

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

Tel: (403) 528-2983

Fax: (403) 528-3048

September 2009 Newsletter

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to another year full of exciting events! Our newsletter is issued monthly in an attempt to improve communications, provide details of upcoming events, report on passed events, and answer questions that parents may have. The newsletter is organized into specific sections:

- Front pages will contain school news of interest to all CAPE families
- Updates from our parent body can be found on page two in the School Council Corner along with the After School Alley and the Student Council
- The grade specific events (projects, field trips, tests, etc.) will follow general news
- At the end of the newsletter, readers may find a list of important school-wide dates and a section on frequently asked questions.

If there is something you would like to see included in the monthly newsletter, please let our office know. We welcome feedback.

IN THE SCHOOLBAG...

The beginning of the school year is busy with paper work and forms. Many of these forms are required by Alberta Education to keep files up-to-date. In the past you should have received a student information package complete with Wellness choices, milk programs, etc.) We kindly request you take the time to complete these and return them to the school.

Many forms, such as hot lunch forms, can also be found on our website at www.capeisgreat.org. Should you require a form or are missing a letter, please contact Mrs. Thompson in the office.

UPDATES and WELCOME to NEW STAFF

We are happy to welcome three new teaching assistants to our fold this fall. Mrs. Herter and Mrs. Kroft will be helping in Kindergarten, while Mr. DeBoer is assisting in grade 7B. Mrs. Gott has also returned to fill Miss Mingo's maternity leave.

Over the summer, our CAPE family has grown by two: Oliver Edey born to Mrs. Edey at the end of July and Karis Mingo born to Miss Mingo just over a week ago. We wish them all the best.

In only four months, we will also be welcoming Mrs. Lesko back from maternity leave.

CAPE SCHOOL OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The CAPE Board offers financial assistance to families who have an application received by our office no later than September 30, 2009. Even if you have had assistance before, or have applied in previous years, **you must re-apply each year**. Decisions regarding assistance are made normally by the end of October. Applying does not guarantee assistance. However, if you are in need and do not apply, there is no chance of receiving subsidy. Assistance may be granted anywhere from partial to full. If you have questions regarding financial assistance or require a form, please contact Mrs. Wolfe in the office.



SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

The CAPE School Council is a parent group that helps develop the school community. School Council has a number of roles. A few of these are:

- acts as an advisory committee to the administration of the school
- helps organize and distribute uniform orders as well as manage gently used uniform pieces
- organizes hot lunch events throughout the year

Last fall, our School Council's Society of Cooperating Parents planned and worked a casino that netted the Council over \$20 000. This money was used to purchase many things for our school such as a new laminator, phys. ed equipment, SMART Boards, and this year's school planners. This year, we have our second casino booked for February 8 & 9, 2009.

Working with School Council does not need to be a huge commitment. While some parents choose to attend the monthly meetings, others assist on special days or just single events. We value your input and welcome people who are willing and able to share their talents or ideas. If you have any questions or would like some more information about the CAPE School Council, please leave a message at the office and someone will contact you.

Please join us for the next School Council meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. We will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the CAPE School lab. See you there!

STUDENT COUNCIL COMMENCES

In September, we will be establishing our Student Council. Students in grades 6 – 8 may run for executive positions including:

- ~ president
- ~ vice-president
- ~ secretary – treasurer
- ~ activities coordinator
- ~ communications coordinator

An interest meeting was held on Friday, September 4, 2009. Students were informed that posters must be approved and signed for each candidate by Mrs. Gordon. There is also a limit of 10 per student (8 ½ x 11 inch paper). These posters will be put up by Mrs. Thompson to ensure coverage is fair for all candidates.

Speeches and voting will take place on Monday, September 14, 2009. Get active, be involved and run for student council! Throughout the year, council meetings will be held at either lunch time or during daily p.e.

AFTER SCHOOL ALLEY

In each monthly newsletter, we will feature news about our After School Program. We are excited to announce that we are working on becoming accredited. This means improvement in quality of care, nutrition program, guests and possible field trips. Miss Bosch and Miss Ereth are the 2 main care-givers for after school care.

