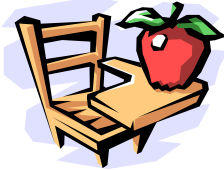


Willow Park School



Visit our website: <http://willowparkschool.com>

September, 2008 Edition



Principal's Message:

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to enjoy some rest and relaxation. The staff and students will be working hard to establish routines and to get back into "learning mode".

I look forward to meeting all of the students and parents in the coming weeks and months and working with you over the 2008-2009 school year. We have our Meet the Staff night scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th and I hope that I will meet many of you then.

Other events for September include our Annual Terry Fox Fun, our first School Assembly and Cross Country running club. All of these things will be sure to get the school year off to a great start and keep everyone busy for the month.

Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the school year. I want to help make your child's educational experience a positive one.

Mrs. Brunken

Volunteers and Visitors

To ensure the safety of our staff and students, we ask that all volunteers and visitors please sign in at the office. Volunteers are required to complete the Black Gold Regional Schools Volunteer form which was included in the beginning of year package. This form must be completed prior to volunteering in the school. Volunteer hours are tracked in the office. Please be sure to sign in and out. Thanks for all your help-you make Willow Park a great place to learn!

School Newsletters

Monthly newsletters will be sent home one per family to the youngest child in each family at the beginning of each month. Please watch for this important communication tool.

School Assemblies

Several times throughout the year, the students and staff will gather for an assembly. This is a way for students to get together, see what others are learning and reward good behaviour and work skills. There will also be one class making a presentation at most of the assemblies. More information will be sent out next month to let you know when each class is presenting. Parents are always welcome to attend. The schedule for the school year is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 11

Thursday, Oct. 16

**Friday, Nov. 7-Remembrance Day Ceremony

Thursday, Jan. 15

Thursday, Feb. 12

Thursday, Mar. 12

Thursday, Apr. 23

Thursday, May 21

Thursday, June 25

School Pantry

On occasion during the school year, students forget their lunch or do not have enough to eat. We would like to set up a school pantry, so that in these circumstances, we are able to supply the student with something to eat. If you are able to send in a few items to help "stock" our pantry, it would be greatly appreciated. Fruit cups, puddings, snack bars, cheese and cracker packs and other non-perishable items would be appreciated. Thanks for your help with this.

Parent Information Bulletin Board

Information and activities that may be of interest to our families can be posted on the Parent Boards located in the two main student entrances of the school.

Meet the Staff Night

On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, we will be having our Meet the Staff Night. Please feel free to tour the school and meet with the staff. We hope to see you there.

Safe Call Program

To ensure the safety of all the students in our school, it is important that the classroom teacher or the school office be advised when a student will be absent or late. This can be done either by sending a note to the classroom teacher or by calling the office. Messages can be left on the school answering machine at any time: 780-986-8456. Office staff will be calling to check on students who have an unexplained absence. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.



Student Accident Insurance

Black Gold Regional Schools provides a blanket school premises insurance coverage for all students within the division for the 2008-2009 school year. This plan covers students for injuries that occur during a school related activity. Parents have the option to purchase additional insurance beyond the blanket coverage provided by the Board. Please see the information sheet that was sent home with your child.

Curriculum Handbooks

Curriculum handbooks and curriculum summaries are available for all grade levels by logging on to the Alberta Education website at:

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks/> or

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks/summaries/>

These documents give you information about what your child will be learning this year. We also have copies available for parents in the Parent Resource section of our library.

Fire Drills/Lock Down Drills

Emergency drills are practiced each year with the students to ensure that all students know what to do in case of an emergency. Willow Park students and staff will practice both evacuation drills and lockdown drills. Teachers will review the procedures with students prior to our first drills.

Lice Head Checks

Regular lice head checks are performed periodically throughout the school year in order to try to help keep this problem non-existent in our school. We will be

completing a head check soon for all students and need volunteers. If you are able to assist, please call the office at 780-986-8456.

School Fees

School fees for all grade levels are due by the end of September. Receipts will be issued for all payments. Please make sure to retain your receipts. If you are unable to pay your school fees at this time or need to arrange a payment program, please contact the school office at 780-986-8456.



Kindergarten fees-\$110.00

Grades 1-6 fees- \$60.00

Crosswalk Use/School Patrol

We have an eager and active school patrol team at the school who will be helping students to safely cross 52 Street each day. Children model the adults that they look up to, so please remember to help our School Patrol and use the crosswalks!



Lost Items

Each year we accumulate a mountain of clothing items, shoes, boots, toys and other items in our lost and found box. Please make sure to write your child's name in all of their shoes, boots and clothing items, so that we can get them back to their owners. Also, please have your child check the box regularly for items that they are missing. Unclaimed items are donated to local charities at Christmas Break, Spring Break and Year End.

School Bus News

Student Behaviour on and Around the Bus

The school bus is considered an extension of the classroom, and therefore, classroom conduct is to be observed at all times. The bus driver is responsible for the safety of the students on his/her bus and must, therefore receive the respect, consideration and cooperation of each student.

It is expected that all students are to follow the school bus rules and safety procedures as outlined in the Student Responsibility Card, which is given to each student at the beginning of the school year.



Phys. Ed. News

Willow Park School offers daily physical activity for our students. Each class has scheduled time in the gymnasium on a daily basis. As well, there are many extracurricular and intramural activities that will be taking place over the school year. Please watch this section of the newsletter for further information.

For the months of September and October, all students are welcome to participate in the Cross Country Running Program. Students can meet daily with Ms. Liz McClain to run and several out of school meets are planned.



