



Dear Parents,

It seems that Old Man Winter has decided to come back and remind us that we live in Alberta- it is cold out there! We have had some calls about whether or not there is school so I thought I would remind parents about how decisions are made regarding school closure. The full explanation is included in our November newsletter (on the website). The Division will not close Strathmore schools unless there is a state of emergency (i.e. No power or water, TransCanada highway closed etc.) In the event of such an emergency it will be posted on our website and communicated to radio and TV stations. Bus drivers have the power to decide whether it is safe to operate their bus on any given day. If the bus is not running, you will be contacted if your child rides the bus. Many parents count on the Division policy as they rely on us to care for their children while they are at work even on days when the weather is very cold. That said we completely support the decision of any parent who decides not to send their child to school for weather related reasons. The desire is to accommodate as many parents as we can. The decision to send students outside at recess or noon is based on a number of factors. For example, on Monday of this week, our thermometer read -19 and there was no wind. The students and four supervisors went out and after the recess reported that it was cold but not unbearable or unsafe. However when the students went out at noon the supervisors radioed in right away that a breeze had come up and it was too cold. The kids were brought in immediately. (We have made similar decisions on other days based, not on temperature, but also on extreme wind conditions.) That day we also arranged bus transportation for some grade four students to go to the high school for what would have normally been a walking fieldtrip. If you live in Alberta you better have a backup plan! On Tuesday with a temperature reading of well below -20 we didn't even consider sending the students out at all. Parents should also be aware that when it is extremely cold the safety patrol is not at the crosswalk. Please be extra careful on those days. On those mornings supervisors are at our outside doors watching for students arriving and bringing them into the school immediately. You can

rely on us to make every effort to keep our students and staff safe.

On a happy note I am pleased to report that Mr. Jones will be back at school as of February 1. He has been missed by staff and students. We have sincerely appreciated the hard work of Mrs. Laslo in filling in for Mr. Jones. We will not be losing her services totally as she will be moving into a position to help us deal with the large size of our grade three class. Parents of students in the grade three class will be receiving more details as soon as we have finalized our plans.

I would like to end with a great big thank you to everyone who came out to support our Christmas Concerts. The students enjoyed performing for big and appreciative audiences. Thank you also for supporting "Owen's Fund". We raised over \$2100 to help Owen and his mom as they battle his cancer. Brentwood is lucky to have such generous supporters.

Sincerely,
Laurie Huntley



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

We will soon be preparing for our annual fundraiser. The hike-a-thon will take place in March with pledge sheets coming home on February 17th. Hopefully over the Family Day weekend families will have the opportunity to collect pledges from visiting relatives and friends. Watch for further dates and information in the February newsletter. Every student in the school enjoys the benefits from the fundraiser so we hope that every family will participate even in a small way. Thank you for your continued support of the students at Brentwood Elementary School.

BOOKS FOR BABIES SALE

When putting away all those new books please recycle any gently used books for our annual "Books for Babies Sale" early in the new year!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Thank you to all of the students, parents and staff who contributed to the Wheatland Christmas Hamper Society in December. We helped Hamper Society supply 225 Christmas Hampers!

GRADE 3 BAKE SALE

The Grade 3 class will be hosting a bake sale on Wednesday, January 25th during the block before lunch. We are raising funds to buy 2 goats for a village in India. With our social studies program, we have been learning about India and have discovered how disadvantaged many of the children are in this country. Many do not even have the chance to attend school! We are trying to be 'global citizens' and help others who are not as fortunate as we are in Canada with our 'quality of life.' Please support our efforts. Send a quarter with your child to school that day to purchase a baked good. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Once again our students did a terrific job of entertaining their audiences. Our Primary, Junior, and Senior Choirs, GLEE, Gr. 5 melody chimes group and Gr. 6 guitar groups were very impressive. Smiles were abundant when the kindergarten students performed. The Christmas Musical "A Pirate's Christmas" was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Hats off to the tremendous performances and leadership of our grade six students throughout the concert!

Special thanks to the choir accompanists: Kathie Zakresky, Rachel Neil, Carly Davidson and Lynn Anderson for their hard work and dedication. Our whole Christmas presentation would not have been possible without the assistance of our volunteers and our staff! Hats off to everyone!!

ALBERTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Good luck to Conor Anderson, Metaya Anderson, Allie Davidson, Ainsley Sorensen, and Samantha Walstra as they prepare for the 2012 Alberta Children's Choir! This weekend they will be involved in a regional rehearsal for the Calgary area members of the choir and then February 2-4 will see them travel to Edmonton for an intensive weekend with 114 singers ages 10 -15 from across Alberta! The Alberta Children's Choir will present a concert at McDougall United Church on Saturday, February 4th with their guest conductor, Kelly Walsh, artistic director of the Shallaway Choirs in Newfoundland! We know these 5 young singers

will represent Brentwood School and our music program very well!

BOOK CLUB

The Grade 5/6 book club is just starting Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery. This truly Canadian story is always a favourite and they all voted overwhelmingly to read this one!