We now have a number of bulletin boards that have After School Care information posted. The main board outside the gym is the parent board and contains items such as license information, reports, snack lists, and activity plans.

Inside the gym are two student boards. These boards contain other items specific to the children in the program; program schedule, rules, universal precautions, 1-2-3 Magic spotlight, snacks and activities. As we get pictures of students throughout the year, these will also be posted.

Thank you to all the families who have already registered for after school care and completed the activity surveys. If you are in need of subsidy for after school care, please see Mrs. Gordon or one of the care-givers for information.

PARENTS & TRANSPORTATION

Since CAPE does not offer transportation to and from school for its students, CAPE School applies for Transportation Funding from Alberta Education on behalf of parents. Only parents of students Alberta Education deems eligible according to the September 30, 2009 legal address are eligible to receive transportation funding.

This government funding can only be applied for by the school after a signed contract is received by parents. Contracts will be given to parents in the coming weeks and must be returned no later than September 30, 2009. Without a signed contract, parents will NOT receive funds. Any transportation funds received by CAPE School from Alberta Education on behalf of parents (as per the contract), less any funds withheld (as per contract) are transferred back to parents at the end of August, the end of the academic and fiscal year. For example, funds for the 2009 – 2010 year will be forwarded to parents at the end of August 2010.



CONTACT US

The main contact numbers for the school are found on the first page of our newsletter. Each staff member may also be reached via email. A staff member's email address is constructed of the person's first initial and surname (all lowercase, no spaces) with the tag @capeisgreat.org. For example, the email for the principal, Jeney Gordon, is jgordon@capeisgreat.org.

Please feel free to visit the CAPE website at www.capeisgreat.org for updates to staffing and programs. Links to staff, the Superintendent, and the Board can also be found on the website.

Homework is posted on the website regularly. We also update our site with news and pictures as information is available.

CARING for CHARITIES

Each year, CAPE selects 3 charities to support; one per term. This year our charities are:

Term 1:

Medicine Hat Food Bank

Term 2:

Ronald McDonald House

Term 3:

Canadian Cancer Society and
Kids for Cancer

Various events will be planned in support of these organizations. As we earn funds, we will keep you posted on our progress.

Terry Fox Run

For students interested in the Terry Fox run to take place on Sunday, September 13, 2009, they may pick up pledge sheets at our school office. As the school will NOT be collecting these, students may forward their pledge forms to the Terry Fox Foundation.

ALLERGY AWARE

Please be aware that a number of our students are allergic to nuts and seafood. In consideration of their safety, we request that parents refrain from sending food items with these ingredients. Any food items that may provide a threat will be sent home. As available, items may be substituted. If you have questions about specific allergies, please contact the office.

Kindergarten

As our little ones are growing quickly, we are finding they have large appetites. While the school does have an afternoon nutrition program with a snack supplied, students are indicating they need more snacks throughout the day. Please be sure to send extra snacks to fuel our eager learners!

A reminder to parents that black shoes are part of the school uniform. Please make sure your student has proper footwear.

Humanities

Every week, students will be working with a new letter. The letters of study this month are Ss, Aa, Tt, and Ii. In the all about me unit, we will look at rules and safety, feelings and behaviour, and body parts.



Sciences

We are currently working on a colour unit where students will recognize colour words and start mixing colours.



Grade 1

A reminder to parents to sign the reading log at the back of the planner EACH NIGHT the student reads (either with an adult or to an adult). As a class, we need to collect 250 entries to win a reading party. A reading party can be earned each month, only if we have parents reading with their students and signing the planners.

As there is no school-supplied nutrition program for grade 1, parents are reminded to send extra snacks for recesses.

Humanities

This month, students will be doing alphabet review, both letters and sounds. We will be working on printing the alphabet. In our All About Me Unit, we are learning about rules, safety, physical characteristics, and nutrition. The first spelling test is set to take place on September 17, 2009. Lists will be sent home in the planners.

Sciences

We are currently working on a colour unit where students will recognize colour words and start mixing colours.



Grade 2

Good work, grade 2, on making our new student feel welcome in our class.

