

## **Sparling Elementary School News and Views**

5216 - 52 Ave.

Camrose, Alb.

(780) 672-0106

Principal - Mr. Rick Tews

Vice Principal - Mrs. Emily Coykendall

**"Every Student, Every Day, A Success!"**

**From the Principal's Pen**

**November 2009**

Report cards were recently sent home, and hopefully you have had time to consider the information about your child inside the documents. Report cards are snapshots of your child's growth and development in relation to the goals and standards of education established by Alberta Education. The report cards are communication tools designed to work hand in hand with parent - teacher conferences. Our hope is to meet with the parents of every student in our school on parent teacher conference day, November 17, 2009. A few weeks ago, interview request forms were sent home for people to select times that would work for them. We took those preferred times into consideration as we developed our interview schedule. For families that were not able to return the interview form to personally select a time, alternate times were selected here at the school. Hopefully everyone has a time that will provide an opportunity to meet with the teacher. Please keep all interviews to 10 minutes. If your time has arrived and the classroom door has not opened, please knock politely on the door to let people inside know that you have arrived and are ready for your interview.

As you consider the information in the report cards, participate in parent teacher conferences, and examine your child's work samples, you should develop a clear sense of what he or she knows and is able to do, what their strengths are, what areas need improvement, and what realistic learning goals might be set for the next school term.

We look forward to the upcoming parent - teacher conferences and the opportunity they present to strengthen existing partnerships between the home and the school.

## Thought for the Day

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.

- J. C. Watts

## Staffing

Please join us in welcoming aboard two new staff members who have been assigned to longer term positions in our school. Welcome to Miss Katherine Cook who will now take over most of the grade four afternoon classes. Welcome as well to Ms. Nola Wilcox who has taken over the instruction of our grade two classroom while Mrs. Prediger is away. It is expected that Ms. Wilcox will be with us until at least the beginning of January.

## Around the School

Dear Sparling Parents:

The staff at Sparling School are so excited about how much your child is learning about writing. Our school is using the 6 + 1 traits of writing to establish a common vocabulary for writing and document growth over the year as well as from grade to grade. We know our students are good writers, but now we will help them become great writers!

You'll be hearing a lot about the different traits in the weeks and months to come. They are:

- Ideas: the meaning and development of the message
- Organization: the internal structure of the piece of writing
- Voice: the way the writer brings the topic to life
- Word Choice: the specific vocabulary the writer uses to convey meaning

- Sentence Fluency: the way the words and phrases flow throughout the text
- Conventions: the mechanical correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization)
- Presentation: the overall appearance of the work

You may think, "This is a lot for my young child to learn." We at Sparling School have every confidence that your child will learn about these traits, and use them to become a powerful and skilled writer. We have already started by gathering samples of your child's writing in a student portfolio which will be shared at upcoming parent teacher interviews. We'll put more pieces together to share with you over the year. We think that you'll see the progress in each of the areas by the end of the school year.

Mr. Whitrow

*(Source: For The Writing Traits Classroom: 2006)*

## **Parent's Coffee Group**

Tim Horton's coffee is served for parents on Mondays from 9:00 - 10:00 am in the school library. Drop by the library and enjoy a coffee with your neighbors.



Sponsored by CHAMP

## **Grade 5 Band**

The grade 5 band class is working hard on learning the basics of tone production on their new instruments! They should be trying hard to get 20 minutes of practice every day. Hopefully they will be able to demonstrate what they have learned so far by participating in the Christmas concert.



## Grade 6 Band

The second year musicians should also be practicing on a regular basis. They will be performing a couple of selections at the Christmas concert as well.

Note: It is very important that the students remember to bring their band instruments and music to every class. Parents, please help them to remember this, as they will fall behind otherwise!

## Bullying Awareness Week

Bullying Awareness Week takes place November 16-22. We are going to recognize this week at school by listening to some original music written by Canadian kids and visiting the website [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org). On Friday, November 20 we are going to take part in "a wave" around Canada, as a sign of peace. We ask that the students wear blue on that day (blue signifies peace).

Sparling would like to do its part in the ongoing effort to eliminate bullying.



## Christmas Dinner

Plans are underway for our fourth annual "Christmas Dinner" to be held on Friday, Dec. 18. If anyone has any food items or would like to make a financial contribution for groceries or has time to help out with the meal, please contact Mrs. Coykendall.



## Christmas Concert

Christmas Concert will be on December 15 at 9:00 am and December 16 at 7:00 pm.



## Special Thanks

A very big note of appreciation is extended to Mrs. Coykendall and her committee for the recently held Remembrance Day



ceremony at Sparling School. It was a dignified, respectful gathering of our school community honoring all who made sacrifices during combat so that we might have the kinds of rights and freedoms we enjoy today. We were privileged to have two members of the Legion with us that day, and we believe our ceremony provided them with reassurance that their war-time efforts on our behalf will not be forgotten.



