

Sparling Elementary School News and Views

5216 - 52 Avenue, Camrose, AB

(780) 672-0106

www.brsd.ab.ca/Sparling

Principal - Mr. Rick Tews

Vice Principal - Mrs. Emily Coykendall

"Every Student, Every Day, A Success!"

From the Principal's Desk

February 2010

It's the middle of February and that means the school year is more than half way and that is hard to believe. In the early part of March report cards will be coming home again and soon thereafter there will be a chance for students, parents and teachers to meet and review the learning that has been taking place. Sparling School will once again be having student - led conferences wherein students take their parents through a series of activities highlighting some of the learning students have been involved in over the course of the year.

By now parents will have received a survey from Battle River School Division referred to as the Satisfaction Survey. The survey attempts to measure exactly that; how satisfied parents are with all aspects of their child's education. It's a parent's opportunity to let their opinions and views be heard. At the school level, the information from the Satisfaction Survey is used to help build the school's Three Year Plan. Please take the time to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous and can be returned either directly to Battle River School Division's central office or to the school in the sealed envelope provided. We will send surveys to our central office where they are opened and the results are tabulated and then shared with the school. Students in grades four through six complete this survey as well, online, at the school.

There is also a survey being circulated by Alberta Education and it is referred to as the Accountability Pillar Survey. This survey also asks for parents' opinions and views about the education their children are receiving and this information is then sent to the school for planning purposes. Students in grade four complete this survey online at the school.

By now many of you will have had some first hand experience with our chocolate sales fundraiser. From all accounts so far, sales have been proceeding smoothly. Proceeds from the sales are used to support a variety of student centered activities, including field trips and special equipment purchases. In advance we thank you for your support.

Most recently grade five Sparling students were able to attend a performance by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Thank you to Mr. Bailey for making the arrangements and Mr. Findlay for driving. A few days ago as well, our grade 4, 5, and 6 students were able to go skiing to Rabbit Hill. Thank you to Mr. Findlay for making the arrangements and driving the bus and to the many volunteers and staff who assisted students at the ski site. On the same day as our ski trip, students in grades 1, 2, and 3 were able to go swimming to our Camrose pool. Thank you to Mr. Whitrow for making arrangements and again to the volunteers able to help out with this activity. Finally, today students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be travelling to Edmonton to take part in the Edmonton Journal Games, an indoor modified track meet. We wish our competitors good luck. We feel pretty sure some of our amazing athletes will one day travel much further to compete, who knows, maybe even to the Olympics. You need to believe!

Thought for the Day

You can't hit a home run unless you step up to the plate. You can't catch a fish unless you put your line in the water. You can't reach your goals if you don't try.

Kathy Seligman

Around the School

Band

The grade 5 band students recently attended the Edmonton Symphony for Schools program at the Winspear Centre. The students enjoyed learning about the instruments of the orchestra, as well as hearing some familiar and some new musical selections, including Theme from Harry Potter, complete with a visit from Dumbledore himself! The students presented themselves well, and many were dressed up for the occasion. Well done grade 5!

Both the grade 5 and grade 6 bands are hard at work beginning their preparations for the music festival which takes place in April. Parents are reminded to encourage their kids to practice at home on a regular basis!



Student Led Conferencing

The second set of interviews will be held on March 16th. The format for these interviews will be Student Led Conferences. Student Led Conferences allow the students a chance to showcase their work for their parents. Parents will spend approximately one half hour with their child. The students will demonstrate what they have been learning and get their parents involved. It is an opportunity to celebrate what your child has learned. During the scheduled time you will also have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. If you have concerns that you feel you would like addressed privately, you are welcome to schedule another time with your child's teacher. Please do not bring siblings to the interview. This is a great chance to spend some quality time with your child. A schedule for interviews will be included in your child's report card. We look forward to seeing you!



From the Library

Sparling is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on March 11-17 from 8:00am - 4:00pm. Special evening hours are scheduled from 3:00pm - 7:30pm on March 16 (interview night).

This reading event features the newest titles from over 80 publishers and presents students, parents and teachers a great opportunity to see the latest titles by popular authors and illustrators of books for young readers.



Proceeds from the fair will help Sparling School generate important funds to buy new books for our library.

For more information, please contact Marnie Madison at the school (672-0106).

Extracurricular

Grade 5 & 6 Basketball Tournament
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010
9:00 - 12:00

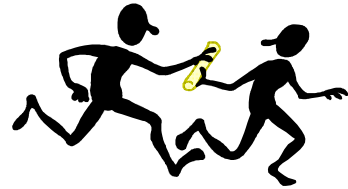
Grade Five Teams @ Sifton School
Grade Six Teams @ St. Pat's School



Journal Games

Grade 4, 5 and 6 students have been meeting in the morning with Mr. Findlay to train for the annual 'Journal Games'. Two mixed teams have been selected to participate Wednesday, February 17 at the Butterdome in Edmonton. They will compete against other Central Alberta school teams in an 8 x 400m relay race.

They will also be going to Vertically Inclined for some wall climbing.



Jump Rope for Heart

March 25 we will be holding our annual JRFH skipping event. We will be sending home pledge envelopes with the students in hopes that we can again send a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation who have provided us with some amazing prizes.



For Your Information

Chocolate Bar Sales

Thank you to all of the parents who have been supporting the students as they sell chocolate bars so diligently! We appreciate your efforts to assist with our fundraiser; it will really help us offer some extra opportunities to students such as skiing, skating, swimming and bus trips for field trips! We hope to have all unsold bars returned by March 1 so we can redistribute the remaining bars if possible.



Kindergarten Registration

It's hard to believe, but we are already beginning to plan for the next school year! We have had inquiries about ECS registration and **have** begun to accept forms for next year's class. We will be offering a full day kindergarten program next year - 2-3 days per week. Eligible children (those who will turn 5 before March 1, 2011), can be registered at the school office. Copies of a birth certificate are required as part of the registration package, so please bring them when you register.

CHAMP Winter Fun Day

The CHAMP program will host a Winter Fun Day for students and families on March 4th from 1:00-3:00. We will meet at the sledding hill on 50th avenue across from the Knights of Columbus. Activities involve sledding, snow painting, entertainment at the Knights of Columbus by a children's entertainer, crafts and hot chocolate. Come on out for an afternoon filled with outdoor fun! For more info call Cherie at 672-0106.



Upcoming Dates and Events:

Feb. 18 & 25	Parent Link Drop-In Program 10:30 - 11:30 am
Feb. 22	Parent's Coffee Group 8:45-10:00 - CHAMP Office
Feb. 26	Awards Assembly @ 2:30
Mar. 1, 8, 15 & 22	Parent's Coffee Group 8:45-10:00 - CHAMP Office
Mar. 4 & 5	Teacher's Convention No School
Mar. 12	Report Cards Issued
Mar. 16	Early Dismissal @ 11:40
Mar. 16	Student Led Conferences 3:00 - 8:00 pm
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 25	Jump Rope For Heart
Mar. 26	Day in Lieu - No School
Mar. 29-Apr. 5	Spring Break
Apr. 6	School Resumes
Apr. 6-9, 12-16, & Apr. 20	GR 2 & 4 Swimming 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Apr. 12, 26	Parent's Coffee Group 8:45-10:00 - CHAMP Office
Apr. 19	PD Day - NO SCHOOL
Apr. 30	Awards Assembly @ 2:30 pm

