

Herald Hotline

Herald School
301 - 5 Street SW
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 4G6
403-526-4477
www.heraldschool.ca

"Where big people help little people become better people."

Principal's Message – S.F. Jones

February, 2012

Quest Theatre Residency

Once again we have had the pleasure of having an outstanding professional theatre group visit our school to work with our students and staff. We have done this for the last several years and hopefully we will be able to do so for years to come. The opportunity for our students to enhance their understanding of the Fine Arts and to combine learning and play makes these residencies a valuable educational tool for every child and teacher involved in the week long activities.

The Quest Theatre Residency program held this week was called Mathemagics and as the name implies, mathematics was the focus of the learning and performing taking place over this week. If you have time to visit us for the final presentation on Friday afternoon – one in which all the students will be involved, we strongly encourage you to attend and be part of the cumulating activity which will highlight the students as performers. I hope to see you there and please remember that we will need everyone seated prior to the 1:00 pm start of the performance.

Bottle Drive

The annual Bottle Drive comes to an end this Friday, February 3, 2012. Although the final tally has not been completed as yet, it appears that we have had an exceptional response this year. We appreciate all the support shown by our families.

Buddy Bear Adopt-A-Bear Weekend

The annual Buddy Bear Adopt-A-Bear weekend will be held this year from 1:00 pm on Friday, February 10, 2012 and will run until 5:pm on Saturday, February 11, 2012. We currently need a few more volunteers to work some of the two hour shifts on Friday and Saturday so if you can spare some time please contact the school. I am sure we can put you to work manning the booth at the Medicine Hat Mall.

Our goals this year is to have 125 'Buddy Bears' adopted at the cost of \$15.00 per bear. Those individuals who adopt a bear will have their name placed on a card that is attached to the bear so the child who receives a bear will know who donated the bear to our Foundation. This continues to be a much needed community service we provide and we hope to see you all during the weekend, maybe even while you are adopting a 'Buddy Bear' for a child in need.

School Fees

I want to thank all the families who have either paid their school fees in full or are making payments. The collection of these fees are extremely important to our school as they cover a large part of the services and supplies that we provide to all our students at no additional cost to our families – unlike many districts that charge for the supplies used by the students.

If you have not paid your school fees as yet, please remember that the 2011 / 2012 School Fees are now past due. Also, to help our families who 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 you are unable to pay the School Fees and are on government assistance, you should check to see if the agency will make the payment of the school fees on your behalf.

Criminal Record and Child Welfare Checks

Although I have mentioned this in previous editions of our Hotline and because this is such an important issue throughout our district, I felt it important to share it with all of you once again.

Medicine Hat School District No. 76 policy requires that all volunteers working with children in any school within our school district to have both a current Criminal Records and a Child Welfare check on file with the school district. This policy not only applies to volunteers working with children in our schools, but also with volunteers for field trips, special events and for activities such as Outdoor Education camp, etc.

A Child Welfare check, which is currently supplied free to applicants, can be obtained from any Child Welfare Office such as the one in the Provincial building downtown. A Criminal Records check can be obtained from either the Medicine Hat Police Service or the RCMP and I believe the cost is approximately \$50.00. However, the cost for the Criminal Records check will be reduced to approximately \$11.00 if the person requesting the check provides a letter from Herald School stating that we require the Criminal Record check in order for the person to volunteer. In addition, our school will reimburse the \$11.00 cost for the check if the volunteer provides me with a receipt for the cost from either of the Police agencies.

I will gladly provide a letter for these checks to any person who wishes to volunteer at Herald School. If you require a letter please contact me at 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. It is important to plan ahead because if you are planning to volunteer on either an ongoing basis, or for a particular event, you should apply for the checks well in advance of the activity in which you wish participate.

Babysitting Course

We are extremely pleased to say that our first Herald School Babysitting course is now underway and can already be seen as a success due to the numbers of students involved. We are also pleased to see that we have a strong mixture of both girls and boys attending the course.

I want to thank Ms. Kuester for working so hard to provide this fantastic learning opportunity for our students and for spending countless hours completing the necessary training and paperwork in order for us to be able to offer the course. Mrs. Dola also deserves my thanks because of her involvement as the personal chauffeur for some of our students and as the supervising teacher when our students provide babysitting at our monthly School Council Meetings. Lastly, my thanks go to the participating students and their families. We are all very pleased to see our first group of students participating in the course and we thank their parents for allowing them to participate.

For those students participating in the Babysitting training sessions and become certified (there are approximately 6-8 classes required to become certified) opportunities will be open for them 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. Everyone is welcome!

