



Brentwood Elementary School

Newsletter ** March - 2010



Brentwood's WEBSITE

www.brentwood-school.com

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

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of the parents who came to parent/teacher interviews last week. It is always a pleasure to talk with you about your children's progress and education in general. Another special thank you needs to go out to those parents and sponsors involved in our Staff Appreciation activities last week. We felt very special and appreciated – we are fortunate to have such supportive parents. And as if our parents haven't already done enough, we are looking excitedly to May 7th when another phase of our playground project will be completed. Thank you to Lori Dumonceau and her dedicated helpers for making this project a reality!

There are only a few more months left until the end of our school year. How quickly the months have flown by! As we finish off this year we are already planning for the year ahead. With the cuts in provincial funding for education, developing a budget that will balance the needs of our students with our decreased revenue will be a challenging task. The Division's senior administration team will be working with our school administration to address issues such as staffing and instructional spending for the next school. Parents will notice some changes but we will do our best to maintain the high educational standards we have at Brentwood School.

The final months of the year are busy ones. Please check your newsletter and any notices that are sent home carefully as they will contain important dates for things like provincial testing at grades 3 and 6, swimming lesson times, and other fun activities. Think Spring!!!

Sincerely,
Laurie Huntley – Principal

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Thank you to Christine Brassard, Lisa Thiessen, and Audra Anderson for helping with Kindergarten registration. If you know of anyone who has not registered, please encourage them to register right away.

BUS TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FOR NEXT YEAR

If you require busing within the Brentwood School bus area, please complete the Golden Hills Transportation Form which is in this newsletter. This response is essential so that the bus routes can be planned and drivers hired for next year. Bus routes and times will be set by the start of the school year.

You will be invoiced for bus payment in September. The price has not been finalized but last year it was \$200.00 a year (Kindergarten 2-3 days/week \$100.00) if your residence address is less than 2.4 km. If you are not sure if you qualify for free busing (over 2.4 km from school) please enquire at the school office.

ARE YOU MOVING??

If you plan on moving over the summer and your children will not be returning to Brentwood please contact our school right away as this will assist us with projections for enrolment and staffing.

Also, if you know of anyone moving into our area, (the communities of Aspen Creek, Brentwood, Cambridge Glen, Crystal Ridge, Grande Point, Green Meadow, Maplewood, Parkwood, The Ranch, and Thorncliff), please encourage them to register for school right away.

HIKE-A-THON

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for supporting our yearly Hike-a-thon. Brentwood has traditionally held just one fundraiser per year and has enjoyed the generous support of parents and the community. This year, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$12 000.00. With money from the Hike-a-thon we are able bring in special performances each year for all of our students and we open up these performances to our parents and pre-schoolers as well. With these funds we are able to support the activities of our choirs, safety patrol, and book clubs. Our Christmas concert and our Gr. 6 Musical, our field days, and other events are enhanced by having a small budget to spend on the little extras for our kids. Teachers access funds to do special projects for occasions like Mothers' or Fathers' Day. Most recently we were able to bus all of our students to see the Olympic Torch Run thanks to money raised by our Hike-a-thon. Especially with recent and future cuts to our school budget, the fundraiser allows us to enhance the school experience for Brentwood Students. To honor the efforts of the students and families who participated in our fundraiser we planned special activities to mark the students' fundraising progress. Students who did not participate in the fundraiser will not participate in these special hike-a-thon rewards but will of course still benefit from the other ways in which the Hike-a-thon funds are used throughout the year. We do not feel it is a good idea to give our students the message that it is OK to let others do the work for them while they still get all the benefits. As was outlined in the letter sent home about the Hike-a-thon, each student who brought in a minimum of \$5.00 in pledges will be enjoying an extra recess, a special edible treat, a pancake breakfast, a free swim time, and a special "My Teacher is an Alien Day" celebration that will involve flying saucers and whipped cream!

Our families raised a whopping **\$14 743.00** this year which is remarkable! As students brought in their pledge money their name was put in for small, but fun, daily prize draws. The grand prize draws of \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift certificates were won by Samantha Walstra and Emma Rhodes; congratulations to both of those girls.

On behalf of the students of Brentwood, please pass on our thanks to your family and friends for their support of the Hike-a-thon. Without your help we could not possibly make available these "EXTRAS" to our students. Thanks also to the committee of teachers who organize the fundraiser and to our office staff for handling all of the banking.

STILL SPREADING THE WORD-FITNESS IS FUN!

We have been so pleased with the enthusiasm everyone has shown for fitness activities. Our Family Day Activity Challenge brought in all kinds of entries illustrating how easy it is for families to have fun and get fit together. The activities included cross country/downhill skiing, bowling, skating, walking, swimming, sledding, street hockey, basketball and more. The winner of the POOL PARTY was the DAHL family. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated.

