

Brentwood Elementary School Newsletter

Nov. 3, 2009

- ◆ Parent-teacher Interviews
- ◆ Book Fair
- ◆ Remembrance Day Ceremony
- ◆ Heart Healthy Hikers
- ◆ Operation Christmas Child & Much More

Dear Parents,

I have to begin my letter by extending the sincere thanks of our staff and students to all of the parents who have worked so hard to plan, fund-raise and construct our new playground for us. It has been a huge undertaking and I congratulate all of you on a job well done. This structure is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of our Brentwood School parents. To quote one of our students- "you guys rock!"

We continue to stringently follow GHSD guidelines for illness control and reporting. At the time of this newsletter our absentee rate is only slightly higher than that of last year. Thank you to parents for keeping your sick kids home until they are completely recovered. We will continue to keep parents informed about the flu status of our school.

Once again our newsletter comes to you with important dates for your calendar. Please try to find the time to attend a parent/teacher interview for your child. When you show an interest in what your child is doing at school, you also show them that education is an important aspect of their lives. You are part of the educational team and a parent/teacher interview is a great time to get information about your child's progress and share concerns.

With the approach of Remembrance Day and Christmas, I would like to remind parents that we try very hard to respect the beliefs of all of our students in the context of a public school. Please feel free to discuss with your child's teachers what kind of activities may pose a problem for your child. We make every attempt to provide alternate activities or work spaces for the short periods of time these activities may be taking place. It is our intention to support tolerance and understanding and to celebrate our diversity.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our parents who have worked so hard to help us meet our deadlines and manage the paper blizzard that comes with school start-up. We appreciate your help!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurie Huntley, Principal

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If parents/students are considering teacher gifts for Christmas, our staff suggests a couple of alternatives. Perhaps you might consider donating a book to the library in your teacher's name instead. Another option would be a donation to the Friends of Brentwood Elementary School Society who continue to fundraise for projects to enhance our school. Gifts such as these benefit many people in our school.

REPORT CARDS GO HOME on Nov. 16th

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Will be held on :

Wed. Nov. 18 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

and

Thurs. Nov.19 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Mrs. Humphry and Miss Stoffelen are both here part-time and will be available for interviews on:

Mrs. Humphry **Wednesday only**
(Early Lit) Miss Stoffelen **Thursday only**

(LAC) interviews with Mrs. Motley – will be **Wednesday, Nov 18th** and (Resource Room)

interviews with Mrs. Motley and Mrs. Yaskiw will be **Thursday, Nov 19th**.

Mrs. Funk's Kindergarten **Nov 18th 4:00 to 8:00 pm.**

Interviews will be scheduled every ten minutes and we ask your cooperation and consideration in restricting your interview to the time allotted. If you require a longer interview, please arrange with the teacher for another time.

TO ARRANGE YOUR INTERVIEW TIME

(K-6), please phone Mrs. Muenchrath
at school office: 934 – 5013 on:

Tuesday -- November 17th from 9 - 3 pm

PLEASE – do not call prior to 9:00 a.m. to book an interview. We must keep our phone lines open for absentee calls.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Brentwood School Library is holding a Book Fair which will be set up in the library. Our Scholastic Book Fair gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected, quality books. Plus, our Book Fair serves as a fundraiser for our school library.

The Book Fair runs Nov. 17, 18, 19, 20 and will be open to students from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We will also be open during parent teacher interview times for parents and students accompanied by an adult. Please plan to attend and you can enter to win \$25 worth of books for your family and \$25 worth of books for your child's classroom.

BRENTWOOD DVD MEMORY by Baragar Productions - you may preview Brentwood's first DVD of 2009, in our foyer during parent teacher interviews Nov. 18 from 5-8 PM and Nov. 19 from 4-7 PM.

In the past few years, many parents have taken advantage of the opportunity to purchase these DVDs. The first one will include students' photos as well as the Christmas Concert/Remembrance Day Ceremony as well as a variety of activities.

Order Forms for the DVD will be available at parent teacher interviews and at the Dec. 17th concert. Order forms will also be sent home with the students later in the year.

