November 2012

Springfield Newsletter

Parents Matter Week

Schools throughout the division hosted various events and activities that allowed students to show their appreciation for their parents involvement in their educational success. November 13-16 was declared by our Board of Trustees as "PARENTS MATTER" Week because of the overwhelming appreciation students expressed online when asked "How can parents be involved in student success?" last spring. (through the division's online engagement initiative Conversations Toward Student Success ONLINE). Students at Springfield celebrated the special event with a Parents Matter Assembly and classroom visit on Thursday, November 15.

Dates to Remember

- Food Bank Challenge Begins - Monday, December 3
- Student Led Assembly 1L - Thursday, December 13
- Justin Blais (singer) performs - Friday, December 14
- Food Bank Challenge Ends - Monday, December 17
- Christmas Concert Rehearsal - Wednesday, Dec 19
- Christmas Concert - Thursday, December 20
- Formal Day - Thursday, December 20
- PJ and Movie Day - Friday, December 21
Carol Ressler, from the Metis Region of Alberta visited with grade one students during Metis Awareness week to provide students with information about the Metis culture. Children learned about the different arts and crafts of the Metis people and were provided with an opportunity to learn more about their own family heritage through a family tree pamphlet that was distributed.

Beginning November 27 until December 17th students are welcome to bring in food items for our annual "Food Bank Challenge." All food will be donated to the Peace River Salvation Army during the Christmas Season. The goal for the challenge this year is to reach 9,000 food points. Thank you to Mrs. Milley and her grade 4 class for organizing the event and planning the incentives for this year’s fundraiser.

All food items are worth 1 point with the exception of the following items which are worth 5 points:
- peanut butter
- canned meat/fish
- beans
- pasta (spaghetti, macaroni etc)
- rice

Thank you in advance for your donations.
Students at Springfield held a special Parents Matter assembly to recognize the contribution parents make to their success. At the assembly, 27 Grade 4 students presented special thank you cards to their parents to show their appreciation. All students participated in the making of a video that celebrated their parents. The video was shown during the assembly to students, parents and community guests. Following the assembly parents were invited to a hot cup of coffee and cookies, followed by tours to their children’s classrooms.

Remembrance Day Assembly
Grade 3M had the honour of hosting the traditional Remembrance Day assembly on Friday, November 9th. Dressed in red and white the students honoured Canadians who served our country in our armed and peace keeping forces. Through a collection of poems and songs the students paid tribute to our fallen soldiers and peace keepers. Thank you to Mrs. Marshall and her grade 3 students!
A quote from Mrs. Aquino. Grade 3 Teacher:

"At first I thought that it would just be another thing to prepare for, however I am excited every day 2 and 4, because it gives me the flexibility to work with students who need the support and it gives the students who don't need support an opportunity for enrichment."

Adopt a Nomad

On November 19, 2012 the Adopt-a-Nomad program began between Peace River High School and Springfield Elementary. You are asking, "What is Adopt-a-Nomad program?" Peace River High School is sending 24 students to Springfield every week to assist in classrooms. Each Nomad comes once a week for an hour to help in the same classroom at Springfield. The Nomads are doing many different activities while they are here, some are working with small groups on addition and subtraction, listening to Springfield students read, assisting with art class and the list goes on and on. The best part is seeing the smiles on the Nomads as they leave Springfield, some have even indicated that they would come to Springfield every day if they could. The purpose of the program is to increase confidence, create positive community connections, and "to become a Mentor you want to have in your own life".”
Grade 4 students at Springfield took part in a creative project for the liquor stores in Peace River, Grimshaw and Nampa. Students designed paper bags based on the theme of their choice:

- "Think of Me!"
- "Plan Ahead!"
- "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over!"

The purpose of the activity was to remind the adults of our communities why it's important to make good choices and plan ahead. The bags will attract the attention of the person receiving it and the student's messages will be read. National Addictions Awareness Week took place during the third week of November with a goal of informing and increasing awareness of addiction related issues and services.

Peace Regional Eco Centre Field Trip

Grade 4 classes took a visit to the Peace Regional Eco Centre on November 8th. Students learned about what happens to all the materials we use day to day that are recyclable. They experienced an outdoor tour of the facility and saw how things were done inside as well. Students learned how plastic was bailed, how a wood pellet stove works, what happens to toxic waste and electronics, how solar energy can help run the Eco Centre and much, much more! Students, Teachers and Volunteers enjoyed learning more about how we can take charge of our carbon footprint and reduce the waste in our world.
PAC Cookie Dough Sales

*Delivery Date: Week of December 10*

Thank you to everyone who purchased cookie dough from the PAC fundraiser during the month of November. The cookie dough is scheduled to arrive during the week of December 10. If you have ordered only 1 bucket of dough it will be sent home with your child. However, if more than one bucket of cookie dough was ordered we ask that you come to the school and pick it up.