INTRAMURALS

Brentwood students are continuing to be healthy, active students...even in the bitter cold! Lots of students have been participating in the activities in the gym at noon recesses. We have had lots of fun playing floor hockey during the past two weeks, and next week we will have a great time playing beach ball volleyball as a lead up to our Beach Day. Friday, January 27 will be Beach Day at Brentwood; we will think warm thoughts and dress for the beach! We will try to earn lots of points for our house teams by participating in the intramural activities and dressing up. We can look forward to some beach tunes floating through the hallways and a fun "beach treat" in the afternoon. Coming in February will be our Winter Walk Day on February 8, which is in conjunction with other communities in Alberta. Watch for further information on this as we cross our fingers for a nice winter day and plan for some fun outside activity.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Looking for Spring Activities for your kids?

REVS

Registration for Spring Sports and other Strathmore area activities for children REVS will be held on **February 8th from 3:30 to 7:30 pm** at the Strathmore Civic Centre.

NEW Science.gc.ca Activity Book

Science.gc.ca has created a new Activity Book which includes 41 brand new exciting educational activities. This new version can be enjoyed by students aged 7 to 16, with experiments and activities tailored to different skill levels (primary, intermediate, and secondary). You can download this free activity book by going to www.science.gc.ca/ab.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR Brentwood Elementary School 2012



Jan 26	Hot Lunch OPA	
Jan 31	Staff Professional Development Day	No School
Feb 02	Hot Lunch Pizza 249	
Feb 2-4	Alberta Children's Honour Choir Edmonton for selected singers	
Feb 10	Friday Closure	No School
Feb 20	Family Day Holiday	No School
Feb. 23, 24	Teachers' Convention	No School
Feb 28 –Mar 2	Calgary Music Festival – Primary, Junior, Senior Choir TBA	
March 12-23	Drumheller Festival – Primary, Junior, Senior Choir TBA	
March 09	Friday Closure	No School
March 19	Report Cards go home	3:15 Dismissal
March 20	Phone to Book Parent/Teacher Interviews	9:00 – 3:00
March 22	Parent/Teacher Interview	4:30 - 7:30
March 23	Lieu Day off for Interviews	No School
*** April 06 to April 15 Inclusive Spring Break ***		
April 16	Classes Resume	
May 04	Staff Professional Development Day	No School
May 18	Friday Closure	No School
May 21	Victoria Day Holiday	No School
June 08	Friday Closure	No School
June 19 & 20	Last Day of School for Kindergarten	
June 28	Last Day of School for Grades 1-6	
June 29	Staff Professional Development Day	No School

Just a reminder to parents and visitors to our school please check in at the office upon entering the school. For security purposes we ask that you do not zip down to your child's locker or classroom to deliver something – it is better if you put the student's name on the item and have a secretary call into the classroom – the teacher will send the student down when it is convenient for the classroom.

Kids and Teen Courses - Wheatland Further Education
Area Coordinators: Candace 403-901-1506
Lynn 403-901-0833
Joyce 403-934-5785

BABYSITTER'S TRAINING PROGRAM (11 - 15 YRS)

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.

Each student will receive a wallet card. Minimum 10 students - Maximum 20 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 17th **or** Sat, May 12th from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$55.00

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, May 9th 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

CYBERSAFE: Ages 8-11 yrs

Internet safety is on the mind of every parent. It is estimated that two out of three households have a computer and access to the Internet. While this means access to many valuable resources, it also means that there are risks involved. *Think about this: 26% of kids ages 9 - 15 went to meet a friend that they met online without the 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.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Fri, Mar 16th from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

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

Does your child spend 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.

Please bring a 'peanut-free' bag lunch.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Sat, Feb 11th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. OR Sat, Apr 28th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fee: \$45.00

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.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Fri, Mar 30th from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Fee: \$15.00

A GIRL'S WAY: Ages 11 - 15 yrs

The transition from elementary or middle school to high school can be a scary one for many young girls. Suddenly, kids go from a familiar environment to a new place, often with hundreds more kids, and new social norms and customs. Heading to high school opens the door to a number of new safety concerns, especially for girls.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library,
95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Thu, Jun 7th from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Fee: \$30.00

SAFESPORT: Ages 8 -11 yrs

Help your child become a Super Sport! A Super Sport knows how much fun playing sports can be, but also understands how important it is to stay safe and healthy. SafeSport is a comprehensive child safety course that encourages children to get involved in sports, and emphasizes the fundamental safety aspects of doing so.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Wed, Jun 13th from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Fee: \$20.00

SAFEKIDS: Ages 5 - 7 yrs

Help your kids become SafeKids! This one-hour Kidproof SafeKids program is a fun and entertaining child safety class for kids ages 5 – 7 to learn about injury prevention and how to safely respond to an emergency. Like all Kidproof programs, SafeKids delivers valuable skills to kids in an entertaining and memorable way. This is a fantastic program for kids just starting out in their safety education.

Location: Brentwood Elementary School Library, 95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Fri, Apr 27th from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Fee: \$15.00

42. BULLYPROOFING:

Ages 7 - 11 yrs

In an interactive, non-threatening manner, children learn how to become 'Bully Proofed'. This child safety program is designed to be preventative and proactive, so that children can avoid being bullied, and if they are bullied, know how to stop it.

Location: Brentwood Elementary

School Library,

95 Brentwood Dr

1 class: Fri, Feb 17th

from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00