.

For those students participating in the training sessions and become certified (there are approximately 6-8 classes required to become certified) opportunities will open to participate in the babysitting service we will be providing during School Council Meeting nights, etc.

Please remember that our School Council typically meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7:00 pm in the school staff room.

Volunteer Recognition – and our thanks

Unfortunately whenever a list is being compiled for anything you can almost always expect to miss someone that should be on the list. Although I have attempted to compile an accurate list of all those individuals - parents and staff - who have recently volunteered in our school, let me apologize in advance to anyone whose name is missing from my Thank You list.

School Council Executive

Chair: Tara Olsen Co-Chair: Becky Martinson Secretary: Jody Poitras

The Herald School Fundraising Society

Chair: Jody Poitras Co-Chair: Jennifer English



The Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation

Chair: Christopher Massini Vice-Chair: Samantha Hunter

School Council Members – other than Executive Officers		
Chris Massini	Karen Ronnenberg	Kelly Kuester
Maureen Powell	Tina Geddes	Tracey Seitz

Casino			
Allen Helm	Andrea McAllister	Anna Mast	Becky Martinson
Brandi Linder	Brian Roberts	Carol Poitras	Chris Massini
Dale Ronnenberg	Deanne Statham	Glenn Martinson	James Lehr
Jody Poitras	Jodie Granger	Justina Bauman	Karen Ronnenberg
Kathleen Vernal	Lenor Wakeling	Leona Schaurer	Mary Ann Mueller
Maureen Powell	Mike England	Murray Mast	Norm Vernal
Paula Isfeld	Randy Stolz	Robbie Miller	Sandra Lofgren
Sharon Stolz	Stephen Bjarnason	Tavin Stuut	Tim Scory
Tina Geddes	Tracey Seitz		

Canteen
Karen Ronnenberg
Library
Della Kirkham
Swimming
Derek Darley
Classroom
Kim Muncey



Parents who are considering getting involved with one of our Councils/Societies, or who have questions regarding the School Council, the Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation or the Herald School Fundraising Society should contact one of the Executive Officers or give me a call at 403 526-4477 so that we can answer your questions.

Shoes, Slippers at School

I wanted to remind everyone that it would be ideal if all our students had extra shoes, slippers (and perhaps extra socks as well) to keep in the school so that they can be worn when the children are inside the school.

One of the expectations we have in the school is that all students are to remove their wet and dirty *'outside'* footwear as soon as they enter the school. Not only is this being asked due to safety concerns - the tiled floors get very slippery - but it also helps the custodians keep the school as clean as possible. Unfortunately, for those students without spare footwear it can mean getting their dry socks wet and having to put up with wet and cold feet for the remainder of the school day – often because their feet got wet outside while playing.

To help avoid this unpleasant experience students are asked to bring a spare pair of shoes, slippers, etc. to school so that they can put their wet and dirty outside boots on the racks and have dry footwear to wear inside the school. This obviously helps them avoid getting their socks wet and the school unreasonably dirty due to snow and water being tracked throughout the school.

Upcoming Activities in December 2011

- Dec 1 – Dec 14 Herald Student Council 2nd Annual Christmas Food Drive
- Dec 15 Herald Christmas Concert 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
(Donations of non-perishable food items accepted in entrance way)
- Dec 16 NO SCHOOL district Professional Development Day
- Dec 23 11:55 am dismissal
- January 9, 2012 Classes resume



Christmas Gift Suggestions

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

Merry 
Christmas



Christmas Facts



In the Ukraine, if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning, it is believed to be a sign of good luck. There once lived a woman so poor, says a Ukrainian folk tale, that she could not afford Christmas decorations. One Christmas morning, she awoke to find spiders had trimmed her children's tree with their webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned to silver and gold.




The poinsettia is a traditional Christmas flower. In Mexico (its original birthplace), the poinsettia is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night".

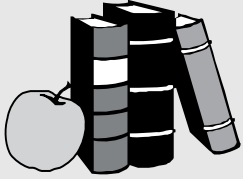
Louis Prang, A Bavarian-born lithographer who came to the USA from Germany in the 19th century, popularized the sending of printed Christmas cards. He invented a way of reproducing color oil paints and created a card with the message "Merry Christmas" as a way of showing it off.



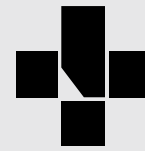


December 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Christmas Concert — 1:00 & 7:00 pm</i>	16 <i>NO SCHOOL District Professional Day</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>NOON DISMISSAL</i> 	24
25 <i>Merry Christmas to one & all!</i> 	26	27	28	29	30	31 
NO SCHOOL Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!						



Healthy Schools Healthy Futures



Alberta Health
Services

Distracted Driving

On Sept. 1 2011, the distracted Driving Law came into effect making it illegal for drivers to use hand-held cell phones, to text or email, or use electronic devices while driving. Distracted driving is potentially as dangerous as impaired driving and is much more common.

Before you start driving:

Adjust dashboard and electronic controls

Turn off your cell phone and tell everyone for safety reasons, you will no longer answer calls or text messages or emails while driving.

Deal with distractions such as putting on make-up, reading and grooming.

Stay focused while driving:

If you have to make a phone call, do so at a rest area, when you stop for gas or a bathroom break. Vehicles are not permitted to park on the shoulder of a provincial highway except in an emergency.

Visit: www.saferoads.ca for more information.

**Have a Happy, Healthy,
and Safe Holiday Season**
From the
Comprehensive
School Health Team



Tis the Season to be Healthy

In the holiday season, treats seem to be everywhere. Here are some quick tips to promote a healthy holiday season for your family:

Store treats until snack or meal time. Your child is more likely to nibble throughout the day if treats are left out in the open. Keep them away in a cupboard, refrigerator or out of sight.

