

CAPE
Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence
830A Balmoral Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 0W9

Tel: (403) 528-2983

Fax: (403) 528-3048

January 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to a new year and new decade!

In the morning announcements, we will be following the 2010 Winter Olympics. We will also be doing various Olympic activities throughout the months of January and February. Skating times have also been booked for each class.

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.

IN THE SCHOOLBAG...

Report cards were sent home on Friday, December 11, 2009.

Please remember to sign and return the letter indicating you have read the report card.

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS

For a number of years, CAPE has asked the John Howard Society to present students with information about bully-awareness and prevention. This year, we will be having a new presenter to the classes. Please note the following presentation dates:

Kindergarten:

January 25 & February 22

Grade 1:

January 26 – 28

Grade 2:

January 25 – 27

Grade 3:

January 25 – 28

Grades 4 & 5:

January 25 – 28

Grade 6:

February 5 & 22

Grade 7 & 8:

January 28, February 5 & 22



SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

School Council is currently looking to find two people to assist with council tasks. Firstly, we are looking for a secretary. This would mean of a commitment of 1 night a month for the meeting and about 1-2 hours a month at home typing the meeting minutes and agenda items as requested. We are also looking for a Board liaison. This position would mean a commitment of 2 evenings per month, reporting to each group about information shared in the meetings. If you think you are able to help with one of these tasks, please contact Mrs. Thompson in the office. We are in urgent need of help in these areas.

School Council will be making a uniform order for the first weeks in February. Order forms will be going home at the end on January.

Please join us for the next School Council meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. We will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the CAPE School lab. See you there! If you are unable to attend but still wish to help out, please leave your name and number at the front office and we will be in touch with you.

WELCOME BACK MRS. LESKO!

After being on maternity leave for a year, Mrs. Lesko is joining us again. Mrs. Lesko is the 4/5A Humanities teacher as well as the 7/8B Sciences teacher. We are glad to have her back with us!

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEYS START

Every school year, Alberta Education surveys students, parents and teachers to use as part of the Accountability Pillar Survey. For charter schools, all families with a student in grade 4 and higher will receive a survey by mail. It is very important that parents provide input as this helps guide school planning.



If you have questions about the survey, or do not receive one by mail, please contact Mrs. Gordon in the office. Surveys in other languages are also available via contacting Mrs. Gordon.

AFTER SCHOOL ALLEY

In the month of January, we are doing activities with the Olympic theme. Any outdoor activities will be dependent upon weather. For a craft, we will be making medals. On one of the Fridays we will be organizing a fun hockey tournament. We will also be doing outdoor curling at school. **For this activity we are in need of ice cream pails with handles.**



In December, the funding from the Medicine Hat and District Childcare Association was used to purchase various new equipment and various snacks. We are very thankful for this funding and for the suggestions the children provided for our shopping.



PETER PAN TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

The musical presentation of Peter Pan will be presented in Medicine Hat from January 29 – 31st, 2010, and February 3 – 6, 2010. Miss Bosch is one of our staff who is cast in this production. This is a wonderful family event and families are encouraged to attend. The tickets are now on sale at www.tixx.ca.



WEBSITE WATCH

Please feel free to visit the CAPE website at www.capeisgreat.org for updates to staffing and programs. Homework is posted on the website regularly.

Links to staff, the Superintendent, and the Board can also be found on the website.

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Our Student Council celebrated with our students and their collective success for the Food Bank and Women's Shelter. As a school, we collected 999 items during our *Stack the Sleigh* event.

As promised, the class that brought the most items per student will be rewarded with a pizza party from Student Council. This prize goes to the grade 4/5B class who collected an average of 18 items per student. Second place, and winner of milk and cookies, is the grade 6 class.



Our next spirit week is set for February 8 – 12, 2010. The events planned for this week will go to benefit our term 2 charity: the Ronald McDonald House.



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

Kindergarten

Skating at the Arena

- January 12, 2010 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm
- January 18, 2010 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm
- January 26, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- February 1, 2010 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Humanities

In January, the Kindergarten class will be learning the letters and letter sounds Uu, Ll, Ff and Ee. For students in the enrichment language program, reading booklets will be going home on January 18, 2010.