ACTIVE LIVING

What is "Active Living?" "A way of life in which physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual activities are valued and integrated into daily living." - World Health Organization

The Calgary and District Be Fit for Life Centre is one of 9 centers across Alberta that are able to provide the delivery of educational programs, services and resources that promote and facilitate the development and maintenance of active, healthy lifestyles to all Albertans. Calgary and District Be Fit for Life is funded by the Alberta Sport, Recreation Parks and Wildlife Foundation and its host facility – the University of Calgary.

With the assistance of the Be Fit for Life instructors, we are excitedly planning to incorporate yoga activities into our fitness plan at Brentwood. Teachers will be trained to lead yoga activities suitable for children in their classrooms and in their physical education classes. We are hoping to invite parents in to participate as well- look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

SUPPLY PACKAGES FOR NEXT YEAR

Back by popular demand we will again offer the opportunity to purchase school supply packages for the upcoming school year. These packages are an excellent cost saving to parents and this is not done as a fundraiser. The savings are passed on to our parents. This information will be coming home soon and if you choose to purchase, please submit the payment by the due date.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming forms were sent home last week and are **DUE March 30th**. Each class will have six 40 minute swimming lessons. The fee is a special school rate for the 6 lessons. During lessons, the students will be grouped according to their present level.

- Please return the forms no later than 9:00 a.m. **March 30**
- We cannot accept any post dated cheques.
- You may submit one cheque or cash payment for swimming for all of your children in gr. 1- 6 who attend Brentwood Elementary School.

*Lessons for Gr. 1A, 1B, 3B, 4A, 4B, 6A, 6B are in April and the first week of May
Lessons for Grade 2A, 2B, 3A, 5A, 5B dates are not finalized yet*

As with all activities at our school, payment arrangements can be done through the school office if this presents a financial hardship for you at this time. Please contact Mrs. Muenchrath at the school office (403 934-5013) to make arrangements.

BOOKS FOR BABIES SERVICE PROJECT

Once again, Brentwood Elementary School will collect used children's books and sell them for a very nominal fee at the school during school hours on May 4 and May 5 and until 1:00 pm on May 6. The proceeds from this sale will buy one new book for every baby born within the Wheatland County area through the coming year. The project is done to increase awareness of the importance of early literacy and to involve students in a community service project. Please consider donating your children's books if they are no longer wanted in your home. Your donations are welcome at the school beginning now. Come to the sale and bring a friend. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you would be interested in volunteering for a few hours please contact Mrs. Peters at Brentwood.

MUSIC NEWS

Calgary Festival: On March 3rd and 4th, the Primary, Junior, and Senior Choirs participated in the Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival. The adjudicator, Morna Edmundson, captivated the students. All three choirs received EXCELLENT ratings for their performances. Special recognition to the Primary Choir for what was an amazing day of singing and behaviour!! Congratulations to all three Choirs on a job well done!

Special thanks to the parents and staff that rode the buses with the students as well as the parents that came to listen and cheer us on!

Drumheller and District Music Festival: On Friday, March 19th, the Primary, Junior, and Senior Choirs participated in the Drumheller Festival right here in our own gym. Our gym was transformed into a concert venue and the adjudicator and volunteers from the Drumheller Festival travelled here to be with us. Each Choir gave a performance of four songs and the adjudicator, Dr. Colleen Whidden from the University of Calgary, provided positive and warm remarks for each choir. We were thrilled to have an hour and a half of time with this very fine adjudicator in our school!

The Primary Choir received very well deserved marks of Distinction while the Junior and Senior Choir received marks of Superior. Wow! All three choirs handled themselves with poise and maturity and strove for excellence! Each and every choir member should be very proud of themselves on a job well done!

The Brentwood School Choirs received 8 !!! awards on Friday night at the Final Concert of the Drumheller Festival. Special thanks to Sarah Dronyk for helping Mrs. Steeves accept all our winnings!

The Primary Choir was awarded the:

Vera Dean Trophy for highest mark in Action Songs

Ross Ferby Trophy for highest mark in School Folk Song Choruses, Gr. 1-3

Chapter G.,P.E.O. Trophy for highest mark in Pre-School and Gr.1 Choruses

The Junior Choir was awarded the:

T.E. Keele Trophy for highest mark in School Choruses, Gr. 2 and 3

The Senior Choir was awarded the:

G. Fred Anderson Memorial Plaque for highest mark in School Choruses, Gr. 4-6

W.R. Dean Memorial Trophy and McDonald's Restaurant(Drumheller)Scholarship (\$100)for the highest mark awarded to a School Chorus. Classes include all school groups.

United Farmer's of Alberta Award of Excellence - This (\$250) scholarship is awarded for excellence in Choirs. The adjudicator recommends the winner chosen from all school and community choirs.

In addition; the **Senior Choir was chosen to represent the Drumheller and District Music Festival at the Provincial Choral Festival May 7th at McDougall United Church in Edmonton for School Choirs grades 4-6.** We will be looking into the costs of sending the senior choir to provincials and will let choir parents know more after Easter break.