*Website to Check Out*

If you are looking for a website that is packed full of educational and fun links you may want to click onto:

[www.2learn.ca](http://www.2learn.ca)

This site offers a variety of grade level and subject activities as well as some seasonal online games to play.

Option Program

Springfield will be offering the Mini-Option program again this year. The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for students to interact in multi-aged groups while participating in craft, art or game activities.

Some of the options that were offered last year included:

- Yoga
- Painting
- Dancing
- Indoor sports
- Outdoor sports
- Scrapbooking
- Photography
- Cooking
- Pottery

If you are interested in volunteering to help during this 4 week program or you would like to lead a group of students please contact the school.

Movie and Pajama Day

*All Springfield students and staff are welcome to attend the annual “Movie and Pajama Day.”*

- When: Friday, December 21
- Where: Springfield School
- Time: 1:00 movie time

Come to school dressed in your pajamas and remember to bring along your favourite stuffed animals for company!

Springfield Christmas Concert

**Thursday, December 20**

9:30 am

1:15 pm
Seven students from grade 4 attended the Ever Active School Symposium at the Catholic Conference Center with Mr. Pare. The purpose of the symposium was to provide student leaders with ideas on how they can promote a healthy lifestyle to their peers through physical activity ideas and healthy eating. The Thursday, November 8th event was well attended by many schools from the area. We look forward to the students sharing their ideas with the student body back at Springfield!

Gotcha Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Gotcha Awards for achieving standards of excellence on their Grade 3 Provincial Achievement Test(s) in May and June 2011. Students were recognized at a Parents Matter Assembly in November. After receiving their certificate and Springfield medal, students presented special thank you note to their parents recognizing them for their contributions to their success.


Middle Row: Broenyn Armstrong-Lettis, Brenna Senft, Samantha McKenzie, Kyra Canning, Kayla Stalker, Cassidy Gour, Ellie Chupka, Hailey Schofield, Cory Cardinal

Front Row: Kallie Coates, Chanah Wohlgemuth, Sara Kyle, Raine Sieben, Rylee Lokseth
Roots of Empathy

There is exciting news in Mlle Ann’s grade 1 class this year. They have been invited to participate in the “Roots of Empathy” program. This program teaches children about feelings; their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Ziya and her parent(s) visit the classroom. Ms Dechambre, a trained ROE instructor, gathers the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow. The children predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches the ‘developmental milestones’ of the first year: “She can roll over!” “She got her first tooth!” “She can sit up!” “She can crawl!” We look forward to updates on how baby Ziya is doing this year.

Cartoonist Visits Springfield

Gerry Rasmussen, a cartoonist, visited Springfield on October 16th. He did four sessions of basic cartooning throughout the day with Grade 2’s, Grade 3’s and the Grade 4 French class. The teachers and the students were very engaged with the sessions. Gerry has recently illustrated his first children’s book with a major publisher called “Crazy about Soccer” which we now have an autographed copy in the library.
Superintendent's Message
Parents Matter

PARENTS MATTER!
Research shows that children experience higher levels of success when their parents are involved in their school and education. We realize that what it means for parents or guardians to be involved in their child’s school and education looks different depending on many factors. That is why we focused an online discussion last spring on parental involvement. We asked: “How can parents be involved in student success?”

A total of 424 students, parents, staff and community members went online and shared ways that parents/guardians can positively impact student success. Students said that they appreciated the contributions of their parents/guardians whether providing a healthy breakfast, helping with homework and the overall love and support their parents/guardians provide. In response to their input PRSD has declared November 13 - 16 PARENTS MATTER Week. All schools in the division will be hosting various events and activities that provide ways for students to show their appreciation to their parents for their involvement.

In response to the online discussion we learned many things and are moving forward based on input. For junior and senior high schools, marks are available online through a secure program called HOMELOGIC. We are working with School Councils to develop a communication plan and conversations surrounding parental involvement are continuing throughout the division. More information can be found on our STUDENT SUCCESS link at www.prasd.ab.ca.

Students really do appreciate parental/guardian support in their education whether that be helping with homework, reading at home, communication with their teachers or attendance at school events. Your involvement makes a difference and we truly appreciate the important work you do and hope that you are able to participate in PARENTS MATTER Week at your school on November 13 - 16th.

Paul Bennett
Superintendent of Schools
Peace River School Division