

December 2008 Newsletter



CELEBRATE THE SEASON



*If Christmas brings what we ask it to, it's bringing lots of joy for you.
May all of you in our CAPE community enjoy the company of friends and family this
holiday season.*

WELL WISHES and WELCOME

As many of our CAPE family aware, Miss Sandor will be leaving our CAPE family at the end of this week. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Ms. Kean, who has worked at CAPE before, will be taking on the post of grade 8B homeroom teacher. We welcome her back.



TERM 1 ENDS

Report cards and IPP updates will be coming home on Friday, December 5, 2008. Term awards will be held on the morning of December 5 at staggered times to help accommodate parents who would like to attend different classes. The following schedule is for term 1 classroom awards:

8:45	Kindergarten, Grades 4/5A
9:15	Grade 1
9:45	Grade 2
10:30	Grade 3
11:00	Grades 4B, 5B
12:15	Grade 6, 7, 8

Please contact your student's homeroom teacher if you have specific questions.

INTERVIEWS and OPEN HOUSE

Term 1 Parent-Teacher Interviews are set for the evening of Thursday, December 11, 2008, and the afternoon of Friday, December 12, 2008.



December 11, 2008

scheduled interviews 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

December 13, 2008

scheduled interviews 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Please call the office on or after December 5, 2008, to make appointments for individual or group interviews. Should these times not accommodate your schedule, please contact the individual teachers you wish to see to arrange an alternate day and time.

IN THE MAIL...

This month, report cards and IPP updates will be going home with students on December 5, 2008. Invoices for after school care in November will also be mailed the first week of December. Because of the Christmas holiday, after school invoices for December will not go out until January 2009.



SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

The Council meeting for December is scheduled for Monday, December 8th, 2008, at 7 p.m. in the CAPE staff room. We would like to make this meeting a celebration of our efforts throughout the year, so we are asking anyone attending to please bring an appetizer of your choice to share.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped work the casino in September. The school received \$ 21541.14 in just 2 days time! Our next casino date has not year been set, but is expected to be in about 18 months time.



The Caught Caring winner for November was Abigail McBride who won two movie passes and concession items. All students who are recognized for their character building are entered to win larger prizes at the end of the school year. There will be one student prize per grade awarded at that time.

We are in need of volunteers to help with serving hot lunch one Monday a month. This task involves dishing up and delivering preordered meals. The time commitment is about 2-3 hours (11:00 – 1:30) one Monday a month. Providing hot lunch is a much-appreciated service for our students and families, and we would welcome assistance from other parents. Even if you are willing to help on just one day, we are eager to work with you.



On behalf of Parent Council, we wish all our CAPE families, students and wonderful staff a blessed and relaxing Christmas Season.

A CHRISTMAS WIZARD OF OZ

The grades 4 & 5 students are starting their preparations for the Christmas drama: A Christmas Wizard of Oz. This play follows the basic L. Frank Baum book, except that it takes place at Christmas time. If you are interested in assisting with this production, please contact Mrs. Sanders or Ms. Di Monte.



For a spectacular evening of entertainment, please join us on Thursday, December 18, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the main auditorium upstairs at River Park Church, just across from our school parking lot. The school has a lease agreement with the church for extra instructional space.

Following the program, there will be refreshments served in our gymnasium. We hope to see you there!

WINTER REMINDER

With the snowy season upon us, there is a need to be equipped with proper winter wear. Necessary outdoor clothing:



- Warm winter coat (hoodies are NOT sufficient)
- Winter boots
- Mittens / gloves
- Scarves / face cover on windy days

Students must also have indoor footwear for when they remove their boots.

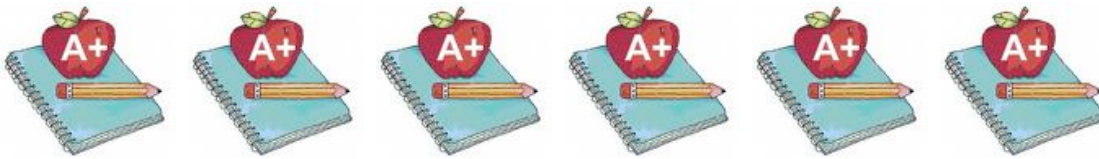
CAPE SEEKS STAFF

Presently, CAPE is looking to fill 3 TA positions. While we have advertised, we have been unsuccessful in filling these positions. We are now asking for your assistance in spreading the word about these positions. While the Board prefers for teaching assistants to have the TA course or training, we are most interested in finding people with the right aptitudes to work with children. All three of the positions are full-time, Monday – Friday. 8:20 – 3:50. There is never any call-in or weekend work. There are benefits available without any waiting period. Our supportive, friendly staff offer a supportive environment.