Humanities

We are starting our mapping unit which will be integrated into language arts. Weekly spelling lists will be sent on Fridays with the test the following Friday.

Choral reading poems about mapping and seasonal poems will be enjoyed in language.



Sciences

We are exploring liquids in sciences. We will be experimenting with different liquids; appearance, flow, mixing, effects of temperature change.



Grade 3

Great work on remembering to return your planners each day.

Commendations also go to the grade 3 class for using wonderful manners regularly. Thank you for remembering to wash hands and clean up after yourselves.

Humanities

We have been working on creative writing in language. Weekly spelling has begun. Routinely, spelling lists go home Thursdays with the test to be given the following Thursday. In social studies, we are starting with mapping in preparation for our Canada in the World unit.



Sciences

We have started our study of rocks in grade 3 sciences. Classification of rocks, formation, and testing on rocks will be covered. Between September 8, 2009, and September 11, 2009, we will be making stone soup. Students are asked to bring a vegetable to contribute to the soup pot.



Grade 4/5A

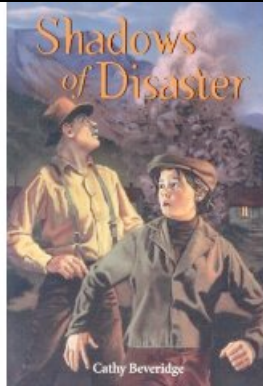
A classroom reward system has been set up for students to earn individual and group rewards. Students may earn points by handing in assignments on time.

Humanities

From September 8 – 12, students will be working on Wellness. The following week, the regularly scheduled activities will begin including literature circle, spelling, and novel study. Our first novel study is *Shadows of Disaster* by Cathy Beveridge.

Sciences

Please refer to page 8 in the student planner about the school homework policy. Grades 4-6 must expect at least 1 homework assignment per night. Students will be given a short math assignment on Fridays to be handed in on Monday. These assignments will relate to the concepts that have been discussed over the week and it is encouraged that parents work



with their student(s) on this math. Planners also need to be signed nightly by parents and returned as they will be checked daily. The 4A science class is starting to learn about waste and recycling. The grade 5A science class will be starting a study on weather.

Grade 4/5B

Good job on remembering to turn in your planners every day!

Humanities

We have been working on a mystery theme for creative writing in language. Weekly spelling has begun. Routinely, spelling lists go home Thursdays with the test to be given the following Thursday. We are sharing an oral novel: Blue Willow every day with daily associated work. Students also have a self-chosen novel. The expected reading pace for this individual project is 2 chapters per week. There will also be activities for these novels. In social studies, we are starting with mapping in preparation for our Canadian Geography unit.

Sciences

Please refer to page 8 in the student planner about the school homework policy. Grades 4-6 must expect at least 1 homework assignment per night. Students will be given a short math assignment on Fridays to be handed in on Monday. These assignments will relate to the concepts that have been discussed over the week and it is encouraged that parents work with their student(s) on this math. Planners also need to be signed nightly by parents and returned as they will be checked daily. The science unit we are starting with is Electricity and Magnetism.

Grade 6A/B

The grade 6's have had an enthusiastic start to the year. Students have created "a bit about me" bags and will be sharing the contents of those bags with their classmates for the next three weeks, so all items should be returned home by September 25.

A quick thank you for the speed at which all the IPP forms and most of the general information forms were returned to school.

The September Scholastic book order forms need to be returned no later than September 25, 2009. Thank you in advance for having your orders in on time.

A reminder to students to put their names in uniform pieces. Only 1/11 students could have their pieces identified this week.

Humanities

The first unit of study will be a quick review of mapping skills and geography. In September, there will be a focus on reading comprehension through short stories. Currently, we are working through a brief sentence fluency program that includes awareness of parts of speech.