We will be focussing on listening skills and starting on the I Am Unique unit.



Sciences

During sciences, we are finishing our study of the five senses. We will then be moving on to the building unit.



In math, we are working with classifying, sorting and patterns.

Grade 1

A reminder that students who read regularly at home become better, more confident readers. Please remember to read nightly with your students and record your reading adventures in the reading log at the back of the student planners.

Skating at the Arena

- January 12, 2010 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm
- January 18, 2010 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm
- January 26, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- February 1, 2010 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Humanities

We will be writing a winter story in language. Long and short vowels are being studied in the enrichment and extended language classes.

The new spelling list will be going home on January 7, 2010 and the test will be on January 14.

In social we are working on rights and responsibilities.

Sciences

In the science program, we are finishing our study on the five senses. There will be a unit test on Friday, January 15, 2010. Our next unit will deal with building things



In math, we will continue with addition and subtraction.

Grade 2

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- January 19, 2010 11:15 am to 12:15 pm
- January 26, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- February 1, 2010 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Humanities

The two weeks of school that we had in December were such fun-filled, busy weeks, that we will be continuing some of our December activities in January. We will be writing legends and making bannock as well as making papier mache rattlesnakes. This will finish off our Humanities unit on Medicine Hat.

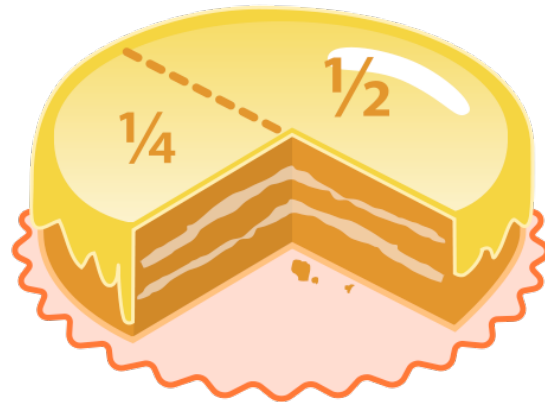


In Phonics this month, we will cover the topics of compounds and soft c and g words. These topics will also be studied in our spelling words. The "Home Reading Program" will resume beginning January 11. We are continuing our "In The Spotlight" at-home project and look forward to presentations by Gavin, Nilu, and Desirae.

Sciences

In Grade 2 science this month we will be finishing up our boat unit and starting a unit on magnets. Boats have started coming in for the at-home boat project and they are looking fabulous! Thanks for helping with this project.

In math we are finishing up fractions and then starting place value and double-digit addition.



Grade 3

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- January 19, 2010 11:15 am to 12:15 pm
- January 26, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- February 1, 2010 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Humanities

Our writing will focus specifically on very descriptive writing with more adverbs and adjectives for each noun and verb. Students will be choosing from a variety of sentence opener words for more complex sentence writing. For story writing, students will practice writing about setting. We will be composing a variety of pieces using different formats/types of reports, notes, short stories such as adventure, mystery, and those geared at specific age groups, myths, fables, short plays, character sketches, and poems.

Sciences

In Grade 3 science this month we will continue learning about sound. In math we will be continuing practicing addition and subtraction and then be starting a unit on measurement.

Grade 3 Humanities continued

In the coming month, we will be reviewing information from term 1. We are continuing our study about how specific factors such as weather and amenities affect quality of life in Canada, Peru, Ukraine, Tunisia, and India.

Students will be making a quality of life puzzle for 1) who we are, 2) ways that we belong, and 3) how we grow, learn, and change.

We will be discovering how a community's location and environment affect quality of life in the 5 countries and how people affect their environment. To develop skills, students will practise making notes on specific information. This will require them to figure out which kinds of information can be found from various sources of information

Mapping skills will continue to be developed. As a special treat, we will be doing some work that focuses on the Olympics.



Grade 4/5A

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- January 19, 2010 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
- January 28, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- February 2, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Humanities

Spelling units will now be integrated with the writing studies. Spelling lists will be given on Fridays and the group will be working collectively on writing during the month of January. Please be sure to help your student study for spelling tests on Fridays.

The 4A social group will be working on completing their study of Alberta's geographic regions. Our final region is the Boreal Forest Region.