We are also accepting resumes from teachers for our sub list. If you know people who may fit these positions, please encourage them submit their resume to Mrs. Gordon via email, fax, or in person. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

BOARD CHAIR OFFERS WORDS OF THANKS

The CAPE Board of Directors Chair, Mr. Stuart Riley, would like to offer a word of thanks to all the parents, staff and students who contributed to the success of CAPE's recent evaluation. Both of the evaluators commented on the friendliness and support of CAPE's community. The evaluation report has been submitted to Alberta Education. Once this report has been approved, a representative will come to CAPE to share the results.



TERM 1 GOLDEN BROOM WINNERS

Throughout term 1, our homeroom classes have been diligently competing for the coveted Golden Broom and Silver Broom Awards. In term 1, the grade 8B class won a pizza party for the most points, and the milk & cookies will be going to the grades 4/5A and the 6B homerooms for second place. Thank you to all students who help keep their learning environments tidy. Well done, students!

GOT MILK JUGS?

Mrs. Block-Kenney is in need of 155 plastic milk jugs for social studies. As you have jugs empty and available, please rinse them and send them to school. These will be used for a unique project, which promises to be very exciting!

CANDY-O-GRAMs

To spread seasonal cheer to others in our school, we will be selling candy-o-grams to send cheerful messages to our friends. Starting on Monday, December 1, 2008, students will be able to purchase a candy cane message to send to someone else in the building. Each message will cost \$0.50. Young students will be given help to write their messages. Each message will be attached to a fruit-flavoured candy cane. All sales will be completed on Thursday, December 18, 2008, and the messages will be delivered on the morning of Friday, December 19, 2008. Any proceeds raised from the sales of Candy-O-Grams will be given to the Phoenix Safe House Women's Shelter.



Grade 3

Projects: December 1 – 5 Art
December 8 – 12 Wellness: Showing Empathy and Caring in Our School
Learning Fairness Through Fitness
Celebrating Citizenry Through the Arts
December 15 – 19 PE (gym strip required)
January 5 – 9, 2009 Health

Field Trip / Presentations: December 17 2:00 – 2:30 Winter Safety Program

Grade 4/5 A

FOCUS UNIT: In December, we will be completing the science unit on chemistry and the social studies unit on Canadian geography. Multiplication and division will be the last concepts in our numeration unit.

CLASSROOM INCENTIVE GOALS: A classroom outing has been planned for December 5, 2008, following classroom awards at 8:45. This trip is a reward for students who have completed homework since November 14, 2008, and adhered to respectful classroom practices.

Grade 4B

Projects: December 1 – 5, 8 – 12, 15 – 19
Wellness: Building Character Through Dramatics
January 5 – 9, 2009 PE (gym strip required)

Grade 5B

Projects: December 1 – 5, 8 – 12, 15 – 19
Wellness: Building Character Through Dramatics
January 5 – 9, 2009 PE (gym strip required)

Grades 4 & 5 Drama Notes and Reminders

The grades 4 and 5 students have started their preparations for our term 1 production. Specific roles have been assigned. In order for students to be ready for dress rehearsals with cuing, we are requesting that students have their lines memorized by December 8, 2008. To take ownership of their characters, students will also play a strong role in developing their costumes. On December 1, 2008, each student will receive a list of things to assemble for a costume. If there are any problems finding these things, please contact Mrs. Sanders or Ms. Di Monte before December 8, 2008. If parents wish to rent a costume, please send a note indicating this, so that the teachers can focus on the costume needs of others. If you are interested in assisting with costumes or other aspects of the play, please contact the teachers. We welcome your assistance!

DARE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 - Issue 2 - December 2008

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

R.C.M.P. REDCLIFF DETACHMENT DRUG AWARENESS PRESENTATION

The Redcliff Detachment of the R.C.M.P. will be hosting a Drug Awareness presentation on Monday evening, December 1st, at 7pm.

