



SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER **February 2015**



Dates to Remember:

Feb. & March	Early Learning Program & Kindergarten Registration for next term
Feb. 12	Grade 1 & 2 - 100 Day Activities
Feb. 12	School Council Meeting – 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 13	Classroom Valentine Parties
Feb. 16	Family Day - No Classes
Feb. 17	No school for staff or students
Feb. 18	Palliser Day in Lieu - No Classes
Feb. 19 & 20	Teacher's Convention - No Classes
Feb. 25	Anti-bullying ‘Pink Shirt Day’



Principal’s Message

We made it to the halfway mark! There are only 5 months left in this school year and we have so much left on our ‘to do’ list! Our students have worked hard and we’re proud of their accomplishments! Thank you for your continued support! It’s so wonderful to be part of a dedicated community of parents.

February marks the month for our second round of Fountas and Pinnell Testing. This means our teachers will once again be sitting down one-to-one with your child to determine their reading level and next steps in instruction. Assessments will begin after the February break and you will receive a letter in early March sharing the results with you.

Happy Family Day on the 16th.

Thank you to....

- all the parents who helped with skating at the Labour Club Ice Rink.
- the Handsaeme & Trncik families for donating skates and helmets to the school.
- the Trncik family for donating books to the school.

100 Day Activity

On Thursday, February 12, the students in Grades 1 and 2 will be celebrating 100 days of school with several different activities involving counting to 100.

Early Learning Program Registration

Registrations for the Early Learning Program for the 2015 - 2016 school term are now being accepted in the school office. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2015 to register. There is a \$10 non-refundable fee payable at the time of registration. Please have your child’s birth certificate and your 911 emergency address when registering. The E.L.P. schedule will be Monday / Wednesday mornings or Tuesday / Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Palliser E.L.P. fees will be \$80 per month for two half days of programming per week. We will be accepting post-dated cheques dated the first of each month payable to Palliser Regional Schools, or payment in full of the yearly fees, from now until the beginning of the program. An Early Learning Program orientation/developmental check-up will take place the spring. More information will follow.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registrations are now being accepted in the school office for September 2015. Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2015. Please have your child’s birth certificate and your 911 emergency address when registering. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee payable at the time of registration. An additional school fee of \$10 will be invoiced in September to help offset purchases for special kindergarten projects. Kindergarten classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with additional Wednesdays after the Easter break.

Hot Lunch

February Menu:

Feb. 2	Wendy's
Feb. 9	Swiss Chalet
Feb. 16	NO SCHOOL
Feb. 23	Lakeview Bakery

Christmas Concert DVD's

Thank you to the Skiba family for videotaping the Sunnyside Christmas concert. There are still copies available in the school office for purchase at \$2. Please put a note and money in your child's agenda if you would like to purchase one.

Valentine Parties

Classroom Valentine parties will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 13. We will not have extra literacy or religion classes that day.

Pink Shirt Day

We will be recognizing 'Pink Shirt Day' on Wednesday, February 25. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink this day to symbolize the importance of standing up to bullying.

Guitar Club

Mr. Van Cleave is offering guitar classes on Wednesdays during the lunch break for any interested students. You are encouraged to practice what you learn each week.

Sunnyside Basketball Team

The Sunnyside basketball team will be open to students in Grade 5 & 6. Their first game is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. at Dr Gerald B. Probe School in west Lethbridge on Monday, February 9th.

Mini Basketball League

Our mini basketball league will begin March 4th for those students in Grades 4, 5, & 6 who want to sign up. It will run for eight weeks, probably on Wednesdays after school from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20 and will include a t-shirt and a wind-up pizza party. Registration forms will be sent home soon.

Fishing Club

Mr. Van Cleave is hoping to get out ice fishing with any interested students this month, weather permitting. More information will follow.

Early Learning Program

January was busy with our winter theme. We focused on penguins, polar bears, igloos, snow, ice, bears, and hibernation. We experimented with snow, and what happens when you add food coloring to it, our sensory table was turned into the Arctic which had real ice bergs, and snow that polar bears and penguins could slide down, ice cube painting, and a real bear cave. We will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic/Valentine's Day party on February 11 and 12, starting at 10:30. Don't forget to bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffy!

Mrs. Amanda Hudson
Early Learning Educator



It's not too late to order your school portraits!

Order online at mylifetouch.ca,
call 1-866-457-8212 if you have
lost your proof sheet or order
form.

Free digital Pictures2Protect card
In an emergency, this digital safety card can provide
authorities quick access to a recent student image.
Get your free Pictures2Protect card at mylifetouch.ca

LifeTouch
CANADA

Superintendent's Message



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Take these opportunities to be heard

Hello, everyone,

This month many of our parents/guardians will receive by mail a copy of Alberta Education's annual Accountability Pillar survey. These surveys are quick to complete and I'd encourage you to please fill one out if you're selected for the survey.