Volunteer Recognition – and our thanks!

I offer my sincere thanks to each of our volunteers and while I feel that most of you have been recognized in the following lists, I have no doubt that I have missed someone regardless of how hard I have tried not to. 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

Other members: Chris Massini, Karen Ronnenberg, Kelly Kuester, Maureen Powell, Tina Geddes
Tracey Seitz

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

Casino Volunteers			
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			

Parents who have questions regarding the School Council, the Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation or the Herald School Fundraising Society should contact me at 403 526-4477 so that we can discuss your questions or concerns.

Shoes, Slippers at School

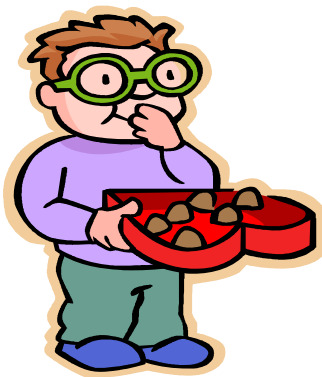
I want to remind everyone that it would be ideal if all our students had extra shoes, slippers (and perhaps extra socks as well) to keep in the school so that they can be worn when the children are inside the school.

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.

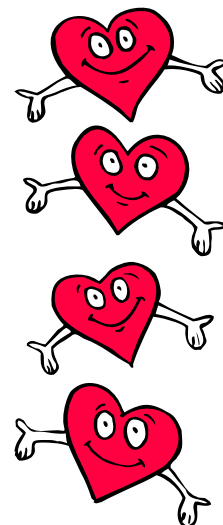
To help avoid this unpleasant experience students are asked to bring a spare pair of shoes, slippers, etc. to school so that they can put their wet and dirty outside boots on the racks and have dry footwear to wear inside the school. This obviously helps them avoid getting their socks wet and the school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

Spell-A-Thon

Our annual Spell-A-Thon was held on January 27, 2012 and once again it was a huge success for our school and a great time for the participants. This is always a well received activity because not only does it allow our students to demonstrate the ability in spelling, it also allows them to support their team mates, let off a little steam and to earn points for the individual school teams



Happy Valentine's Day



Eating Disorders

Eating Disorder Awareness Week: February 5-11

Eating disorders are characterized by a preoccupation with food that interferes with life and keeps children from enjoying life and moving forward.

Children learn attitudes towards food and weight at a very young age, so make a positive difference in your child's life. Here are some tips to help prevent eating disorders:

- Give children healthy choices
- Emphasize positive aspects of healthy eating
- Teach children that their worth is not related to how they look
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their own well-being
- Do not use food as a reward or punishment
- Be aware of advertising and toys aimed at children

Make family meals a peaceful time

For more information on eating disorders, visit www.nedic.ca or call Community Mental Health at (403) 381-5260.

Get Healthy and Celebrate Heart Month!

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, "families who eat nutritious food together, are physically active together, and live smoke-free lives are well on their way to reducing their risk of heart disease and stroke."

Without a balanced, nutritious diet and regular physical activity, children can gain weight and harm their heart health. Studies show that children who are obese are more likely to remain obese, leading to serious risk factors for heart disease and stroke. They may be prone to developing high blood pressure or Type 2 diabetes. Here are some helpful hints to encourage heart-healthy habits in your children and in yourself:

- Eat nutritious, balanced meals and snacks
- Make sure children are getting 60 minutes of physical activity **every day**

Talk to your children about how tobacco use can effect their health

To find out how to improve your families heart health visit www.heartandstroke.com

Friendship

February is here and what a better time to talk about friendship. Parents as you talk to your child about healthy relationships, encourage your child to :

Talk- to others about his/her interests

Listen to what each other have to say.

Praise each other for what he/she does well

Use manners- saying please and thank you

Be helpful- do things for your friends without keeping track of what they have done for you.

Be honest about each others feelings

Handle Conflict. Be clear about what you want and how you will compromise

Friendship does not include bragging about yourself, talking behind someone's back, or putting someone down. For more information, go to:

www.albertahealthservices.ca/2622.asp





Please remember that the healthier your child(ren) eat, the healthier your schools fundraising pockets will be!!

For every lunch purchased @ kidsplate.ca, we donate back to your school. Last year, we donated over \$250 dollars to our participating schools and for this year, we've already surpassed that mark and we just now reached the ½ way mark of this school year. Congratulations!