## Sparling Sparklers!

Remembrance Day Poems from 5C

### Always Remember

Remember all the soldiers that died in the war.

I will remember there were red poppies.

I will remember all the rats that used to claw around in the trenches.

I will remember 7,457,682 people died and were missing.

I will remember Dr. John McCrae who wrote, "In Flanders Fields."

I will remember the 11hr of the 11day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month when the war ended.

Remember the barbed wire that crossed No Man's land.

I will remember people picked lice out of each other's hair.

I will remember all the people that starved.

I will remember all the tanks, and guns that fired every which way.

I will remember the trains crowded with  
tons of people.

I will remember all the concentration  
camps.

Remember people that loved their lost  
ones.

I will remember 6,000,000 Jews died.

I will remember there were lots of  
diseases.

I will remember the horrible Nazis.

I will always remember.

Jaime

### **Never Forget**

Remember our soldiers had to look the  
enemy in the eye then kill.

Remember all the people missing  
brothers, dads and uncles.

Remember all the trenches with water in  
them.

Remember all those that suffered and  
died.

Remember all the animals that were  
forced to fight.

Remember all the years they spent in the  
wars.

I will remember all of the people that lay  
in Flanders Fields.

I will remember all the hard times in war.

I will remember all the people that got  
sent to concentration camps.

I will remember all the gunfire that went  
off.

I will remember all the trains that got  
sent to concentration camps.

I will remember all the Jews that wore a  
yellow star.

I will remember all the diseases that the  
soldiers got.

I will remember the ovens that the people  
got put in.

Remember all the people who starved.

I will always remember how unfair the  
wars were.

I will never forget.

Jenna

## **From the Library**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be on  
November 16-20 from 8:00 am to 4:00  
pm. Special evening hours are scheduled  
from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on November 17  
(interview night). Proceeds from the fair  
will help Sparling School generate  
important funds for special school  
projects and to buy new books for our  
library. Hope to see you there.



Mrs. Madison  
Librarian

## **For Your Information**

### **No Staff Meeting in December!!**

There will be no early dismissal in  
December but there will be a 'full day'  
professional day/staff meeting on April  
19<sup>th</sup>. Classes will take place as usual on  
December 15!!

### **School Fees**

The office will be open during Interviews  
on November 17<sup>th</sup> for anyone wanting to  
pay their school fees.

### **Sparling School Building Blocks Program**

Parents of Preschoolers

- Looking for new and exciting ways to help your children's development and future school success?
- Parenting one or more pre-schoolers?
- Finding it difficult to get to outside programs?



Camrose Family Literacy and Sparling School invite you and your children to attend the 10 week Building Blocks Program,  
 Thursdays, 10:30-11:30,  
 October 1 - December 3  
 in the CHAMP room.

You will enjoy age appropriate activities with your child that will encourage their preschool development. Rhymes, songs, books, crafts and games will be explored with trained facilitators. This program is intended for parents and caregivers of children 0-5. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. There is no fee for the service. Please drop in and see what's going on.

If you wish more information, please contact

Cherie Corcoran, CHAMPS  
 780-672-0106

See you there!

*Funded by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and Community Fundraising.*

**Alberta Health Services  
 Children and Teen Walk-In  
 Counseling Services**

Camrose Mental Health Clinic  
 4911 - 47 Street, Camrose  
 Tuesday afternoon 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Questions about Walk-in Counseling Services?  
 Contact the Clinic at 780-679-1764

Is your child or teen having emotional, behavioral or addiction problems?

We are here to help you!

Please bring your Alberta Health Care card

Staff from various agencies are available on site to assist with your needs:  
 Addictions, Children's Mental Health

**Attachments**

Festival of Trees - Teddy Bear Dine and Disco.

**Upcoming Dates and Events:**

Nov. 16, 23 & 30	Parent's Tim Horton's Coffee in library 9:00-10:00 am
Nov. 16-20	Bullying Awareness Week
Nov. 17	Early Dismissal
Nov. 17	Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:00 - 8:00 pm
Dec. 7 & 14	Parent's Tim Horton's Coffee in library 9:00-10:00 am
Dec. 15	Christmas Concert 9:00 am
Dec. 16	Christmas Concert 7:00 pm
Dec. 18	Christmas Dinner
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1	Christmas Break

**Skating Dates**

**Grade 1 & 2**

Wednesday, December 2	10:00 - 11:00 am
Wednesday, December 9	10:00 - 11:00 am

**Grade 3 & 4**

Thursday, December 3	9:00 - 10:00 am
Thursday, December 10	9:00 - 10:00 am

**Grade 5 & 6**

Tuesday, December 1	1:00 - 2:00 pm
Tuesday, December 8	1:00 - 2:00 pm