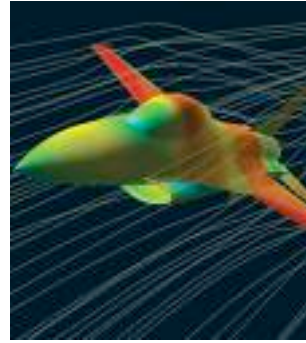
Sciences

In science, we have started our Air and Aerodynamics unit. Students have begun learning about the properties of air as well as how to write a proper lab report and science journal. In math, we are reviewing and working on place value to the billions and trillions. This is a short unit, so they will be having a quiz soon. After this we begin

Verbs
NOUNS
PREPOSITIONS
Conjunctions
Pronouns
Interjections
ADVERBS
ADJECTIVES

This program is used to develop sentence variety and word fluency within a sentence.

reviewing and working on multiplication and division.



Grade 7/8A

Congratulations 7/8A on being the class with the most students to have names on clothing items!

The students of the 7/8A class will be creating personal portfolios. The portfolios will contain the student's best pieces and the student's evaluation/reflection identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the chosen pieces. The portfolio may also contain one or more works-in-progress that illustrate the process involved in the creation of a project.

Humanities

We are looking for the donation of scrapbooking items (paper, stickers, ribbon, etc.) that the class could use in the creation and enhancement of their portfolios.



Sciences



The grade 7A's are working on the heat and temperature unit in science, They were excited to take part in their first lab this past week. During this, they dissected electrical devices that produce, use, and maintain heat in an attempt to get a better idea of how these machines work. Some students will begin enrichment studies with thermal energy in the next couple weeks.

In math, the 7As are currently working with order of operations and decimals. The 8As are working with fractions, percents and decimals.

Grade 7/8B

Good job, 7/8B on getting planners to and from school!

Humanities

The first unit of study will be a quick review of mapping skills and geography. We have started work on the Write Traits with focusing on ideas.



Instead of having a spelling program, we will be working on a vocabulary-development program where students are expected to know what words mean and how to use them in context.

Sciences

For the geometry unit, we are currently focusing on shape, space and line. This ties in well with the Light and Optics unit. Students will need to have materials for their pinhole cameras by September 12, 2009. Information will be sent home with students by September 10, 2009.



ANNUAL MEET the STAFF INVITATION

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009, all CAPE families are invited to attend the annual Meet the Staff night. This evenings will start with a potluck dinner at 6:00 in the gym. A suggested menu list follows:

Student surnames A - B	Salad
Student surnames C - E	Buns / Breads
Student surnames F - H	Vegetables / Fruit
Student surnames I - P	Main dish
Student surnames R - T	Dessert
Student surnames U - Z	Beverages (water bottles, juice boxes, etc.)

At 6:45, there will be an informational presentation introducing the staff, giving updates on facilities and covering the details of programming (integration and individualization). Information about School Council and the After School Program will also be presented. We look forward to seeing you there!



IMPORTANT SCHOOL-WIDE DATES

Please mark the following dates on your calendar.

Tuesday, September 8, 2009	7:00 p.m. School Council meeting
Monday, September 14, 2009	2:30 Magazine Fundraiser assembly
Monday, September 21, 2009	School Closed ~ PD Day
Wednesday, September 23, 2009	Taco in a bag hot lunch
Monday, September 28, 2009	School Pictures
Tuesday, September 29, 2009	Meet the Staff Night 6:00 Potluck 6:45 Presentation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an IPP?

An IPP is an individualized program plan written for specific students to address individual program needs. By Alberta Education's definition:

An IPP is a written commitment of intent by the learning team to ensure appropriate planning for students with special education needs. The team may consist of the classroom teacher(s), parents, students (where appropriate), other school and jurisdiction staff aware of the students' needs, and others as required. The learning team could also include principals, special education coordinators, teacher assistants and health-related professionals such as speech and language pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and educational specialists. These needs may be academic, social, or personal in nature. They may include physical goals, academic goals, behavioural goals, or skills which need to be developed. **It is a working document and a record of student progress that contributes to a common understanding and coordination of efforts.**

In September, CAPE sends home input sheets to all parents of students in Kindergarten through grade 3, all I.S.E.E. students and any other identified students. Information from the parents and the student are included in the plan. CAPE IPPs are mailed to parents in late September / early October, and are updated with each report card.