In small schools, with fewer than 120 students in Grades 4-12, all parents of all students in Grade 4 and above are surveyed. In larger schools, parents of students in Grade 4, 7 and 10 are surveyed.

Alberta Education also surveys staff and students at this time of year, and they share the data with the school division. I can assure you your opinions are taken seriously.

Another good way for us to hear parent/guardian voice is through our school review process. If your school has been reviewed recently, you would have had opportunity to share your thoughts through our survey as well as through focus group discussions. I know our principals work very hard to encourage as many parents and guardians as possible to participate. Please take advantage when you have the opportunity.

Those of you who were part of Palliser in 2012 may also remember a division-wide stakeholders meeting we held. We called it "A Community Conversation." Over the course of one afternoon, nearly 200 parents, staff, students and public worked in small groups to talk about school success. It was the first time our Board of Trustees brought stakeholders from across Palliser together in this way, and it was incredibly powerful.

It is something the board wants to do again. So please be watching for more information a few weeks from now about another divisionwide stakeholders' meeting where you'll be asked to join us in a conversation about the future.

In the lead up, the board has also committed to four regional stakeholder meetings in February to share information about how Palliser got to where it is today. What do we mean when we talk about needs-based budgeting versus site-based management? Why do we have schools in Calgary? What are school-generated funds vs. board-allocated surpluses? We want to talk about the journey we've taken so you'll have that context when you consider the road ahead.

In short, we need you — your ideas, your passion for strong schools, your commitment to student success. Whatever opportunity comes to share your voice with us, please take it.

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent
Palliser Regional Schools

February 2015

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					Jan. 30	31
					P.D. Day NO CLASSES	
1	2 Wendy's 	3	4	5	6 Stay and Play 10:15 – 12:15	7
8	9 Swiss Chalet 	10	11	12 100 Day Activities Gr. 1 & 2 School Council Meeting 3:45 pm	13 Stay and Play 10:15 – 12:15 Class Parties 10:30 am 	14
15	16 Family Day NO CLASSES	17 NO CLASSES	18 Palliser Day in Lieu NO CLASSES	19 Teacher's NO CLASSES	20 Convention NO CLASSES	21
22	23 Lakeview Bakery 	24	25 	26	27 Stay and Play 10:15 – 12:15	28



Winter Fun for Everyone! Keeping Children Active in the Winter Months

Snow, ice, cold and fog are just a few of the natural elements we experience when autumn turns to winter. Although winter provides us with a great excuse to cozy up inside and stay warm, this isn't always the healthiest choice. Children often experience a variety of distractions on a daily basis and the frosty winter weather is yet another obstacle to getting the recommended amount of daily physical activity. In order to overcome the cold, sometimes we all need a little extra motivation! Here are some tips and helpful hints on how to get the whole family outside and active this winter:



- Get the whole family involved by building snow angels, or, if you're really feeling ambitious, create your own look-alike snowperson family.
- Try making the snow into your own work of art by creating snow castles, mazes, or snow sculptures.
- Take a slide on the wild side and go tobogganing (and don't forget a helmet).
- Play snow-pitch, a traditional game of slow pitch isn't just for summer anymore! Try playing a game in your local diamond out in the snow, for a fun twist on this great family pastime.
- Create a more challenging game of hopscotch in the snow by using food coloring.
- Don't forget snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Even if you don't own equipment, these items can generally be rented at a variety of outdoor activity centres and parks.
- Gear up and head to your local outdoor rink for a skate or a game of hockey.

High Fives for Healthy Teachers

Schools have been supporting student health for years but what about staff wellness? Just as wellness is important for student success, it is also important for staff success. Healthier staff have better mental health, improved moods, and more patience when working with students. Teachers are also important role models for students when it comes to healthy behaviours.

Here some ways that you can support staff wellness at your child's school:

- Support teacher's professional development that includes wellness.
- Recognize healthy habits you see in the school. If you see a teacher running to work, give that guy or gal a high five!
- If you have a special skill or knowledge related to wellness, share it with the school.
- Do you want to thank the staff for a job well done? Steer clear of donuts and choose gifts that support health instead (e.g., gift card to a bookstore, hand soap, fruit basket).
- Send a thank you note to a good role model in your child's school.
- Take care of your own wellness to be a positive example for teachers and students.

The people who work in our schools care for our most precious resources, our children; let's make sure they are able to give their best by showing that we care about their health too. **High Fives for Healthy Teachers!**