A special speaker from the R.C.M.P. Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service will be covering topics such as:

- current illicit drugs being used in Medicine Hat
- recent new trends in drug use

Everyone is welcome to attend what promises to be a very interesting and informative evening.

The event will take place in the gymnasium at Parkside Junior High School in Redcliff. See you there!

GET THE FACTS

DXM - Dextromethorphan - is an effective and safe medicinal ingredient often found in cough syrup. However, at high doses, DXM is dissociative, like certain illicit drugs such as PCP and ketamine.

It has come to the attention of local law enforcement that some teens are abusing this medicine and causing serious damage to their bodies. They think that because it's usually found in plain, old cough syrup, it must be harmless, just an easy and safe way to get high. But it's not.

Taken in large doses, DXM and other cough syrup ingredients such as antihistamines and decongestants, can cause serious damage, and has caused death.

DXM is also referred to in teen circles as 'robo', 'skittles', 'triple-c', and 'tussin'. For more information about the effects of DXM, please visit: www.dxmstories.com to get the facts.

Grade 6

Projects:	December 1 – 5	Music
	December 8 – 12, 15 – 19	Ancient Civilizations
	January 5 – 9, 2009	Health

Science: The classes are beginning the Flight Unit. Students will be completing reports on famous aviators, creating paper airplanes and parachutes, and testing different designs to determine the best flying ability.

Math: Our focus is working with ratios and percentages. Students will be using hands-on methods to create ratios of objects that they use everyday. They will also be using the computers to graph their findings.

Grade 7

Projects:	December 1 – 5	Art
	December 8 – 12	Health
	December 15 – 19	PE (gym strip required)
	January 5 – 9, 2009	Global Studies

Students in social studies 7B are exploring the power structures of New France, Britain and First Nations Groups in Pre-Confederation Canada.

7/8B Notes

Ms. DiMonte's 7/8 gym class has begun exploring sledge hockey, field hockey and are choreographing dances that they will teach to the grade4/5 drama students, as part of a leadership project.

Ms. DiMonte's math 7/8B students are completing the Numbers unit that involved equivalent fractions, equivalent decimals, and equivalent percents.

Students in Ms. DiMonte's 7/8B language class are presenting their Canadian Hero biography projects and beginning a novel study based on the mystery novels of Robert Sutherland.

Grade 8

Projects:	December 1 – 5	Music
	December 8 – 12	PE (gym strip required)
	December 15 – 19	Art
	January 5 – 9, 2009	The Renaissance: History, Art and Music

HOMework HELPERS

Homework Do's and Don'ts Part I

Homework hassles can make school nights miserable for the whole family. For some families homework battles can go on for two, three or four hours per night. People begin to dread the evening, relationships are strained severely and the child in question learns to hate schoolwork more and more. There are no easy answers to the problem and children's needs vary. There are ways though, of making things more tolerable and more productive.

What Not to Do

Don't go around asking the child every five minutes if he has homework or if he's started it yet. Instead try to pick the best time to start and stick with it—consistency is very important here.

Don't interrupt the youngster in the middle of his favorite TV show to tell him it's time to begin. There's no better way to get no cooperation. He should not start watching a show in the first place if it's going to overlap with his regular homework time.

Don't let the would-be student do work with the TV on. Believe it or not, a radio or iPod may be OK because it provides consistent background noise, but the television is always out to get your attention.

If you can avoid it, don't let the homework time change each day. One of the best ways of setting things up is to have the child come home, get a snack, goof off for about 30-45 minutes, and then sit down and try to finish his work before dinner. Then the whole evening is free.

Next month – What To Do. . .

Adapted from: ParentMagic Newsletter by Dr. Thomas Phelan © 2008

Did you know the CAPE website has a section for homework help? This section has links to websites that offer support, notes, clarification, or review materials. If you know about a site that is of good quality, that you feel would benefit other students, please forward the address to the school. As we become of helpful sites, we will update this section of the website.

Student Council

Student Council was pleased to see 53 people participate on *Wacky Hair Day*.

A number of festive activities have been planned for December. Please note the following dates and activities.