LEARNING RESOURCES FEE

These fees were due Oct. 16 and reminder letters have been sent home.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Remembrance Day will be observed on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 9:30 am in the Brentwood gym and **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**. This Remembrance Day Program will be videoed for our Memories DVD.

The program will be led by the Grade six choir students and will feature music of all three choirs, the Primary Choir (all grade ones), the Junior Choir (grade 2 and 3 students who joined), and the Senior Choir (Gr. 4, 5, 6 students who joined). The grade six students will be performing on guitar. We will have

George Freeman, a veteran Canadian peacekeeper, representing the Strathmore Legion as a guest for the ceremony.

The choir students have been working very hard to present a thoughtful and reflective presentation. We would encourage all of our students to wear a poppy which will be available at school for a coin donation. This will be the first performance of the year by our choir students. ***Everyone is welcome to attend!***

NOV. 11 REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY at the CIVIC CENTRE 10:00 AM

Thank you to Ciara Ennis who will be laying a wreath on behalf of Brentwood Elementary School at this ceremony. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

HEART HEALTHY HIKERS

A very special thank you to the staff at G&S Airport Conveyor/Laser Fab for making the amazing Olympic Rings for our HHH program this year. For the third year, Brentwood Elementary School will continue our "Heart Healthy Hikers" Program to promote healthy, active lifestyles for our students and staff by encouraging them to walk and do physical activity. Our first assembly introduced students to their new "houses" and leaders. This year the colors of the houses are the same as the Olympic colors and the houses have been changed to continents. We have green-North America, black-Asia, yellow-Africa, red-Europe/Australia and blue-South America. The students made Olympic flags to bring to the first assembly to kick off the walk to their first destination, Vancouver, the site of the 2010 Olympics. That goal was easily met and the students celebrated walking 1020 KM to Vancouver during a follow up assembly on October 8th. Once again, students are collecting foot tokens on chains as they complete walking cards. The houses have an ambitious goal of trying to walk a total of 15 000 KM this year. The Olympic theme will provide for new ideas and events for the year's activities.

Our sincere thanks go out to all of our staff for their assistance with the program and to our teacher leaders; Jackie Lozeron, Carrie Miller, and Diane Philie.

Our Amazing Volunteers

We say a huge thank you to our various volunteers this past month. A special thank you to the Harvest Carnival Committee; Angela Berger, Jody Brown, Karen Gilbert, Tracy Barbas, Tammy Shpyth and Tanya Molnar as well as all the other parents who made this event possible and Mr. Mertz, Mrs. Sutherland and the grade 9 students at Crowther Memorial Junior High who spent the afternoon assisting our students. The cotton candy was a huge success. Also thank you to The Friends of Brentwood Society and Lori Dumonceau for the amazing job they did in getting the students of Brentwood school and the community a wonderful new playground. All the students have been enjoying it immensely.

CHEQUE POLICY

As a matter of school policy we do not accept post dated cheques. If we receive a cheque that is NSF the charges assessed to our school bank account will be passed on to the person who has written the cheque. A cash payment will be required and future payments will need to be in cash also.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ***What one kid can do to make a difference*** ***in the world***

Information was sent home in Oct. with students. Again this year you have the opportunity to participate in this program of sending boxes to children in underprivileged countries.

If you wish to do a box (they are encouraging the use of plastic reusable boxes with lids) please bring it in by **9:00 am Nov. 10**. We hope to have the majority of the boxes at school for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Nov. 10 at 9:30 am. Boxes can still be brought in until Nov. 19 when the Ambulance Crew will deliver them to the headquarters in Calgary.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

A commendation to our parents! We have had a great start to the year with the majority of our students consistently arriving for school on time. If **YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD WILL BE LATE, OR ABSENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL.**

EDUCATION PLAN AND RESULTS REPORT

Copies of our Three Year Education Plan and our Annual Results Report are available at the school office and on our website.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

We have received the results of last year's provincial achievement tests. We are extremely pleased with our results and will be analyzing them more fully in the weeks to come. Way to go everyone!!! Individual student reports for students who were in grade three or six last year will be coming home with their report cards. If you would like your child's results sooner you can drop by our school office (or Crowther Junior High's office) to pick them up.

