

Brentwood Elementary School

Newsletter February 8, 2010

www.brentwood-school.com

Information, news, and photos will be updated frequently so visit our site often.

Dear Parents,

Global awareness and citizenship are key learning outcomes in the social studies curriculums for every grade and we are always looking for ways to raise our students' consciousness about the world we live in. The recent earthquake in Haiti gave us the opportunity to turn our learning into action. I can't tell you how proud I am to announce that with the help of family and friends, our students were able to raise over \$3000 in our "Coins for Kids" fundraiser. At the start of our drive, the Cheadle Lions Club offered to match the funds we raised to a maximum of \$1000, so together with their donation, our total will exceed \$4000. In keeping with our fundraising policy, we set a goal to support children in need. As indicated in the letter we sent home recently the money we raised will go to "God's Littlest Angels" orphanage in Haiti. Thank you so much to all of our families, your workplaces, and the community in general for helping our kids help others!

The partnership between home and school is an essential component as we prepare young people for their places in society. I would like to encourage you, as parents, to take an active role in this partnership. Ask your children about what they are learning at school. Help them to link their learning to what is happening at home and in the community. Give them an understanding of how what they are doing right now will have an impact on their future. Children need to know that the work they are doing is important and worthwhile. With support at home and in school, hopefully our students will develop a sense of ownership in their learning that will last a lifetime. Communication between home and the school is a key factor in a child's success. Although our next formal report cards do not go out until March, teachers take time in January and February to informally assess student achievement and they will contact the parents of any student whose progress they are concerned about. Do not hesitate to call the school if you have any questions or concerns as we begin the second half of our school year.

Sincerely,

Laurie Huntley – Principal

- Kindergarten Registration Feb 23 & 24
- Report Cards/Parent Teacher interviews
- Choir Announcements
- Hike-a-thon

Have Your Kittens Lost Their Mittens?

This is the time of year that mitts, gloves, toques, scarves, boots, and socks tend to go missing. We need your help. Many students have identical clothing items so please put your child's name in their belongings so that when they are found they can be returned to them. Please check our overflowing Lost and Found cupboards for missing items as soon as you miss them. Please check your child's backpack to make sure that they have only their belongings and not someone else's. We discourage bringing toys to school and do not allow students to "make trades" as this also leads to problems. With more than three hundred students we can use all the help we can get! Thanks for your support!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Feb. 23 & 24th 9 am–3:00 pm

Registrations will be taken at the Brentwood School Office.

If you can't come in person, you are welcome to have a friend pick up a kindergarten registration form and return it to Brentwood.

In order to do staffing projections it is important that you register. Please pass the registration information on to anyone you know who does not receive the Brentwood Newsletter. The Golden Hills School Division's policy requiring students to be five years old by December 31 has been changed. Students who are five years old by the end of February can now be registered in our kindergarten programs.

Kindergarten registration requirements:

- show the child's **Birth Certificate** or provide a photocopy
- bring the child's Alberta Health Care Number
- the child must be 5 years old on or before Feb 28, 2011.

Resource fees for the next school year have not yet been set by the School Board. We will be asking kindergarten parents to pay the same amount as this school year (\$60.00 plus a \$10.00 field trip fee) at the time of registration. If there is a change to the fees we will invoice kindergarten parents for the difference in September. Payment can be made in cash or cheque payable to Brentwood Elementary School.

SCHOOL RESOURCE FEES

School fees were due on Oct. 16 and there are still some outstanding payments. Unpaid fees must be forwarded to Division Office and will be sent to a collection agency. Please contact the school office to make payment arrangements if you have not already done so.

BRENTWOOD'S HEART HEALTHY HIKERS

Congratulations to all of our eager walkers. Our school has already completed 4430 KM's so far this year. Leading the pack, with 3 gold medals is South America (Awesome Olympians), with 1010 KM. North America (Cardio Creatures) is hot on their trail with 1000 KM.

OLYMPIC WINTER WALK DAY/ HIKE-A- THON FUNDRAISER

Brentwood students will combine a "torch" walk with Strathmore's "winter walk day" on Feb. 10th. That day students will be kicking off the annual hike-a-thon with an assembly. This will coincide with the town's Winter Walk Day. Thousands of Albertans will participate by walking on the same day.