Monday, December 1 Start of the *Stack the Sleigh* Event

Donations of items for the Food Bank or items for the Phoenix Safe House (women's shelter) will be collected until December 17, 2008. The class that brings the most items per student will win a pizza party from Student Council. Last year, our school collected almost 1600 items for our local community. Let's see how high we can "stack the sleigh" this year!

Thursday, December 4 **Cookies for the Community**

To honour National Cookie Day, student council would like to hold a bake sale, with the proceeds going to the Phoenix Safe House. We are requesting that parents send bake sale items that morning. The Medicine Hat Food Bank has also offered to help support this charity event. The sale itself will be held from 10:00 – 2:00 and we invite parents / friends to attend and support a worthy cause.

December 8 - 12 **Holiday Celebration Week**

Not all CAPE students celebrate Christmas, and so to raise awareness and respect for various beliefs, we will be having guest announcers to tell others about their celebrations. We are currently looking for volunteers to talk about Christmas, Ramadan/Eid, Kwanzaa, Hannakah, and Naw Rûz. Please contact Mrs. Gordon if you wish to be a guest announcer about one of the above topics. This week, we will also have guest singers on the announcements to spread some seasonal cheer.

Wednesday, December 10 **Eat, Drink and Sing Merrily**

From 12:15 – 12:45 this day, students will be brought to the gym to enjoy a sing-song led by Mr. Mason. Lunch hour breaks will be arranged so that all students can take part.

Monday, December 15 **Toque Day**

Come prepared for the winter weather by wearing a favourite, unique or wacky toque. Please note that only winter hats will be acceptable for this day.

Tuesday, December 16 **Share a Holiday Story Day**

On this day, students throughout the school will share holiday stories in multi-age groups. Students are invited to bring any holiday story from snowmen to Santa. There may also be some guest readers for that day.

Thursday, December 18 **COMMUNITY CHEER DAY**

After making homemade cards, students will deliver these to community mailboxes around the school, wishing our neighbours a festive holiday season.

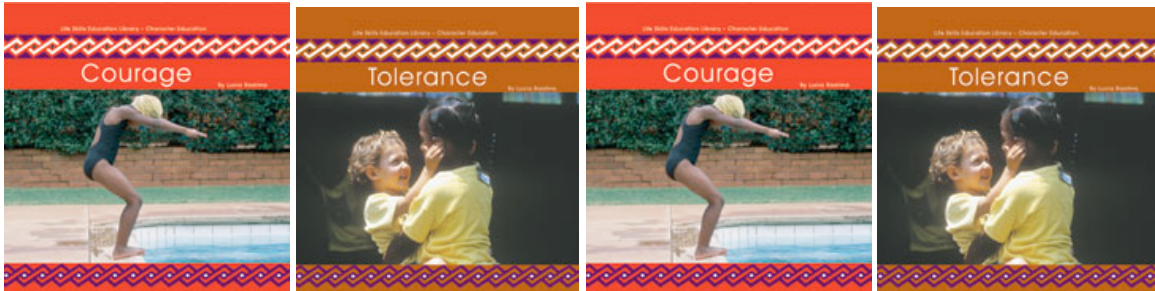
Friday, December 19 **Red & Green Day, Candy-O-Gram Delivery,
School-Wide Celebration**

On this day, students may wear red and green, or their school uniform. Student Council members will deliver the candy-o-grams. As well, a school wide celebration will take place. Students will be arranged in multi-age groups to enjoy morning activities; crafts, reading, music, movies, etc. At 11:00 that morning, students will assemble in the gym for a group snack. Parents are welcome to send snacks and we will hold a pot-luck in the gym. Sign up sheets will be posted outside classrooms. Please note that dismissal on this day will be at 12:15. The office will close at 1:00 that day for the Christmas break.

Watch the halls for posters about our upcoming events.

CHARACTER COUNTS

Throughout December and early January, students will be looking at the character traits of courage and tolerance. These themes correspond to pages in the student planners. On the school website, more pages can be found to support student development of these traits. As well, the website resources compliment the activities in the student planner and are designed for different grade levels; primary (lower elementary), elementary (grades 4-5), and middle years (junior high).



