

Herald Hotline

301—5 Street SW
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 4G5
Phone: 403-526-4477
Fax: 403-526-3598
heraldschool.ca

Principal's Message – S.F. Jones



October, 2011

Change of Seasons

Now that October is just around the corner - tomorrow is Oct 1st – we can see a definite change in the season. Although fall is just starting to show itself and winter is hopefully far off, the multi-coloured leaves across the street reminded me that I need to encourage our students to start dressing more warmly. Unfortunately cooler weather is here and we must be prepared for the colder weather that fall brings.

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. Numerous times we will find articles of clothing on the playground and 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.

Club Involvement

The past month has been an extremely busy one at the school. Not only have we been involved with the typical start up for a new school year, staff and students have also been very busy getting some of our clubs up and running. So far this year some of the clubs we have running are; the Homework Club, the Running Club and the Student Council.

During September our students and staff have also been involved in two city-wide activities in which our students participated. The Grade 4 – 6 Soccer Tournament took place last weekend at the Leisure Centre Soccer Fields and involved students from 10 different schools, including Herald School. My thanks go to Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Prior for taking on the responsibility of organizing the activity for the District and coaching our students during the games on Saturday. We had fantastic weather for the day and I am sure the children had as much fun as I did throughout the morning. It was great to see all the children from the various schools get together for fun and a bit of competition.

The Running Club is stronger than ever and my thanks 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 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 yesterday afternoon. 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, Kiera B. and McKenna S. 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, is 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 in the student body and to encourage more student involvement in school and community activities.

One of the things our Student Council members will be involved in, as well as a number of our other students, is our Baby-Sitting Course. This program, which will begin shortly, 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 wish to do so 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 wish to attend our meetings and are currently 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 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 various school committees and Councils. Your efforts on behalf of our students and school 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 individuals who attended our general meeting on Sept 19, 2011 and were elected as the Executive officers for either the School Council 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

Treasurer: Stephen Jones



The Buddy Bear Ambulance Kids Foundation

Chair: Christopher Massini

Vice-Chair: Samantha Hunter

Secretary/Treasurer: Stephen Jones

The election of Executive Officers for the Herald School Fundraising Society will be held during our next general meeting on Oct 24, 2011. If you would like to be involved in this council – which is extremely important to our school – please consider attending the next meeting.

Parents who have questions regarding any or all of our School Councils should contact me at 403 526-4477 so that we can discuss your questions.



Casino

The Herald School Casino is being held on Sunday, Oct 16 and Monday, Oct 17, 2011. We are still in need of 3-4 volunteers who could work the evening shift, primarily Monday evening. If you feel you could help us during this casino please contact me at 403 526-4477 so that we can sign you up and get the list off to AGLC. Those people who have already signed volunteer forms will be contacted shortly to confirm the time and date, as well as the position they will be working.

Thanks to all of you for volunteering to help during this activity. As you know, your efforts benefit all the students in our school.

School Fees

Parents are reminded that if they have not paid the 2011 / 2012 school fees yet, the fees are now due. I must remind all of our families how important it is 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.

Please remember that if you are having difficulty paying 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.

Shoes, Slippers at School

I wanted to take this opportunity 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.

Nuts and Nut Allergies

Although it will be extremely difficult to make Herald School totally NUT FREE we are attempting to do so, and with the help of each of you, we will continue to work toward accomplishing this goal. Being a Nut Free school is extremely important for our school community because of the increasing number of children with food allergies, some of which are severe and possibly life threatening. To assist us in achieving this goal, I am asking all of our families to ensure that food items sent to school are nut free. This of course must also include food items that may contain nut oil such as could be found in cookies, cakes, etc.

We presently have students who are extremely allergic to nuts of any type and should they come in contact with a product containing nuts in any form—even the airborne residue from nuts - the result could be horrific. As we all know, children, even when we ask them not to, commonly share food with their friends and this is in part where the problem originates. Obviously, if children do not have food with nut products in them, the sharing of their lunches, snacks, etc. becomes less of a concern and lessens the likelihood of someone coming into contact with food that could trigger a severe allergic reaction.

I want to thank all our families in advance for helping us address this issue. We sincerely appreciate your efforts in continuing to make Herald School a safe environment for all our students.

If you have not done so already, people who really enjoy peanut butter may want to try the product "P But-
ter" which does not contain any nut ingredient and is made from peas but tastes like peanut butter.



Staff Parking

Although I know that the parking lot is very convenient when dropping off or picking up students, I must remind everyone that the new parking lot is for School Staff Members only and should not be used by non-staff members. Although I am not certain what the official hours will be for restricted parking in the lot, I believe that the District will be putting up a sign shortly that will state that restricted parking for staff only is in place from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm. Please be aware that these hours will be extended during special circumstances such as Parent/Teacher Interview evenings, or during staff development days.

If you are unsure of where to park near the school, a drawing outlining the parking spots is available from the office. My suggestion is that when dropping off or picking up students parents should use parking on the street across from the school or at the end of school where the old bus drop-off area was. However, you should be aware of the designated taxi area at the end of the school.

Thank you.

Upcoming Activities in October

- Oct 4 - 5 School Pictures
- Oct 6 School Walk for International Walk to School Week
- Oct 6 Dream Centre Luncheon
- Oct 7 NO SCHOOL – District-wide Professional Day
- Oct 10 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Oct 18 - 20 Science in Motion
- Oct 21 Quest Theatre—'Just Kidding'
- Oct 24 School Council, Fundraising Society, Buddy Bear Meeting – 7:00 pm staffroom
- Oct 31 Halloween Parties



Thanksgiving Humor

Why do turkeys go gobble, gobble?

Because they never learned good manners.

What key has legs and can't open doors?

A turkey!

Halloween Humor

What kind of mistakes do spooks make?

Boo boos

What does Tweety Bird say on Halloween?

Twick or Tweet

When does a skeleton laugh?

When something tickles his funny bone





October 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 <i>School Pictures</i>	5 <i>School Pictures</i>	6 <i>School Walk</i> <i>Dream Centre Luncheon</i>	7 NO SCHOOL <i>PD Day</i>	8
9	10 <i>School Closed</i> <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <i>Science in Motion</i> </div>		21 <i>Quest Theatre</i>	22
23	24 <i>School Council & Fundraising Society—7:00 pm in the Staff Room</i>	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Halloween Parties</i>					