Details of our annual school fundraiser will be sent home on February 11th. Students are always excited by the incentive rewards as they achieve various levels throughout the fundraising event.

Tips to keep warm and dry when walking:

Dress in breathable layers to keep warm and avoid overheating. Wear a hat. Most of your body heat is lost through your head.

Wear warm, waterproof boots, roomy enough to allow wiggle room for your toes.

FAMILY DAY CHALLENGE

Once again we are inviting our families to participate in our Family Day Challenge. Show us how your family participated in a fun, physical activity to enter our draw by

Feb. 27. You can win a "***POOL PARTY***" at the Family Center for your family and friends.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We very much need volunteers once a month to cover classroom lunch supervision for the staff duty free lunch. **We can always use help with the weekly hot lunch even if you can help only occasionally. This program can NOT operate with only one or two people for the delivery of the lunches.** Thank you to our dedicated regular group of helpers. Contact Mrs. Muenchrath at school if you can help out.

SKATING

In order to be covered by insurance the following guidelines are required:

~ All students must wear a **CSA approved HOCKEY helmet** (bike helmets are not allowed).

~ All students must wear gloves when skating.

~ Skaters should all be skating in the same direction and if necessary skilled skaters should be designated to different sections of the ice than less skilled skaters.

~ Teachers will do a **safety talk** prior to each skating session

Brentwood is in the process of purchasing some approved helmets. **Prior to the day of the skating** please let the teacher know if your child needs to borrow skates or a helmet to allow time for fitting. We welcome any donations of good used helmets or skates.

BOOKS FOR BABIES SALE

Once again, as a community service project, we will be collecting used children's books for our annual sale. Books can be brought to the library at any time. More information as to dates and times of the sale will be in the next newsletter.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Jan. 29, our teachers participated in an excellent day of Professional Development activities. These days are always very valued as a time for further learning and planning.

PRO ACTIVE CHECKS for LICE

For the second time this year, as a pro-active measure, every student in the school had their head checked for lice. There were NO cases of head lice detected. WOW! Parents are reminded to check heads regularly especially if there is any itching. Thank you to Mrs. Christine Brassard and her volunteers for their time.

ABSENT STUDENTS

The school office hours are 8 am to 4 pm. During other times, the answering machine is on. Please phone or leave a message on the machine to report a student absence.

SAFETY PATROL NEWS

Attention Drivers:

You may have noticed an increase in the police presence at our intersection. The RCMP have asked us to inform you that drivers will be charged for breaking the law. Some of the problems we are currently encountering are: double parking to let children out on the road, adults jaywalking and encouraging their children to do the same, and drivers failing to stop at the stop signs or ignoring our patrollers as they hold up their stop signs. We are asking everybody to be more diligent and

obey the traffic rules for the safety of our children and to avoid tickets.

STAFF PARKING LOT

Due to our limited space the staff parking lot is for Brentwood Staff only. As an essential safety measure, do not drop off or pick up students in the staff parking lot. Volunteers are asked to park on the street.

CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALGARY KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Brentwood School has had a long tradition of performing at the Calgary Kiwanis and Drumheller and District Music Festivals. We have been chosen twice to sing in the Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival Grand Concert and have sung a number of times in the Final Concert of the Drumheller and District Music Festival. As well, we have represented both Festivals at the Provincial Choral Finals in Camrose and Edmonton. Most recently, the Senior Choir placed second last year at Provincials representing Drumheller. We are very proud of the results we have attained and it is always a memorable experience for the students. These Festivals provide an

opportunity for our students to share their music and get feedback from a professional adjudicator.

Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival – Jubilee Auditorium Main Theatre

March 3 Primary Choir - **all** gr.1 students - will perform at 10:30am leaving school at 9:00.

March 3 Junior Choir (gr.2-3) - will perform at 1:15pm leaving school at 11:30 am.

Parents of Junior Choir students will have to arrange transportation after school as the students will not be back at the school in time to ride the bus.

March 4 Senior Choir (gr.4-6) - will perform at 9:30am leaving school at 8:00 am.

DRUMHELLER FESTIVAL

On Friday, March 19

Because of renovations in Drumheller, the choir adjudicator and representatives of the Drumheller and District Music Festival will travel to Brentwood School. The performance of all three choirs will be held in the morning of **Friday, March 19th in our school gym beginning at 9am.** Due to the importance of a quiet auditorium our parents are welcome to attend but without pre-schoolers please.



