

Duchess School Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 8 <http://duchess.grasslands.ab.ca/>

March 2016

Principal's Message

It is clear that these seasonally warmer temperatures are warmly met with enthusiasm by our students as they cheer with delight during their outdoor recess. We are admiring the penguin slides on the ice as we get the freeze and thaw cycles that are making play so enjoyable and treacherous. It is a great time to be a student after a week off and a chance to reconnect with friends! We are so impressed with our students who have pledged to end bullying and add their voice to the many who are striving to see a school that welcomes all and is safe for everyone. We are excited to foster the conditions and build a caring staff and engage in the process that helps students contribute to a respectful environment. We appreciate the responsiveness of students when correction is needed and the support from parents who help shape the character that will build a caring child. We know that students make mistakes, but we hope that we can model and allow all children to express their feelings and work through difficulties. Thank you for communicating with us when situations arise that need extra support. We are happy to work through the process of helping children navigate through conflict, frustration, sadness and all of the feelings that come through interpersonal relationships. We want to build resiliency in our young people so that they can stand up for themselves, make good choices, and support their peers. We hope that you will continue to help us come up with ideas that can make our homes, our community and our school the best place to raise a child. Please join us in this conversation and share your insights with your child and our staff.

HOJA

The musical group, HOJA, will be coming to Duchess School on March 22, 10:30-11:30. This is an a capella group that has performed here before and they are really entertaining.



Brooks Music Festival

Here are some important dates to remember:

- March 14 – 18
- Concerts Monday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 23
- 7 pm Griffin Park Auditorium
- Admission by Donation
- See www.brooksmusicfestival.ca for complete schedule.

Duchess Music News

Grade 1 and 2 choral speech is Monday, March 14 here at the school.

Duchess bell choir is performing on Friday, March 18 at the Brooks Composite High School.

Thank You's!

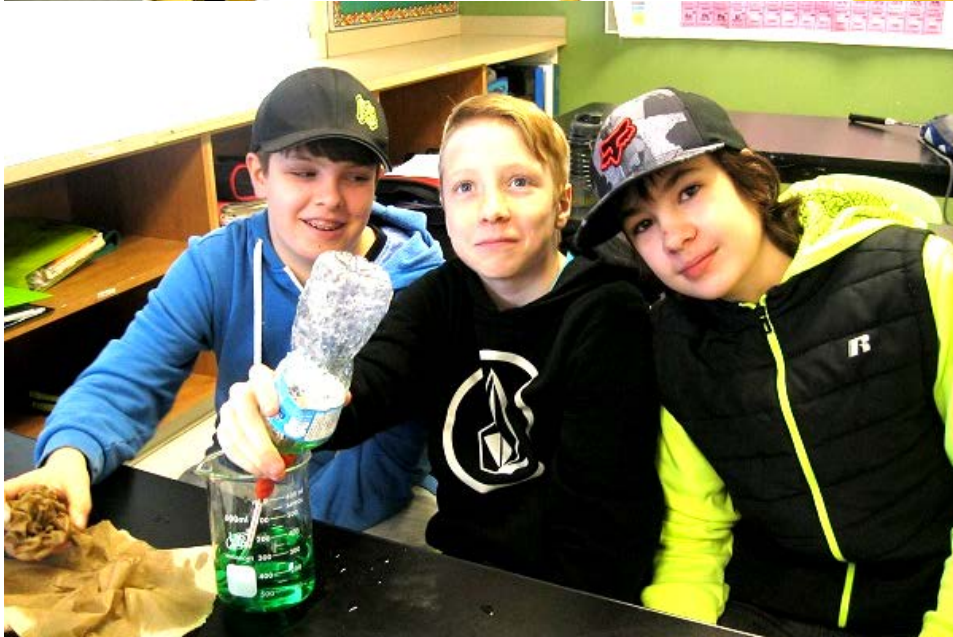
Frontier Signworks stepped up and helped see that every staff and student in the school received a school spirit t-shirt! We all wore them proudly at our February assembly! Thanks Mark and Brittini Tanigami.

We also thank Clarke Gagnon who generously dedicated a season of volleyball to our senior girls. In addition, Clarke forwarded \$1000.00 to our volleyball program in conjunction with his employee volunteer program with Cenovus. We are blessed to have talented people in our community and companies that believe in rewarding volunteers.

Yet another 'thank you' goes out to Megan Schuett who operates our school vending machine. Megan heard of our "Crush Pop" activity last month and generously donated 3 cases of Crush pop!



Have you pre-ordered your 2015-16 yearbook?



Grade 8 Social

On Tuesday March 1, parents, guardians, and community members are invited to come and check out our display of Ancient Aztec Artifacts. Experts (our grade 8 class) will be on site from 8:40 - 9:15 to discuss and demonstrate several Aztec items prior to their conflict with Spanish explorers. Come on out and discover an intriguing ancient civilization! Items will also be on display in cases for the month of March if you can't make it to our information session. These kids have been doing AMAZING work that you won't want to miss.

