

Duchess School Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 6 <http://duchess.grasslands.ab.ca/>

February 2016

Principal's Message

It has been another beautiful winter month filled with surprises. All of the season's snow melted in a few short hours followed by a beautiful winter storm. As little boots shuffle through the snow and ice we are enjoying a few short days of reprieve from the chilly weather. We are so proud of our students who have completed their final preparations for their end of term exams. It is great to see a fresh start with the second half of the year as we look back fondly over the last half.

We are so proud of our student's accomplishments and have been enjoying the celebrations with them. We have been watching in our assemblies as students are praised for the developing character, academics and fine arts. We enjoyed a wonderful night of music at the Red Roof Studio as students showcase their music talents and we are looking forward to watching our foods, drama, art, woodshop, computers, music, language and all of our options that are available to our kids.

We appreciate the dedication our teachers show to helping students to learn and the passion they have for finding success for all students. We are excited for the many opportunities we have to grow and learn as students and as adults. Please ask your child to share their experiences and share your own love of learning so that we can continue the joy that comes in discovering and learning at any age.

Newell Further Ed

Newell Further Ed. is seeking individuals interested in helping increase learner pathways to literacy, post-secondary, and other learning opportunities and services. Tutors and board members needed. Please call our office at 403-641-3444.

Turkey for a Toonie

Duchess School would like to thank Cindi & Lee Beasley, the Steidel family, Dame family, Trembecki family, Rath family, Schottenbauer family and the Fox family for the turkey donations. Turkey for a Toonie was a huge success!

Grade 4-7 Elkwater Ski Trip

Having collected all the forms and payments, the ski trip to Elkwater is set for Friday, February 12th. The bus will be leaving the school at 6:30 am, sharp, and will arrive at the hill by 8:30. The bus will arrive back at the school by 6:00pm. If people are driving, they need to plan to be at the hill by 8:30am. All students must take a lesson and wear a helmet. Helmets are available at the hill. Students can bring their own lunch or money to eat in the cafeteria. Students need to be dressed in layers with toques, scarves and gloves.

Parent Portal

We would like to remind parents and students in grades 7-12 to sign in with the Parent Portal to check your child's attendance, academic progress and to sign up for the weekly focus block. Simply go to the Grassland Public Schools website: Choose the Parents and Students tab, then Powerschool Parent Portal. Follow the cues to get signed up! Drop by if you need any help!

Duchess Minor Hockey Fundraiser

Please support Duchess Minor Hockey by purchasing a raffle ticket from any of the players or call Gwen Thompson at 378-4527. Tickets are \$10. The prizes are as follows:
1st Prize- \$6000.00 Marlin Travel voucher
2nd Prize- \$3000.00 Marlin Travel voucher
3rd Prize- \$1500.00 Cash
Draw date is April 22nd.

Winter Walk through Village

Our youngest of the school will be doing a winter walk through the Village of Duchess on February 12. Kindergarten – grade 3 will be participating.





Congratulations to our junior high Eagles who captured 2nd place in Drumheller! Back l to r: Coach Deb, Nathan Butters, Adam Grimshaw, C.J. O’Hara, Kale Stinson, Jeremy Aleman, Owen Buck, Jeremy Aleman. Front l to r: Kade Nakamura, Ben Schottenbauer, Nate Hoffman, Sade Lauber, Sam Hazelwood.



Board Bits

- Grasslands School Trustees are working on the **school calendar** for 2016-2017. The calendar has to be approved by the end of February.
- With **Family Day** and **Teacher's Convention** falling in the same week, along with the two lie days in the middle of the week, students in the Grasslands School District receive a nice mid-winter week off, something many other students in the province do not.
- **Design work has started on the modernization and renovation project at Eastbrook School.** Construction should start this spring. Grasslands is working on a plan to ensure there is very little disruption for students attending the school.
- Grasslands Trustees and staff are working on a **policy supporting LGBTQ students.** The policy, as mandated from Alberta Education, has to be in place by the end of March and submitted to Alberta Education.
- **Internet bandwidth issues should soon be solved** as there are major upgrades occurring and should be complete by the middle of February. The upgrades will improve access to the Internet at all the schools in the Grasslands School Division.
- As the new semester begins, this will be the final months for many Grade 12 students, who will **graduate this spring.**

Wellness Warriors

Our wellness team came to the office with gift cards to purchase fruit, yogurt and muffins to those high school students that were writing exams this past week. It was such a thoughtful gesture and we are happy that they recognized that our students will perform better with a healthy breakfast in them! Thanks for all you do!