SAFETY PATROL

Please watch for an upcoming newsletter from the Safety Patrol Supervisors. Remember to park one full car length or five meters away from the crosswalk at all times.

We ask that parents stay clear of our bus loop. **DO NOT** turn around in the bus loop or park in the bus loop while picking up students.

EDUCATIONAL MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES

The delivery of curriculum is supported by the use of a variety of instructional materials. These materials help teachers address the different learning styles of students and add interest and variety to their programs. This would include books, kits, videos, films, information on compact disc, and listening center tapes. Teachers choose these approved materials from the Golden Hills Division's Instructional Media Center or the South Central Alberta Resource Center. Any materials that are not obtained from an authorized source must be given prior approval by our school's administration.

Beautification Project

Volunteers to help paint the walls inside the school are still needed. If you can help on any or all of the following dates, please contact Laurie Motley at the school at 934-5013. The next dates we will be painting are Saturday, December 19th; Sunday, December 20th and Monday December 21st from 9:00 in the morning until about 3:00 in the afternoon depending on our number of volunteers. Thank you to all those who have done such a great job so far.

SNACK

Each morning every class has a snack break prior to (or after) the recess at 10:50 a.m. One small nutritional item is usually adequate for snack as lunch break for gr. K-6 students is at 12:25 p.m. We have a long morning and we encourage all students to bring a nutritional snack (fruit and/or veggies preferred) to keep up their energy.

HOT LUNCH ORDERS

We need your cooperation! Please do not contact the school or the hot lunch organizers requesting that LATE orders be accepted. Please do not put us in this position by asking for an exception. Families are given about a week to return the order. It is also important that you **keep the bottom portion** for your calendar so that you know the date of the lunch and the item(s) you ordered. We appreciate having Mrs. Grace Barrie and her dedicated parent volunteers who completely run this program.

CONCERT DRESS FOR BRENTWOOD'S REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY**Primary Choir Dress Requirement for Performances - all grade one students**

Members of the Brentwood School Primary Choir should be wearing a white top, a **dark** skirt (girls) or pants (boys), and dark shoes. Girls should have on white tights. The school will provide the red tie.

JUNIOR (Gr. 2 & 3) CHOIR - Dress Requirement for Performance

Members of the Brentwood School Junior Choir should be wearing a dark blue skirt (girls) or pants (boys), dark shoes, and a white top, preferably long sleeved. Girls should have on white nylons or tights - not knee socks. The boys white top needs to be a white collared shirt as the boys will be wearing a bolo tie provided by the school. The girls will be provided with scarves.

SENIOR (Gr. 4, 5, 6) CHOIR Dress Requirement for Performances

Members of the Brentwood School Senior Choir should be wearing a BLACK skirt (girls) or BLACK pants (boys) dark shoes, a white top (boys and girls). Girls should have on BLACK nylons or tights - not knee socks. The boys white top needs to be a white collared shirt as the boys will be wearing a red tie provided by the school. The girls will be provided with scarves.

CHOIR SKIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REASONABLE RENTAL

Over the years a number of dark blue and very few black choir skirts have been accumulated at the school. Currently we have a \$5.00 rental fee required when renting one of the skirts for use by your child for the year. When it is returned in good condition, \$2.50 is refunded. We would like to continue this policy again this year. If you are in need of a skirt, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter. Skirts will be assigned on a first come first served basis, based on size availability. If a skirt is not available for your child, your \$5.00 rental fee will be returned. **ORDER BY – Nov. 05** or immediately. **IF YOU HAVE ANY Dark Blue or Black SKIRTS/PANTS THAT YOU DO NOT NEED, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING THEM TO THE SCHOOL.**

A LITTLE REQUEST re: differing last names

Many of our students have last names that are different from the last name of one or both parents and this can cause some confusion when doing bank deposits. It would help very much if you could note on **cheques or any other forms** (or when you phone the school or leave a message) whether the student's name differs from the name of the parent or guardian.

Brentwood School Hoodies and T-Shirts

We have limited sizes of Brentwood School hoodies and t-shirts for sale. They would make terrific Christmas presents.