For all ordering, log onto kidsplate.ca

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

KINDERGARTEN & GRADE ONE REGISTRATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 8
8:30AM - 5PM AT EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Please attend your community school to register your child:

- in Kindergarten if they will be 5 years of age by the last day of February, 2013.
- in Grade One if they will be 6 years of age by the last day of February, 2013.
- Please bring your child's birth certificate.

Parents unable to register on March 8th are encouraged to phone the school prior to that date to reserve a spot for your child.

- Connaught (English/French) 403-526-2392
- Crestwood 403-527-2257
- Elm Street 403-526-3528
- George Davison 403-529-1555
- Herald 403-526-4477
- Medicine Hat Christian 403-526-3246
- River Heights 403-527-3730
- Riverside 403-526-3793
- Ross Glen 403-529-2960
- Southview 403-526-4495
- Vincent Massey 403-527-3750
- Webster Niblock 403-527-4541

"Where Kids Count!"

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

For more information about registration and kindergarten programming, please contact Judy Hillier at 403.528.6723 or phone the school where you plan to register. For info about attendance areas, please contact Robert Olsen at 403.528.6572.



Swim


catch the wave!

A facility of
Medicine Hat
The Gas City

P-D Days

Special Events

1:30-4:00pm



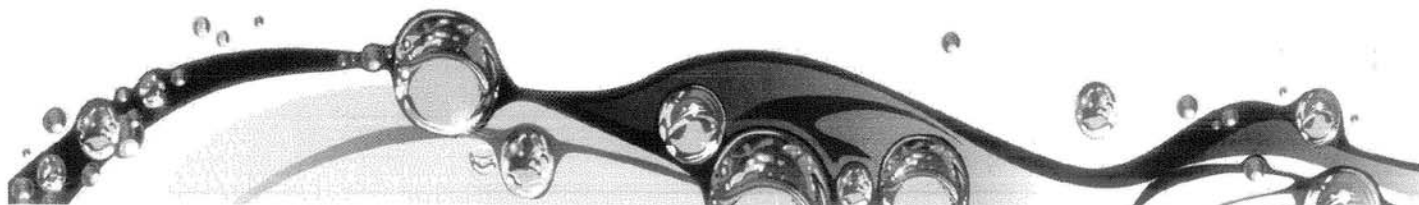
Kids come to the
Family Leisure
Centre for some
fun and games!

Friday, Feb. 17th

Friday, Mar. 16th

Friday, Apr. 20th

Friday, May 18th



Medicine Hat Soccer Association



2012 Outdoor Soccer

***** Registration on Now *****

Deadline - March 17th for Early Bird Rates

Regular Registration ends March 23rd

To register please drop by our office at 59 Tweed Ave. N.W. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm. We will also be at the Annual Mall Wide Registration Day, on Saturday March 17th, and will be located in front of Intersport.

AGE	YEAR OF BIRTH	EARLY BIRD FEE	REGULAR FEE	GAME DAYS	GAME TIMES
U4	2008	60.00	60.00	Wednesday	5:45 pm
U6	2006-2007	110.00	110.00	Monday & Wednesday	5:30 & 6:45 pm
U8	2004-2005	110.00	110.00	Tuesday & Thursday	5:30 & 6:45 pm
U10	2002-2003	135.00	210.00	Tuesday & Thursday	6:00 & 7:15 pm
U12	2000-2001	135.00	210.00	Monday & Wednesday	6:00 & 7:15 pm
U14	1998-1999	135.00	210.00	Tuesday & Thursday	6:00 & 7:15 pm
U16	1996-1997	135.00	210.00	Monday & Wednesday	6:30 pm
High School	Grade 10,11 &12	150.00	225.00	Weeknights	6:30 pm

For more information on our programs, please visit our website at www.medicinehatsoccer.com



February 2012

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 <i>Bottle Drive Ends</i>	4
			Quest Theatre		Pledges for kate-a-thon due.	
5	6	7 <i>Kinsmen Skate-a-thon: 9:30-11:00 Moose Rec.</i>	8 <i>Winter Walk 10:30 am</i>	9	10 <i>Gr. 5 & 6 Ski Trip — 8:00 am-5:00 pm</i>	11
					Stop and say "Hi" to us at	
12	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day Parties—pm</i>	15 <i>Evergreen Theatre</i>	16 <i>Jump rope for Heart</i>	17 <i>NO SCHOOL District Professional Day</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	NO SCHOOL Family Day, In-Lieu Days, & Teacher Convention Days					
26	27 <i>School Council, Fundraising Society, Buddy Bear meets in Staffroom 7:00 pm — All is welcome!</i>	28	29 <i>Sadie Hawkins School Dance 6:00-8:00 pm</i>			