



# The Lion's Roar



Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School  
www.fortelem.ca

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## Upcoming Events:

- Popcorn Day– Jan. 12
- Olympic Torch – Jan. 13
- Clash and Tacky Tourist Day– Jan. 15
- School Council– Jan. 19
- Chip Day– Jan. 21
- Cyberbullying Presentation– Jan.21
- School Closed– Jan. 29

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

January is here! This is a month of renewed energy and focus. It is a time when we set goals for ourselves, and seek to improve that which already exists. We will be working hard with the students to help them set reasonable and attainable goals for the year 2010, and encourage families to do the same.

This year will see the end of construction on our part of our new school. We would like to once again thank everyone for their patience, innovation, and understanding as we have taken this construction journey together. We have maintained the safety and security of our building and have ensured that our students are receiving continued excellent instruction and opportunities.

January will see continued focus on “empathy”. Please talk with children about the importance of “putting ourselves in someone else’s shoes” so



that we consistently celebrate and honor all our unique differences and similarities. Wouldn't it be something if this generation of children could bring about world peace that currently seems so elusive?

**Check out the Olympic Torch information on page 4!**

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT REVIEW...



What a wonderful set of Christmas concerts our hard working staff and students presented at the end of December. As the students traveled through six decades of FSE concerts they wowed our audiences with their singing, dancing, and acting. We were very pleased to have Mr. Beliveau, Acting Superintendent, and Mrs. McLaughlan,

School Trustee, in attendance.

Mr. Beliveau wrote a note to us in which he said:

*“Please extend my thanks to your staff for sharing the FSE Christmas concert with me & congratulations on an amazing event. I really enjoyed the theme ... especially the 70's ... enough said!!*





*It is very clear that you are proud of your students, school and community.*

*Well done. Enjoy a well earned break!”*



## SHOWING OUR PRIDE

On February 3, 2010, at 1:20 pm and hosted by our grade ones, we will be wearing their "pride" colors and doing some roaring during our school assembly. Pride colors are:

<b>Bobcats</b> Pride color is <b>Brown</b>	<b>Jaguars</b> Pride color is <b>Yellow</b>
<b>A to D</b>	<b>E to L</b>
	
<b>M to R</b>	<b>S to Z</b>
<b>Panthers</b> Pride color is <b>Black</b>	<b>Snow Tigers</b> Pride color is <b>White</b>
	

## NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING FSE TEACHER

Nomination packages for the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards are available for anyone interested in nominating a deserving teacher or principal.

Information about the awards and the nomination packages is available on the Alberta Education website at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx> and the Alberta Education news release about the awards is attached.

The deadline for nominations is **February 5, 2010**

These awards are a wonderful way to honour a dedicated teacher or principal in our education system.

## NEWS & NOTES

### School Fees

With Christmas now come and gone, it is time for us as school to finish up our budgetary tasks. To do so, we ask that families please pay school fees. Reminder letters will be sent shortly to those families who have not contacted Mrs. Weir in regard to outstanding fee balances.

### Tacky Tourist and Clash Day!

On Friday, January 15, students (and staff!) are invited to wear their tackiest and "clashiest" clothes to school.

Stripes and polka dots, purple and pink, flowers and wild designs will be the dress of the day. Get zany!!!



### Student Drop Off Zones

We have had a number of parents who are using the bus lane, or the entrance to the bus lane, as drop off spots for students. This is very unsafe! Please drop off students in the drop off zone in our parking lot. This is the ONLY safe place in which cars and students can mix. Please help us to keep all students, and vehicles, collision free.



## LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT



In partnership with the Fort Saskatchewan Lions Club, the Grade 5 students at Fort Elementary are collecting old broken and unwanted eye

glasses. In just about any dresser drawer, one can find a pair of eyeglasses that are no longer being used. That same pair of eyeglasses can change another person's life.

Throughout the year, Lions, and volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses that have been collected. Most of the recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact.

You can help by donating any eye glasses, no matter what shape they are in. By doing so you will be helping change one person's life, one pair at a time, allowing them the gift of sight.

Grade 5 students will be visiting classrooms to collect eye glasses on Wednesday, February 10. A donation box will also be set up in the office if you want to drop off glasses before then.



### **"Hearts and Hands" Valentine's Day Fair!**

**Please do not send Valentine's Day cards or loot/goodie bags to school on Thursday, Feb. 11 (Valentine's Day).**

**Instead, we will host a school wide fair and donate any funds raised to the WaterCan project for primary schools in eastern Africa. A letter will be sent home shortly with more information.**

### **WATCH FOR THIN ICE...**

Elk Island Public Schools reminds families about the dangers of thin ice this time of year. Depending on fluctuating temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Obey all posted signs and take the proper care to remain a safe distance from the ice.

The strength of ice on any body of water is affected by a number of factors, including weather conditions, run-off, springs feeding into the body of water, snow pack, sun, wind, and overall thickness. You cannot judge the strength of ice by appearance alone.

When you're out with your family this winter, please remind children about the dangers of thin ice and obey all posted signs.