Counseling News

On occasion, students will need a supportive adult to talk to in the school. Changes in family dynamics, illness or death of family members or pets can sometimes cause stresses at home or school. If you think your child may need some support at school, many resources are available both with school personnel and outside agencies. Please contact Mrs. Brunken or Mrs. Chalfoux to arrange for some counseling support.

Pass It On News

We will be starting a school-wide character education and behaviour program called "Pass It On" this month. This program will be implemented with the support of our Grade 6 students and each month a theme will be chosen and students will be encouraged to "pass on" kind words, thoughts and actions to other members of our school community. More information will be sent home each month in the newsletter.

PTA New and Parent Council

The Parent Association has some upcoming bingos. Notes have been sent home with the dates for parent volunteers to sign up for and return to the school. If you haven't filled yours out, please do so as soon as possible. There are also sign up sheets on the Parent Boards. The dates for the next three bingos are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 16th @ 5:30
- Saturday, Oct. 4th @ 5:30
- Thursday, Nov. 20th @ 5:30



*Leduc & District Food Bank
Fall Food Round Up*



School Collection:
Monday, Oct. 6th to Thursday Oct. 9th.
Pick up Thursday Oct. 9th.

For anyone wishing to donate non-perishable food items, there will be a box in front of the office.



MACLAB CENTRE
For the
Performing Arts

2008-2009 Season Tickets are now on sale. The Maclab Centre presents shows that are suitable for the entire family. For more information, please contact:

Andrea Martinuk @ 780-980-1866.
or www.maclabcentre.com
Tickets are available @
Leduc Chamber: 780-986-5412
Ti x on the Square: 780-420-1757

The LEDUC REGIONAL
PARENT LINK CENTRE

Publishes a monthly newsletter. The letter includes timely information for parents regarding programs in Leduc and District. Please feel free to read the newsletter which is posted in all three parent board areas: both entrances and the Parent Board in the main hallway.

Library News

Our library will be up and running soon and we encourage parents to read daily with their children. We have many new books and magazines in the library for our students, and we will also be setting up a Parent Resource section for parents. Mrs. Cecchin, our Library Clerk is looking for volunteers to help out in the Library. If you can help, please contact her at 780-986-8456.

Stop by and check out the new materials in our library.

Boys and Girls Club of Leduc

“A good place to be”

Welcome to another exciting year at the Boys and Girls Club of Leduc! Come check out the opportunities we have to offer in our after school programs, as well as our structured programs, where we encourage youth to develop skills in leadership, cooking, and self esteem building. Learn something new, while hanging out with friends! To join us in our programs this fall all you need is a membership! Membership price is \$10.00 per child and is valid the whole year through. (June 2008-June 2009)

All the leadership programs (MAK, Torch, Keystone), Boys Night/Girls Night and KIN, will begin on the first week of October.

PD DAYS/HOLIDAYS: Ages: 6-11 Year Round on PD Days & Holidays

A structured and safe environment from 9:00-4:00 when there is no school (except Holidays). A base registration fee of only \$12.00. It is recommended that you register early due to the high demand for this program. PD day October. 10

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kaylee, John, or Tiffany at (780)986-3121 or drop by the club for a tour.

Thankyou,

Kaylee Dewar
Boys and Girls Club of Leduc
Program Coordinator
(780) 986-3121

Resources for Families

Summer 2008

Strategies to protect children from cyber-bullying

Cyber bullying, using new communication technology to torment others, is taking humiliation to a frightening level.

Hiding behind the anonymity of the Internet, cyber bullies are able to hurl threats, spread rumors, trash reputations, and damage fragile egos, usually without being caught. The incredible scope of the Internet means that a cyber bully can reach millions with the click of a mouse.

Even though school officials are trying to deal with this problem, parents remain on the front line protecting their children.

Here are some strategies you can use to protect your children:

Learn about the new technologies. If you are unfamiliar with the Internet, now is the time to start surfing the Web. Learn the many ways that children can bully electronically, through e-mails, blogs (Web logs that are online diaries), and videos that are downloaded from camcorders or picture phones.

Talk about values. The technology may have changed, but kindness and decency should still be top priorities for everyone.

Guard passwords. A bully can use another child's screen name to send out offensive e-mails. Tell your children not to share passwords with friends and to change passwords frequently. Talk to your children if you believe they are targets of bullies. Oftentimes a child being tormented by a cyber bully will be too embarrassed to tell a parent or teacher. Make sure your children know they are not to blame for being targeted and that they should report any incident to you or an adult at school.

Keep copies. Having documentation of the cyber bullying will strengthen your case if you need to report it to school or other authorities. Experts advise not to delete the original e-mail, even after you have printed it out. There may be something in the original e-mail header that would lead to the source.

Work with your children's schools. Even if cyber bullying happens outside of school, the repercussions spill over into the classroom.

Stress the Internet's impact. An e-mail sent to one child can be forwarded to hundreds. Old e-mails may resurface and get even a well-meaning child in trouble. Encourage your children to think before clicking.

What is cyber bullying? What can parents do? What can kids do?

<http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/default.aspx>

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FREE CHECK UPS FOR GRADE ONE
STUDENTS

The Edmonton and District Dental Society (EDDS) with generous support from the Bank of Montreal, will once again be offering dental checkups, free of charge, to all Edmonton and area Grade One students as part of their “Start School Smiling” program, in the month of October, 2008. If you have a child in Grade One and would like to book an appointment, please visit the EDDS website at www.edds.ca to find a participating dentist near you.

Please call soon as spaces book up quickly, and remember to mention to the office that you are booking a “Start School Smiling” check up for your child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Tsang

EDDS Secretary and SSS Program
Director DENTAL HEALTH