Report Cards will be coming home with students on **Monday, March 22.**

To Book your parent/teacher interviews, call Mrs. Muenchrath at the school office on: **Tuesday, March 23 from 9 am – 3 pm**

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on **Wednesday, March 24 from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

A.I.S.I. (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement)

What is our AISI Project?

Our three year project is focused on improving student learning through the implementation of “assessment for learning” strategies. These strategies are the activities that teachers and students engage in while the students are learning. All Golden Hills Schools are participating in this exciting initiative. AISI projects are approved and funded by Alberta Education.

- Students will be aware of where they are going with their learning, where they are at now, and how to close the gap between the two.
- A high degree of student engagement is encouraged and students are required to actively assume responsibility for their learning.
- Teachers share the learning targets with students, using student friendly language, as well as provide them with meaningful assignments where expectations are made clear.
- Teachers develop criteria with their students, offer descriptive feedback and show models or exemplars of expected work. In addition, teachers focus on using effective questioning techniques and engage students in peer self assessment which involves the students in tracking, reflecting upon, revising and communication their own progress.
- Teachers will also use a backward design planning process.

We will be keeping parents informed about our AISI project as it takes shape over the three year cycle.

Accountability Pillar Questionnaires

The Alberta Government’s Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (*change to grades 4-12 if applicable*) will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (*change to grades 4-12 if applicable*) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with this school. As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we’re equipping students for success. Your participation in the survey helps, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to jurisdictions in May 2010, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

Literacy Tip for the Month of February



Choose appropriate reading materials according to interest and success. An easy way to judge if your child is reading at his or her level, is to have him/ her read the first page. If there are five or more words that are causing difficulty, this book is too challenging for your child and may cause frustration. If your child is enthusiastic about a book that is too challenging, this could be a great book for you to read aloud together.

Early Literacy Team

Children's Fitness Tax Credit

The Government of Canada will consider applications for a non-refundable tax credit on eligible amounts of up to \$500 paid by parents to register a child in an eligible program of physical activity. Fees to support a regular school program such as our swim program are not eligible for the program. However, fees for extra-curricular sports are eligible. For more information you can go to <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/fitness/>

M&M MEATSHOPS:



Parents/Staff: Shop EVERY Wednesday of the month and ask the person ringing in the sale at M & M to donate 5% of the family purchase to our school. The money returned to our school will go toward our playground.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR – Feb. 2010

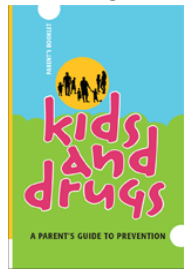
There will be more dates added: e.g. hot lunch, group swimming, field trips etc.

Feb 03	Milk is due 9 am	
Feb 4, 11, 25	Hot Lunch	
Feb 10	Strathmore Winter Walk HEAL	
Feb 11	Hike-a-thon Pledge Sheets Home	
Feb 12	Hot Lunch orders DUE	
Feb 15	Family Day	No School
Feb 18 & 19	Teachers' Convention	No School
Feb 23& 24	** KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION **	9:00 – 3:00
Feb 26	DUE all Hike-a-thon Pledge Sheets	9:00 am
Mar 2, 11, 18, 25	Hot Lunch	
March 02	Pledge Sheets Home for Collection	
March 03	Milk is DUE 9:00 am	
March 03	Primary Choir - all gr.1 students - will perform at 10:30am <u>leaving school at 9:00.</u>	
March 03	Junior Choir (gr.2-3) - will perform at 1:15pm <u>leaving school at 11:30 am.</u>	
March 04	Senior Choir (gr.4-6) - will perform at 9:30am <u>leaving school at 8:00 am.</u>	
March 05	Friday Closure	No School
March 09	DUE all Hike-a-thon money	9:00 am
March 18	4A & 4B Field Trip to Aggie Days - Calgary	
March 22	Hot Lunch orders DUE	
March 22	Report Cards Home	3:15 PM
March 23	Phone to book P/T Interview	9:00 – 3:00
March 24	Parent/Teacher Interviews	4:30 – 7:30
March 24	Milk home	
March 26	Friday Closure	No School
March 31	Milk Orders Due 9 am	
April 01	Hot Lunch – Chicken Strips and Yogurt tube	

***** April 2 to April 09 Inclusive Spring Break *****

KIDS & TEEN PROGRAMS

KIDS & DRUGS - a parent's guide to prevention.