## NEWS & NOTES (CONT'D)

### **Peewee Football**

All kids interested in playing peewee football (9-12 yrs of age) orbantam football (13 & 14 yrs of

age) are invited to attend our Gym/Info night at the Dow Centre on Feb. 7 and Feb. 27 from 6:30pm - 8:30 pm.



Check out our program; meet the coaches and returning players to see how you can join an awesome sport. Registration is reasonable and player equipment is supplied by the team.

Any questions feel free to call Wally 780-474-6499 or Gabrielle 780-901-4008.



## INNOVATIVE AISI PROJECTS IN MATHEMATICS & TECHNOLOGY

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) new Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) projects will focus on preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over the next three years, AISI Cycle IV projects in mathematics and technology will improve student learning and performance by supporting innovative classroom activities and school projects.



school and three division math consultants will concentrate on making math more meaningful to students and developing a math culture in schools. Students at all grade levels will take part in various math initiatives to complement the staggered introduction of a revised math curriculum.

An increased use of technology in all grades and subject areas is intended to boost student interest and

involvement. Three division consultants will explore various technological applications to enhance students' options for completing school assignments and teachers' options for providing class instruction.

Watch your school newsletter for more information about math and technology AISI initiatives. More information about AISI is available at [www.education.alberta.ca/AISI](http://www.education.alberta.ca/AISI) or [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) under the Programs/AISI tab. Contact EIPS' Curriculum Services at 780-417-8160.

A lead math teacher in each EIPS'



## THE OLYMPIC TORCH

The torch is on its way! On Wednesday, January 13, at approximately 1:30 pm, the Olympic torch will make a stop at our school. Students are asked to wear as much red as possible on that day so that the torchbearers will be able to see us AND hear us cheer them on. Parents are more than welcome to join us. Come and hear our mayor speak and our children sign the Olympic Torch Anthem.

The Dow Center will host a variety of events during the evening; everyone is encouraged to attend and show that we believe in our Canadian Olympic Team!

Go Canada!!



## WHISPERS FROM THE LIBRARY

Welcome to 2010! December was a busy month preparing the new books to be put on display for the next few months. Thanks to the dedicated work of the grade 6 Library Club, there are many, many new titles ranging from picture books and fiction to non-fiction (information) and reference books. In recognition of the 2010 Winter Olympics being held in Vancouver, there are a number of new books on the subject of winter olympics, so be sure to check them out! Three new fiction books I had a chance to read over the break were *Alexandria of Africa* by Eric Walters, *Before Green Gables* by Budge Wilson, and *The Time Travelers* by Linda Buckley-Archer. The first deals with a very spoiled young teen from a wealthy family that is arrested for shoplifting and is ordered by the court to work for an international charity as her consequences. Alexandria is confronted with a reality she never knew existed and has to make some very life changing decisions during her month in Africa. Budge Wilson, a Canadian author, has taken the story of *Anne of Green Gables* and added a new story to her life in *Before Green Gables*. We find out how Anne became an orphan and the many families that molded her character and imagination into the Anne that we know from L.M. Montgomery's writings. Avid fans of the immortal Anne Shirley will especially enjoy this prequel. *The Time Travelers* is as the title suggests an adventure in time travel. Two children, Kate age 11 and Peter age 14, accidentally fall from the 21<sup>st</sup> century into the year 1763 during King George III's reign. This is a time of highwaymen, horse and coach travel and duels. Kate and Peter are totally bewildered and so are their parents and the police in present day England. Kate periodically reappears to several present day people as they travel around the countryside escaping robbers and trying to locate the antigravity machine that brought them to 1763 in the first place. If you enjoyed the Harry Potter series, be sure to read this first book in The Gideon Trilogy.

The Grade 5 Book Club will be reading *Rules* for the next month or so. The story revolves around Catherine and her younger brother, David, who is autistic and their lives dealing with David's disability. It's a very entertaining and enlightening story that also received recognition as a Newberry Honour Book as well as receiving the Schneider Family Book Award. Enjoy the cold weather of January. Curl up with one of the new books at our school library!

Happy Reading, Mrs. Johnson



## SCHOOL SURVEYS COMING SOON!

You may have recently seen newspaper articles on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) or changes to the Grade 12 Diploma Exams. Both PATs and Diploma Exams contribute to the Accountability Pillar, a tool used by Alberta Education to evaluate how well the education system is meeting the expectations of parents and the public. All parents want to know that their children are receiving a quality education. Grades are important but there is more to it than that. A quality education helps all children make the most of their talents and abilities.

The 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. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

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.



Win Ferguson Community School is proud to present a multimedia presentation for parents, educators, and all community members:

# CYBERBULLYING

## An Emerging Threat to an Always On Generation



Presented by bullying.org president and founder **Bill Belsey**, an award-winning authority on bullying prevention, this **FREE** multimedia session will present valuable information and strategies to address **cyberbullying** and the **safe use of technology**.

Everyone is welcome for this informative session.

**January 21, 2010 @ 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Win Ferguson Community School, 9529 - 89 Street, Fort Saskatchewan.

For more information please call 780-998-1441.