Hoodies are Adult \$36.00 – Youth \$30.00

T-shirts are Adult \$16.00 – Youth \$12.00

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items see the school office for sizes available.

Needed Items

Mrs. Last's Kindergarten is in need of child size rocking chairs for the reading corner. Speak to her if you can help her with this.



Skating and Helmets

With the skating season soon upon us we just wanted to remind parents that if students are to be covered by the school division insurance policy all students must wear CSA approved helmets. BIKE helmets do NOT qualify as they are not intended for skating. Students without helmets cannot go on the ice. Donations of helmets are welcome.

Special thanks to the parent volunteers who have organized all of our skating equipment and to Perry and Cindy Banadyga of Home Hardware for sharpening all our skates for free!

***Literacy Tip for the Month of November***

Be a reading role model for your children. Show your child that reading is enjoyable, by reading books yourself. You can do this by reading your favorite novel on your own or by reading their favorite book to them. Remember, children learn by example.

Early Literacy Team



Every Wednesday School Day Program at M&M Meat Shops

Attention Parents! www.mandmmeatshops.com

Shop any Wednesday and request that 5% of your total purchase be donated to Brentwood Elementary School. Each month, the proceeds will go into the Brentwood School playground fund.

---DUE NOW Skirt Response (dark blue OR black) - by Nov. 5
- if writing a cheque please make it payable to Brentwood Elementary School

_____ in grade 2 3 4 5 6 A B
 Name of Student

___ I am returning a choir skirt for a \$2.50 refund. The skirt is attached and I do not require a choir skirt this year.

___ I am returning a choir skirt for a \$2.50 credit and I will require a new skirt for the rental fee of \$5.00 for this year. The net cost to me will be \$2.50 (skirt and money attached).

___ I will require a choir skirt for this year -- \$5.00 is attached

These will be processed in the order received by Mrs. Steeves as there will likely not be enough skirts to fill the demand.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Brentwood Elementary School Nov. 2009

Nov. 02	Poppies available at office for coin donation	
Nov. 03	Picture Re-takes class pictures for grade 1, 2 and Safety Patrols	
Nov. 03	Hot Lunch	
Nov. 04	Milk is Due 9 am	
Nov. 05	Hot Lunch	
Nov. 06	Lieu Day for Parent Teacher Interviews	No School
Nov. 10	Operation Christmas Child boxes DUE 9 am	
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Ceremony/Debut of Choirs 9:30 am – ALL WELCOME	
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	No School
Nov. 12	Hot Lunch	

Nov. 16	Report Cards go home	3:15 pm
Nov. 17	Phone Mrs. Muenchrath to Book your parent/teacher interviews	9 – 3 pm
Nov. 18	Parent/Teacher Interviews 5-8 pm	
Nov. 19	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7	
Nov. 19	Hot Lunch: burger and apple turnover	
Nov. 19	Christmas Shoe boxes being picked up by Strathmore Ambulance	
Nov. 20	Kindergarten for Tuesday/Thursday class	
Nov. 16-19	Book Fair in the Library during Class Time and Interview Times.	

Nov. 26	Hot Lunch	
Dec. 01	Hot Lunch **TUESDAY**	
Dec. 02	Milk is Due 9 am	
Dec. 03	Hot Lunch	
Dec. 04	Flex Friday	No School
Dec. 10	Hot Lunch -- LAST HOT LUNCH until Jan.7	
Dec. 12	Friday Closure	No School
Dec. 17	Christmas Concert – ALL WELCOME	1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
December 19 to Jan. 03 Inclusive Christmas Break		
Jan. 04	Classes Resume/Milk Order Home & DUE Jan. 07	
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28	Hot Lunch	
Jan. 08	Friday Closure	No School
Jan. 29	Staff Professional Development Day	No School
Feb. 4, 11, 25	Hot Lunch	
Feb. 15	Family Day Holiday	No School
Feb. 18,19	Teachers' Convention	No School
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25	Hot Lunch	
March 5	Friday Closure	No School
March 26	Lieu Day off for Interviews	No School

***** April 2to 11 Inclusive Spring Break *****