All three choirs should be very proud of their accomplishments!! This is the largest number of awards and scholarship money our school has ever won in the Drumheller Festival. Friday March 19th was indeed a very very good day!!

The Choirs will also be excited to know that Felity Kwok, our Junior Choir accompanist, played in the Final Concert on Friday evening and was awarded with 2 awards and a scholarship and was nominated to play in the Senior Piano class at Provincial Festival to be held in Edmonton in May 26-29th. **Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!!**

MUSIC THANKS Special thanks to all the parents who came to watch their child. It was so nice to have an audience and for the children to look out and see their family and friends in attendance.

Special thanks once again to our amazingly dedicated accompanists; Rachel Neil, Felity Kwok and Kathie Zakresky and to our flutist, Lynn Anderson for giving so generously of your time! We couldn't have done it without you! A huge thank you to all of the Brentwood Staff for helping out wherever needed as the choir members got ready for their big day!

EVERYONE IS INVITED:

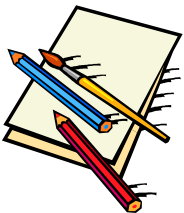
Music Monday - May 3 On Monday, May 3rd, at 11:45 pm, Brentwood School will join other schools across Canada in the celebration of Music Monday. This is a day to recognize the importance of Music Education in the lives of our students and to celebrate it. Music Students across Canada will join in the singing and or playing of "Sing Sing", a song composed by Serena Ryder. All three of our choirs, our accompanists, and our instrumentalists will be recognized that day as a part of the celebration. The Senior Choir will be performing two songs in preparation for their trip to the Alberta Music Festival Provincial Choral Finals in Edmonton on May 6-9th. Come join us for Music Monday and bring your camera!



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 Enhancement Project. Parents do not pay any extra for the donation as M & M calculates 5% of all those sales and M&M donates this money to our school.

Literacy Tip for the Month of March



Be creative! Help your child write, bind, and illustrate a book, photo album, or scrapbook. The book(s) could include photos and personal narratives, featuring family events and milestones. This is an opportunity for your child to practice and share their literacy skills.

Early Literacy Team

WFES KIDS & TEEN PROGRAMS
REGISTRATION: CANDACE 901-1506 OR JOYCE 934-5785

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.

CyberSafe 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



CyberSafe 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. Minimum 10 students - Maximum 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, May 15th from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$60.00

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 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



Golden Hills School Division #75 Transportation Department

435A Highway #1 Strathmore, AB T1P 1J4 Phone (403) 934-5121 EXT. 2021 Fax (403) 934-5125
Email: transportation@ghsd75.ca

Parent Name (s) _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Street Address: _____
or

Legal Land Description: _____ 1/4 _____ Section _____ Township _____ Range W4

Student Legal Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Student Legal Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Student Legal Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Student Legal Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

For Transportation Office Use Only

Attendance Area Checked: _____ Designated School: _____

Eligible: _____ Courtesy Rider: _____ Choice Rider: _____

Bus Driver/ Route: _____ Driver/Contractor Notified: _____

Entered in Edulog: _____ Transportation Address: _____

Stop ID: _____

	31	32	33	34	35	36
5						
	30	29	28	27	26	25
4						
	19	20	21	22	23	24
3						
	18	17	16	15	14	13
2						
	7	8	9	10	11	12
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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check daytimers and backpacks for new dates for field trips and other events.

March 30	Swimming Lesson Payment Gr, 1-6 - Due	
April 01	Hot Lunch: Chicken Strips/Yogurt	
*** April 2 to April 11 Inclusive Spring Break ***		
April 12	Return to school	
April 13	Swimming Lessons begin see schedule for dates and times	
April 19	Hot Lunch Orders are DUE	
April 23	Flex Friday	No School
April 29	Hot Lunch Pepperoni/Cheese Stick and donut	
May 03	Music Monday – everyone welcome	11:45
May 04 & 05	Books for Babies Sale – During School Hours	
May 05	Milk is DUE 9 am	
May 06	Books for Babies Sale until 1:00 pm	
May 07	Senior Choir Trip to Provincials – Edmonton all day	No School
May 07	Professional Development Day	No School
May 13	Pizza and Cookie	
May 14	SWIM reward Hike-a-thon	11 – 12 PM, 1-2, 2-3 walk
May 21	Flex Friday	No School
May 24	Stat Holiday Victoria Day	No School
May 25	Hot Lunch Orders are DUE	
May 27	Hot Lunch	
June 02	Milk is DUE 9 AM	
June 03	Hot Lunch	
June 11	Flex Friday	No School
June 17	Hot Lunch	
June 18	Last day of milk	
June 18	Last day of regular classes for Kindergarten	
June 23	Kindergarten (picnic) – all classes	
June 23	Grade Two & Three Swim	2-3:00 - walk
June 26	Gr. 4, 5, and 6 Swim	1 – 2:00 - walk
June 29	Last Day of School for Grades 1-6	
June 30	Staff Professional Development Day	No School