Parents, guardians and other adult mentors have a significant influence on children's attitudes and behaviors regarding alcohol and drug abuse. The Kids and Drugs prevention program includes a series of five workshop sessions for parents and a parents' booklet. Developed by Alberta Health Services-Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and RCMP Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS), it is a prevention program for parents to help them learn strategies to prevent their school age children from abusing alcohol and other drugs. Kids and Drugs is built on known protective factors for substance abuse prevention and strives to improve interactions between kids and parents through improved communication, support, decision making and discipline.

Location: Wheatland Family Community Support Services Office

4 Sessions: March 2, 9, 16, & 23 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

CYBERSAFE (ages 8 - 11 yrs)

Internet Safety is on the mind of every parent. It is estimated that 2 out of 3 households have a computer and access to the cyberspace. What this also means, is that there are risks involved.

Think about this: 26% of kids ages 9 – 15 went to meet a friend that they met online without permission of their parents. What that tells us is that kids either don't know the rules, or don't understand the seriousness of the threat. Cyber Safe covers the topic of Internet safety through interactive, non-threatening and entertaining lessons.

- Group work helps students to identify with realistic events
- Role play and scenarios teach useful skills
- Discussion around the difference between face-to-face friends and online friends
- Skills are learned to help students identify the tricks that predators will use to gain information and trust
- Safe surfing and responsibilities are explored
- Cyber Bullying
- How to get the most out of the Internet while staying safe.

Cyber Safe focuses on teaching kids how to recognize warning signs, safe and unsafe situations and the skills they need to make safe choices. This is not a technical or software computer course.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School, 95 Brentwood Dr.

1 session: Wed, Apr 14 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Fee: \$30.00

BABYSITTER'S TRAINING PROGRAM (11 – 15 YRS)

Becoming a babysitter is serious business. The Kidproof Babysitter's Training Program is packed full of activities and hands-on-practice to increase a student's confidence and give them the skills needed to be the best babysitter possible.

During the full-day workshop, students will develop skills such as: • Finding and preparing for a babysitting job • Caring for kids of all ages • Dealing with difficult situations • Preparing safe and fun activities • Making safe choices while babysitting • Basic First Aid, including burns, cuts, poisons, choking...and more.

This one-day workshop includes the Babysitters Handbook, and upon successful completion, each student will receive a wallet card. We need a Minimum of 10 students with a Maximum of 25 students.

Please bring a teddy bear or doll the size of a baby and a 'peanut-free' bag lunch.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Sat, Mar 13th or Sat, May 15th from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$60.00



STRANGER SMARTS (7 – 10 YRS)

Kids participating in our Kidproof Stranger Smarts course will learn invaluable information in a non-threatening, entertaining environment; helping them to identify potential risks, and to make safe choices when approached by a stranger. This proactive and preventative workshop includes information on: personal space; trusting your intuition; recognizing tricks predators use to gain your trust; learning that not all strangers are dangerous. Maximum 15 students.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Wed, Mar 24th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Fee: \$30.00

AT HOME ALONE PLUS EMERGENCY FIRST AID (10 - 13 YRS)

Does your child spent time home alone before or after school due to your work schedule or other commitments? This popular and entertaining workshop is designed to prepare children to look after themselves during these times. Important skills are learned through interactive lessons and role play that help make both you and your child more confident when they are home alone.

A Kidproof Canada At Home Alone Book plus First Aid book, wallet size completion card and Kidproof Canada Key Chain is included. Maximum 15 students.

Please bring a 'peanut-free' bag lunch.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Sat, Apr 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$50.00

**NEVER BEE LOST (5 – 7 YRS)**

Never Bee Lost is based on a story about a bee named Bob-Bee who goes to the flea market with his family, and gets separated from his Mum-Bee.

Through games and interaction, kids will learn that they are never to go anywhere with anyone, what to do should they become lost or separated, and that they'll "Never Bee Lost" forever. Maximum of 15 students.

A Kidproof Canada Never-Bee-Lost Coloring Book and Crayons included.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Wed, Apr 28th from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

For more information or to register please call:

Candace at 403-901-1506 or Joyce at 403-934-5785

Adult course information can be found at

www.wfes.ca