IMPORTANT SCHOOL-WIDE DATES

Monday, December 1, 2008	Collection for <i>Stack the Sleigh</i> begins
Thursday, December 4	Cookies for the Community bake sale
Friday, December 5, 2008	Report Cards, Classroom Awards
December 8 - 12	Holiday Celebration Week
Wednesday, December 10	Eat, Drink and Sing Merrily
Thursday, December 11, 2008	Parent Teacher interviews 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, December 12, 2008	Parent Teacher interviews 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, December 15	Toque Day
Tuesday, December 16	Share a Holiday Story Day
Thursday, December 18	COMMUNITY CHEER DAY
Friday, December 19	Red & Green Day Candy-O-Gram Delivery <i>School-Wide Celebration</i> <i>School Closes at 1:00 p.m. for Holidays,</i> <i>Reopens January 5, 2009, at 8:00 a.m.</i>
	NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE THIS DAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Twins 'N More Playgroup Every Thursday 11:15-1:30</p>	1 <u>Little Picassos</u> 10:00-11:00	2 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00	3 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 9:00-11:30	4 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 4:30-7:30	5 <u>Baby Time: Baby N' More:</u> 9:30-10:30 <u>Baby Time: First Time Mommy</u> 10:30-12:00	6 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 10:30-1:30
	7 <u>Remember: PLC Playroom is closed M-F from 12:30-1:30 for cleaning</u>	8 <u>Little Picassos</u> 10:00-11:00	9 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00	10 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 9:00-11:30	11 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 4:30-7:30	12 <u>Baby Time: Baby N' More:</u> 9:30-10:30 <u>Baby Time: First Time Mommy</u> 10:30-12:00
14	15 <u>Little Picassos</u> 10:00-11:00	16 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00	17 PLC Closed Until 1:30 pm	18 <u>Parents & Playmates</u> 10:00-11:00 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 4:30-7:30	19 <u>Baby Time: Baby N' More:</u> 9:30-10:30 <u>Baby Time: First Time Mommy</u> 10:30-12:00	20 <u>Stay & Play Drop-in</u> 10:30-1:30 <u>Daddy Play Camp</u> 10:30-11:30 (Southview Gym)
<p><i>Parent Link Centre Closed This Week</i></p>						
28	29 <u>Drop-in</u> 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:30	30 <u>Drop-in</u> 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:30	31 <u>Drop-in</u> 9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:30	<p>PLC Hours of Operation: M,T,W,& F: 8:30-4:30 Thurs: 8:30-8:00 Sat: 10:00-2:00 Sun & Hol: Closed</p>		

www.parentlinkcentre.co

AFTER SCHOOL CARE REMINDER

A reminder to parents who access after school care that there will be no care available on Friday, December 19, 2008. Our office closes at 1:00 that day for the holiday season. Invoices for December care will go out in January 2009.

Frequently Asked Questions

With winter weather coming, how do we find out the school is closed?

Before a school closure is announced, a number of factors are considered. Page 41 of the 2008-2009 Parent Information Booklet lists examples of situation where school closures may be warranted. During the winter months, the school would be closed in cases where putting students in travel conditions poses unnecessary risk.

Should the weather be inclement or imposing serious threat, or the temperatures be approaching dangerous extremes, the administration collects data and watches forecasts from a number of sources including the Weather Network (televised and online), Environment Canada (online and video cameras), and the local radio stations. If it is thought that the school should be closed, the Board chair is contacted and the decision is made.

If a school closure is determined to be necessary, the principal activates the emergency phone tree. The administrative assistants contact radio stations and staff. Each staff member then has a list of 4-5 families to contact. For this reason, it is of great importance that the school has current phone numbers, or is aware of alternate contact arrangements. Students who come from rural areas or Redcliff are contacted first. Then families who live in town will be contacted. Ideally, all this happens before 7:15 in the morning.

When the school is closed, a staff member still reports to the school, weather permitting, to ensure no students are locked out. Should students arrive at school on a closure day, they will be required to call parents for pick up. Should no students arrive by 9:30, the staff member will return home.

CAPE's instructional minutes surpass the minimum required times. Therefore, should the school need to be closed, the students are not in jeopardy of missing vital parts of their programs.

Ho-Ho-Hilarity!



What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has no L (noel).

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite

How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

Fleece-Navidad!

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?

Crisp Cringle