Elementary Student Council

Get ready for Crush week. Send your friend a crush pop for \$1.00 Feb 8-11 and it will be delivered for you. All proceeds will go to BAPS.

Grad Photos

Grad photos will be taken here at the school on Thursday, February 11th. Booking information will be made available to those grads who have paid their fees in full by February 2nd.

Pep Rally

Duchess School has planned a pep rally for February 2! There will be a few guys from the Brooks Bandits who will join us with a basketball skills contest. We will be entertained by the school rock band and there will be an air band contest kick off! Sounds like a fun-filled afternoon, starting at 1:35.



Growlies Menu for February

Monday- Grilled Cheese Sandwich \$3

Tuesday- Tacos 2 for \$5

Wednesday- Shepherd's Pie \$5

Thursday- Mac and Cheese \$4

Juice Boxes- \$1, Fresh Fruit- \$1

Smoothies- \$2, Baking- \$2

Vitamin Water- \$3

Student Council Monthly Awards

Our student council is pleased to announce that they will be honouring random students from now until June for awards. The awards that they've chosen to honour are for leadership and sports. Once a month recipients will receive a free pita from Duchess Pita Pit. Thanks to our student council for recognising students who make the effort! January winners are Carlos Howey (leadership), Sade Lauber (sports). Way to go guys!



Every Kid Needs A Friend

Strategies to Improve Behavior

Grasslands
Public Schools



Kids' play is the foundation for all kinds of skills - including sharing, negotiation, collaboration and deferred gratification - that will carry over into adulthood.

- ✓ Turn off the TV, the DVD Player, the Video Games, and the Computer
- ✓ Create opportunities to socialize.
- ✓ Teach your child the skills he/she needs to learn to successfully play with other kids.
- ✓ Guide the play.
- ✓ Listen when he has peer challenges. All kids do.
- ✓ Don't solve the problem for her. Teach her how to resolve the issue.
- ✓ Set a good example.
 - Be a good friend
 - Model respectful behavior
 - Show your child how you listen, share, compromise, and solve problems.

Did you know that the Social Skills that help a small child or older student make friends are the same skills he needs to be successful at school and in the workplace?

Research done by the Conference Board of Canada confirms that Social Skills that can be applied and used in a range of daily activities are also needed to enter, stay in, and progress in the workplace.

Good employees:

- communicate effectively
- get along with other
- know how to solve problems
- embrace Teamwork

Would you hire your child?

Other research has shown friends help decrease anxiety, ward away the blues and boost our children's resilience.

If you have noticed that your child has trouble getting along with others, do something.

Humans are, by nature, a social bunch. It hurts to eat lunch alone or to be left off a classmate's party list. Even if the child insists it doesn't matter, you know it does.

As a parent you cannot make your child's friends for them. You can, however, give your child the tools to help find a few good buddies. Kids can learn the skills they need to meet other, like-minded kids and this will give them a solid foundation for life.



Bridgette Graham



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Pep Rally! Gr K-12 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Pizza Day \$2.50 	6
7	8	9	10	11 Grad Photos at the school! 	12 Elkwater ski trip Gr 4-7 Gr K-3 Winter Walk Day Pizza Day \$2.50	13
“Crush” week. Feb 8-11 Send your friend a nice message for \$1						
14 Valentine’s Day 	15 Family Day! Enjoy your week off!	16	17	18	Teacher’s Convention Feb 18-19	
No School for students Feb 15-19						
21	22	23	24	25 Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off! 	26 Pizza Day Junior Boys home bball tourney!	27
28	29					