Parent Council March meeting

We would like to invite parents to an information and education session as part of our Parent Council on March 8th at 7 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to share information with our parents about welcoming, caring, and safe environments for our students and staff. We will share information about current legislation and our Grasslands School Division draft policies to support welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environments for all students and staff. Please feel free to come and meet the Principal to address any questions at any time, come to our Parent Council for more information, and review the Grasslands School Division's website to see how they are working to support parents and schools. We look forward to meeting with you!

Grade 10 Orientation

There will be an orientation evening for grade 8 and 9 parents and students on March 15 at 6:30pm. This evening is specifically aimed at students entering high school in the next year or two. We will be discussing everything High school, from credits, to courses, CTS, PFO, RAP, Careers and, of course, graduation. It is a very informative evening and helps kids prepare for their high school courses and beyond.

Dodgeball Annual Tourney

Grades 7-12 will be vying for the bragging rights again starting Monday, March 7 and going until March 18. This tournament is a highlight for many kids, both competitors and spectators. Everyone puts their game faces on and has a lot of fun with this one!

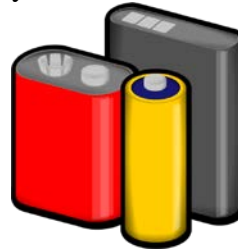


Red Roof Studio

Looking for some live music? Check out the Danny Oliver Concert at Red Roof Studio on Friday, March 4th. He is a folk-rooted singer/songwriter and a young talent to watch.

Battery Collection

The school received news that the Newell Recycling Centre is now able to accept household type batteries ie; AA, AAA, C, D and watch batteries, camera batteries etc. If you send them to school we will gather them and recycle them for you.



Duchess Minor Hockey Week

Duchess has been selected to host Provincials for the novice level in hockey! As you can well imagine, there is a pile of planning and volunteering around this kind of event. Duchess will be swarming with kids and parents from all over the province on March 17-20. If you can volunteer for a shift during those days, please call Jamie Matisho at 403-363-0758. A shift could be sitting at a raffle table, light kitchen duty, etc.

Duchess School is holding their own celebration for Duchess minor hockey on March 21-24th! They will be making banners and having a floor hockey tournament for grades 4-6. Seemed like a perfect time to celebrate all youth involved in hockey!



Authors To Visit Duchess School

Duchess elementary students are fortunate to have 2 authors come to our school on Monday, April 4. Bethany Ellis and Marty Chan will come and share their creativity with the students with storytelling and the magic of books.

March 2016

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Growlies for March Mon- Grilled Cheese \$3 Tues- Tacos 2/\$5 or 1/\$3 Wed- Shepherd's Pie \$5 or Wraps \$5 Thurs- Baked Mac and Cheese \$4 Juice box/Baking/Fruit \$1 Vitamin water-\$3 Smoothie-\$2		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Gr 8 Artifacts on Display 8:40-9:15 All welcome	<i>3</i> PE 20-30 Ski trip to Nikiska.	<i>4</i> Pizza Day \$2.50/slice	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Dodge Ball Tourney March 7-18 for grades 7-12!!!</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Parent Council mtg 7pm Jump Rope forms/money due	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Pizza Day \$2.50/slice	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Daylight Savings time  Spring ahead	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Gr 10 Orientation 6:30pm Open to both gr 8 & 9 students	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> St Patricks Day! Get your green on! 	<i>18</i> Jersey Day! Wear your favourite one! Pizza Day \$2.50/slice	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> First day of Spring  <i>Spring</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Good Friday No School	<i>26</i>
St Patty's breakfast 7:45-8:45am						
Celebrating Duchess Minor Hockey Week Mar 21-24 Elementary (gr 4-6) floor hockey tourney + much more.						
<i>27</i> Easter Sunday 	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		
Easter Break! Enjoy the sunshine! School resumes April 4.						



We send a big shout-out to **Kory and Deb Schottenbauer** and to **Mike Nakamura** for your generous donation! They uni's look fantastic!

Kindergarten registration forms are ready to go! Stop by or we can email you with a reg form for 2016-17.

Cenovus comes through for Duchess School yet again!!

Our Literacy program (LLI) received approximately 25 boxes filled with literacy books and tools geared to bringing our young readers to their full potential in reading and writing. We are beyond excited to be the recipient of more of these wonderful tools that have already been implemented into Duchess School. We have seen amazing strides in some students already whose reading and comprehension has already improved by 1-2 grade levels.

Thanks to Carey and Lynnette Kopp who delivered the books to us and also to the young fellows who graciously slipped out of their classes to help bring the boxes in!

Back L to R: Lynnette Kopp, Dylan Jensen, Deagan Swanson, Kyle Bergquist, Kelsey Voth
Front L to R: Carey Kopp, Dreden Whitley, Owen Buck, Kale Stinson and Mrs Katie Graham.



Report Cards-Kindergarten to grade 12 report cards go home on Thursday, March 24th. Call the school for interviews which will be held on April 6th and 7th after the Easter break.

