

# Herald Hotline

Herald School  
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Medicine Hat, AB  
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www.heraldschool.ca

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

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## Principal's Message – S.F. Jones

November, 2011

### Change of Seasons

Now that fall is showing itself on a daily basis, and even though I hope that winter is a long time away, I need to encourage our students to start dressing appropriately for the cooler weather.

In addition to dressing more warmly, students need to be reminded that they need to look after the clothing they bring with them to school. We continue to find misplaced items of clothing throughout the school or on the playground and it would certainly be of better use on the children than in our lost and found.

Surprisingly some of this clothing stays in the lost and found throughout the school year. We strongly encourage all students to have their clothing – and anything else they bring to school – clearly marked for easy recognition. Students are also encouraged not to take off their outer clothing and lay it down somewhere that it may be misplaced or lost.

### 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.

Thank 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.

### **Club Involvement**

This start of this school year has been an extremely busy time at the school. Not only have we been involved with the typical start up for a new school year, we have also been very busy getting some of our clubs up and running. So far this year some of the clubs we have been operating are: the Running Club, The Student Council, our Homework Club, and Intramurals. Our Chess club is now taking registrations and will begin having noon hours sessions shortly.

So far this year and students and staff have been involved in two city-wide activities in which our students competed against other elementary school. The Grade 4 – 6 Soccer Tournament took place in early October and involved students from 10 different schools. My thanks go to Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Prior for organizing the activity for all our schools and then working with our students during the games on Saturday. It was great fun and I enjoyed seeing all the children get together for fun and a bit of competition.

My thanks also go Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Dawson for being so involved with our Running Club this year. They have been holding our Running Club during the noon hours since the beginning of September. We have had a significant number of students participating twice per week and there are a number of other students who have shown an interest in participating. Twenty-three of our students, most of our students who belong to our Running Club, as well as a number who do not yet belong, participated in the annual Cross Country Run that was held at Kin Coulee. The weather was perfect and the kids were excited about competing against the other schools. While all the students who participated should be proud and deserve credit for being involved in this activity, two students, Keera and Mckenna deserve special recognition because their efforts earned them a Silver award for their age divisions. Fantastic job girls and we hope you keep running with our group.

### **Student Council**

One of the clubs we started several years ago, our Student Council, appears to be running stronger than ever. Ms. Kuester, Ms. Logan and Ms. MacDonald have been holding regular meetings with the senior students and their group has come up with some excellent ideas about how to increase the level of excitement within the school and to encourage more student involvement in school and community activities.

One of the things our Student Council members will be involved in shortly, as well as a number of our other students, is our Baby-Sitting Course. This program, which will be run by Ms. Kuester will provide the opportunity for our students to participate in a recognized Baby Sitting course and to receive a certificate at the end of their training period.

In addition, after completing the Babysitting course, those students who have taken the course and wish to contribute to our school - as well as get paid for their efforts - will be given the opportunity to work for our School Council during our School Council meetings. It is the intent of our School Council to provide a babysitting service to those parents who attend our meetings and who were previously unable to do so because of the lack of child care. This service will be provided free of charge to our families and hopefully it will provide the opportunity for more of our families to become involved in our School Council and our school community.

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

## **Herald School Council, Herald School Fundraising Society and The Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation**

I want to thank all of the parents and staff who continue to be involved in our school, as well as those who participate in our various committees and Councils. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and I look forward to working closely with each of you throughout this school year.

I would also like to recognize, thank and introduce those parents and community members who attended our general meeting and were elected as the Executive officers for either the School Council, the Herald School Fundraising Society or the Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation for the 2011-2012 school year.

### **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

Parents who have questions or concerns 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.

## **Casino**

The Herald School Casino was held on Sunday, Oct 16 and Monday, Oct 17, 2011. My thanks to all of the parents, community members and staff members who helped us by working one or more shifts over the two day period. As you know, the Herald School Casino - held about every 16 months - is the only fundraising activity in which the Herald School Fundraising Society participates. Because of the work of our volunteers who work this casino we have approximately \$18,000.00 dollars per casino which is then used to support all the students in our school.

While I know that I am continually praising the work of our volunteers while at the same time asking for more volunteers, I cannot stress the importance of having more parent volunteers to help during whatever school activities are being held, especially the casino. It is also important to note that while we always need at least 30 volunteers to work a casino, we typically have only 15 or 20 family members volunteer to work one of the 6 shifts for which we need volunteers. Obviously this creates a serious shortfall because it then requires me to find volunteers from the staff or the community to fill the vacancies by working one or two shifts that our parents should really be filling.

Please, if you have any spare time during one of our activities, contact the school or a School Council member to see if they need more assistance. It would be a shame to have to cancel any school activity due to lack of volunteers and it would be very difficult to overcome the loss of the casino profits due to our being unable to supply enough volunteers for the activity.

## **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 November

Nov 3	Dream Centre Luncheon
Nov 9	Remembrance Day Ceremonies (10:30 am)
Nov 10	NO SCHOOL – DISTRICT WIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Nov 11	NO SCHOOL – REMEMBRANCE DAY
Nov 17	Report Cards Issued
Nov 18	NO SCHOOL – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Nov 21	School Council, Fundraising Society and Buddy Bear Meeting (7:00 pm)
Nov 22 & 24	Parent Teacher Interviews (6:00 pm – 8:15 pm)
Nov 24	Alberta Opera performance of Pinocchio



We invite **ALL** children to enter November's Monthly contest! We ask you email us your children's entry along with their name, grade and school.

November's Contest: "*Eating Healthy*"

Email us a picture of your son or daughter eating a healthy meal from home!

Be sure to include what they are eating! Good Luck!

*Email: [info@kidsplate.ca](mailto:info@kidsplate.ca)*

[www.sd76.ab.ca](http://www.sd76.ab.ca)

*You're Invited!*

Medicine Hat School District No. 76

**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011**

Higdon Hall – Cactus Room

6:30 pm to 8:15 pm

Where Kids Count!





Medicine Hat School District No. 76

*1886-2011...celebrating 125 years of success!*



# November 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <i>Dream Centre Luncheon</i>	4	5
6 	7	8	9 <i>Remembrance Day Assembly— 10:30 am</i>	10 <i>NO SCHOOL— MHSD#76 PD Day</i>	11 <i>NO SCHOOL - Remembrance Day</i> 	12
13	14	15	16	17 <i>Report Cards Issued</i>	18 <i>NO SCHOOL— MHSD#76 PD Day</i>	19
20	21 <i>School Council, Fundraising Society, Buddy Bear meets in Staffroom 7:00 pm — All is welcome!</i>	22 <i>Parent/Teacher Interviews 6:00— 8:15 pm Please call the school to book your interview.</i>	23	24 <i>Pinocchio Parent/Teacher Interviews 6:00— 8:15 pm Please call the school to book your interview.</i>	25 <i>SPIRIT DAY PRESENTS: Backwards YAD Salad Bar Day — Group 1 (gr. 3-6, Primary 2, Senior</i>	26
27	28	29	30			