The 5A social group will continue their study with the Arctic before moving onto their last region; the Cordillera. The large format maps will be a continuing project.

Sciences

The 4A students are finishing the unit on waste, and will be starting the next unit "Wheels and Levers" in the new year. Students in math 4A will be starting their study of measurement.



The 5A group will be finishing their study of weather and starting the unit on Electricity and Magnetism. The 5A group will also be looking at problem solving strategies with drawing, manipulatives and acting. Near the end of January, we will be starting measurement.

Grade 4/5B

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- January 19, 2010 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
- January 28, 2010 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- February 2, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Humanities

Our writing will focus specifically on very descriptive writing with more adverbs and adjectives for each noun and verb. Students will be choosing from a variety of sentence opener words for more complex sentence writing. For story writing, students will practice writing about setting. We will be composing a variety of pieces using different formats/types of reports, notes, short stories such as adventure, mystery, and those geared at specific age groups, myths, fables, short plays, character sketches, and poems.

In social studies, we will be focussing on how lives are shaped for people by landforms and by water regions.

(ex. low mountains, valleys, lowlands)

(ex. harbours, coves, inlets)

There will be an in-depth study of the Appalachian region, Atlantic Ocean waters and St. Lawrence River, other rivers, lakes, streams. The information about these areas will pertain to:

-Aboriginal People first here in specific areas such as the Appalachian and Great Lakes Physical Regions

-early exploration, fur trading, and past settlement in Appalachian and Great Lakes Physical Regions

-present day way of life in the Appalachian and Great Lakes Physical Regions with connections to the past

As a special treat, we will be doing some work that focuses on the Olympics.

Sciences

Students are finishing up a project on electricity. The next unit they will be working on is chemistry. Students learn about the properties and interactions of some safe-to-handle household liquids and solids. They test a variety of materials to see what happens when things are mixed together: what dissolves, what reacts and what remains unaffected.

In math, students will be working in the unit of measurement; area, perimeter, and volume. Students will also be looking at measuring tools, as they will be measuring liquids in science.



Grade 6A/B

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
- January 19, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm
- January 28, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- February 2, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Humanities

In January we will be continuing our work with the Write Traits program. We will focus on the area of Voice by learning how to listen and read for voice. Students will be able to identify voice in expository writing, match voice to purpose and audience, and lastly, improve revision skills to improve voice and share personalities.

In social we will also be continuing our study of Ancient Greece with a focus on Athens. We will be reviewing the gods, goddesses and mythology of the time, along with the geography, economics, war and defence and government of the era. In comparison, we will also consider what ideas that began in Ancient Greece are ones that we use still use today, i.e. law, medicine, government, etc.



Sciences

This month we will be finishing up the Flight unit. Students will be using the knowledge they have acquired about elevators, rudders, and ailerons to create gliders, paper planes, and helicopters that will not only stay in the air but will be able to hit a specific target.

In January students will be working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Students will also look at the fractions found in music.



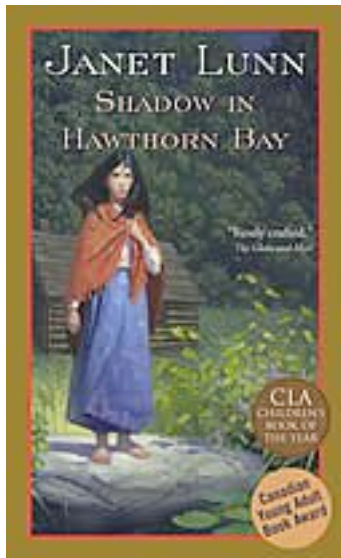
Grade 7/8A

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
- January 19, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm
- January 28, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- February 2, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Humanities

Language Arts: During January, the students will finish the novel The Shadow of Hawthorn Bay and complete a final project relating to the novel. The next unit is on biographies and autobiographies. This unit will help students prepare for the upcoming Heritage Fair.



Social Studies: This month the students will learn about the Proclamation Act, Quebec Act, and American Revolution. The students will also be choosing their topics for Heritage Fair and start to research their chosen projects.