Offer regular meals and snacks. Offer healthy food choices at regular times throughout the day. This will help to satisfy your child's appetite so they do not eat too many holiday treats.

Slow down and taste the food. Encourage your child to fill his/her plate and sit down to enjoy the food. Teach your child to enjoy small amounts of special holiday foods along with regular healthy choices.

For more information check out these nutrition pages:

Winter Helmet Safety

Skiing and snowboarding are popular Canadian winter sports, but they do carry a level of risk. Head and brain injuries are the most common cause of death among skiers and snowboarders.

Wearing a ski helmet can effectively reduce the risk of head injuries by nearly 50 percent.

It is important to ensure everyone engaging in these activities wears a new, properly fitted and appropriate helmet.

Helmets should be either CSA, ASTM, or Snell approved. If the helmet has been involved in a fall it may need to be replaced, even if there is no visible damage. Check the manufacturer's instructions on when to discard. Do not use helmets designed for other purposes such as bicycle helmets as they are designed to absorb different types of impacts.

For more information on helmet safety access www.thinkfirst.ca or www.safekidscanada.ca.



SADD/Key Club Family Christmas
Sunday, December 11th
12pm-4pm



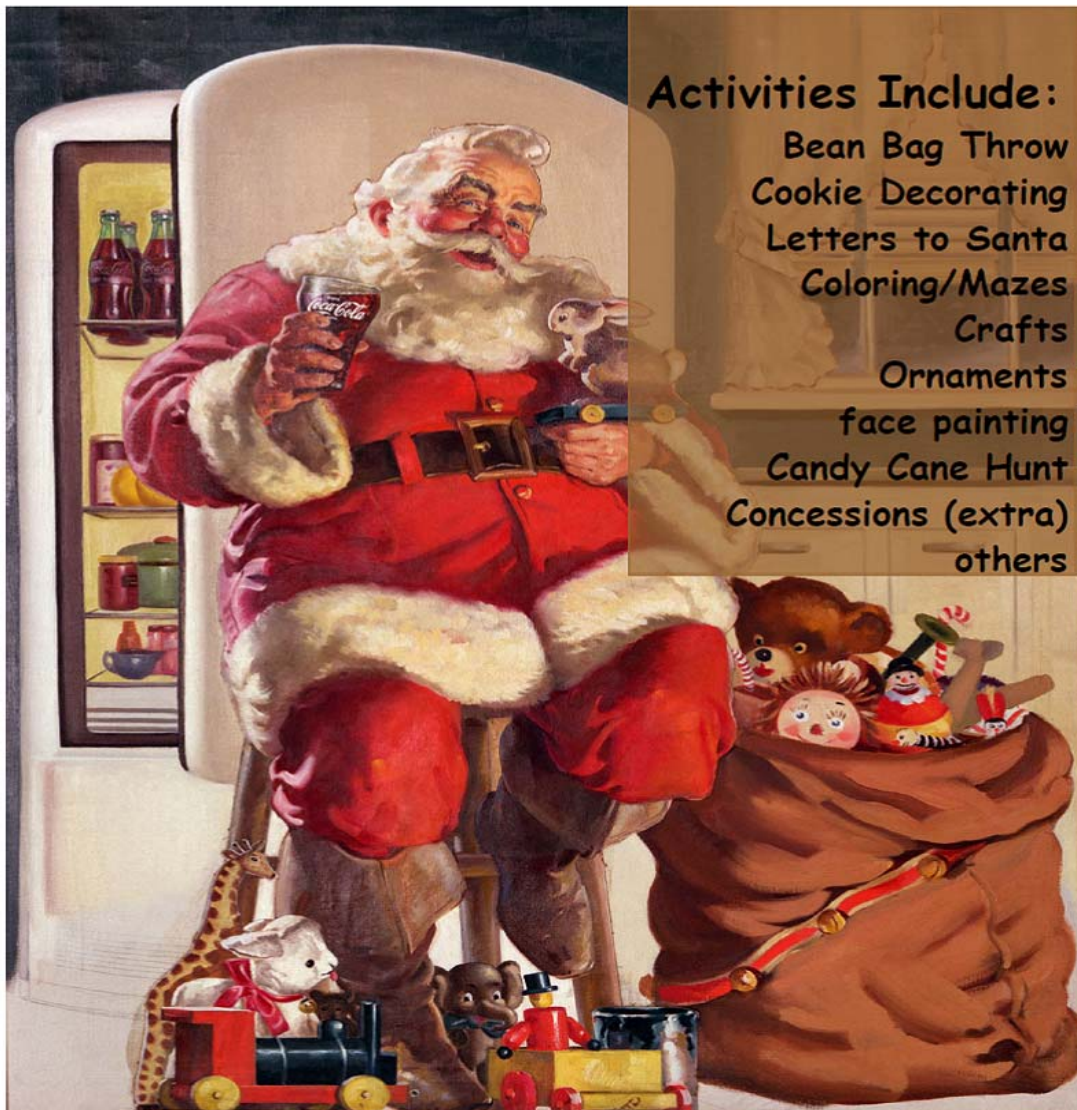
Cost \$6 per child or \$5 if they
bring a food bank donation

or Warm Winter donation (mitts, scarves etc)

Crescent Heights High School Cafeteria

Focus is Children under 12.

Questions? Call Heather 403-528-0562



Activities Include:

- Bean Bag Throw
- Cookie Decorating
- Letters to Santa
- Coloring/Mazes
- Crafts
- Ornaments
- face painting
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Concessions (extra)
- others