Sciences

This month we will be finishing up our unit on structures. In the rest of this unit, students will look at the forces that act on structures, symmetry in structures, and the loads that structures need to support. Finally, they will look at the components and materials that build stable structures. Laboratory components will include building towers, stable structures and bridges.

Grade 7 Math - Students will be finishing their study of fractions by looking at adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numerals that don't have common denominators. As a culminating activity, we will study fractions found in music. The next unit after fractions will be an enrichment unit dealing with equations of forces and work from physics that corresponds to the subject matter in science.

Grade 8 Math - Students will be looking at rates, ratios and proportions. They will return to their study fractions with a series of assignments that deal with the fractions found in music. The next unit after fractions will be an enrichment unit dealing with equations of forces and work from physics that corresponds to the subject matter in science.

Grade 7/8B

Skating at the Arena

- January 15, 2010 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
- January 19, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm
- January 28, 2010 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- February 2, 2010 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

**Grade 7/8B Continued
Humanities**

In January we will be continuing our work with the Write Traits program. All of these aspects of writing take personal writing from flat to fantastic. We will learn how to create a personal voice, to match voice to purpose, to use voice in expository writing and to match voice with the audience. In social studies, we have begun our second case study; Japan. We will explore the effects of Japan's policies of isolation during the Edo Period (1603 – 1867). We will look at the influence of geography, why Japan isolated itself, the impact of social systems, development of communities, foreign influences, and popular culture from the era.

**Grade 7/8B
Continued
Sciences**

Students have started the unit on machines. We will be reviewing simple machines and using those in different experiments. In math, we are reviewing algebra.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL-WIDE DATES

January 14, 2010	Booster Juice hot lunch forms due
January 18, 2010	Booster Juice hot lunch day
January 22, 2010	Hot lunch forms due
January 27, 2010	Hot lunch day

Reminder for Skating

Skating for students starts in January. In order for students to safely be on the ice, they must have an approved helmet for skating. Bike helmets are NOT sufficient.



While we are able to share helmets, this limits the time that students are on the ice. It has come to our attention that some students also do not have skates. Again, sharing is an issue, but renting skates is an inexpensive way for students to either learn how to skate or enjoy developing their skills. Two places that rent skates are:

- Sports Connection - 403-529-6130: rents skates for \$8/day or \$15/week
- HSB Sports - 403-526-6904: rents skates for \$5/day or \$15/week

All skating times are booked for the Medicine Hat Arena which is within walking distance of the school. Should the temperatures be extreme, or the wind chill be high, then students will be bussed. However, students should plan to walk and be prepared with warm winter clothing: mittens or gloves, winter coat, toque, boots, etc. Students who are not dressed appropriately must remain at school as being dressed insufficiently is a safety hazard in extreme temperatures.

we engage



Your voice matters.

You are invited to play an important role in your child's education by Alberta Education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to improve the quality of education your child is receiving.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

Thank you for your participation.

Dave Hancock, Q.C.
Minister of Education

Your voice, sincere and confidential, is a priceless resource.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Steve Mitchell, Alberta Education
E: Steve.Mitchell@gov.ab.ca
T: (780) 422-2849
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return your
completed survey
in the enclosed,
pre-paid envelope by
February 20, 2009.

Alberta
Education

A true picture of our success.

Measuring the quality of your child's education

We want to know that our children are receiving a quality education in a great school. Grades are important but there's more to it.

A great school is caring and secure, allows parents to play a key role and helps every child to make the most of their talents and abilities. "It's all about each student's success."

While it's easy to agree on such goals, how do we measure our progress towards them?

The Accountability Pillar is an innovative and straightforward way of measuring our learning goals as schools, school authorities and as a provincial government.

School authorities receive a results report that is colour-coded and easy to read. At a glance, it points out successes and areas of concern from both a local and provincial perspective.

The results report shows which important measures have improved and which have declined. It allows everyone — parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province — to respond to challenges together.

The Accountability Pillar looks at:

- **Survey results** — every year between January and March we survey students, their parents and teachers to see how they perceive the quality of education they receive and take part in
- **Student learning indicators** such as dropout rates, high school completion rates, and the number of students eligible to receive Rutherford Scholarships
- **Student results** from Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams

Details about the Accountability Pillar and how to obtain results are available online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/accountability>

