



The Lion's Roar

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School
www.fortelem.ca

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INTEGRITY AT FSES

How quickly these weeks fly by! We are already into our second month of school. The children have done a wonderful job of getting onboard with school expectations, early mornings, and home reading practice. Playground behaviour is generally very positive, we are very pleased that students are showing integrity and monitoring their own behaviour. They are also showing integrity for the environment as they will often pick up a bit of garbage from the playground and always recycle. We had a wonderful turn out for our "Meet the Staff" evening. It was terrific to meet so many families and see those hotdogs get gobbled up.



will once again dazzle us with their performance skills. As we have done in the past, we will be supporting the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank and ask that families donate a non perishable food item on or before October 8, 2009.

October will bring us a whole month of integrity. We have already started our positive referral program in which when students are "caught" building integrity, they receive a "Integrity" card. A visit to the office will result in a photograph and a special building block treat. Students will also demonstrate how thankful they are to be living in such a great community and attend our wonderful school in our Thanksgiving Assembly on October 8. I am sure that our grade threes

October will, as always, end with ghosts and goblins lurking in our hallways. Our Hallowe'en assembly will take place on Friday, October 30, at 1:20 pm. We are fairly confident that the Queen will again be in attendance!



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Upcoming Events:

- Thanksgiving Assembly
October 8, 2009
- Halloween Assembly
October 30, 2009

FRENCH CORNER

In September, the grade fours have experienced a little bit of French Culture by having a delicious Petit Déjeuner with croissants, confiture, fromage de Camembert and chocolat chaud! According to the students, it was the BEST French class they have had so far! Please check out the images of our wonderful French food experience in eTeacher pages and on our school website.

Salut, Mme. Da Costa



HEAD LICE INFORMATION

In the interest of promoting and maintaining a healthy learning environment for our students, our division Occupational Health and Safety Specialist has prepared the following information regarding head lice. While we currently are not aware of any cases of head lice in our school, the following information may assist your family in preventing the spread of head lice should an infestation occur.

- Head lice infestations are common in school children but are not associated with serious disease and are not a sign of poor hygiene. In fact, head lice really like clean hair.
- Head lice do not spread disease.
- Children may have head lice but go weeks before showing symptoms.
- Misdiagnosis of head lice

infestations is common. The diagnosis requires detection of live head lice. Detection of nits alone does not indicate active infestation.

- Topical insecticides, especially lindane, can be toxic, particularly if misused. Care should be taken to avoid unnecessary exposure and, when indicated, to minimize skin contact beyond the scalp.
- Excessive household or school cleaning is not warranted following the detection of a case of head lice because neither head lice nor nits survive for an extended period of time away from the scalp.
- While resistance to topical agents has been noted in other countries, this does not appear to be as large a problem in North America.
- According to health officials,

exclusion (being sent home) from school due to the detection of 'nits' is not medically necessary. Even the detection of active head lice should not lead to the exclusion of the affected child. Treatment is recommended and close head-to-head contact should be discouraged pending treatment.

Families of children in a classroom where a case of active head lice has been detected will be notified as such. The school will also provide information about the diagnosis, misdiagnosis, and management of head lice.

References:
EIPS' Head Lice Information for Parents
Canadian Pediatric Society Position Statement
Alberta Health and Wellness—
Information about Head Lice

WHISPERS FROM THE LIBRARY...

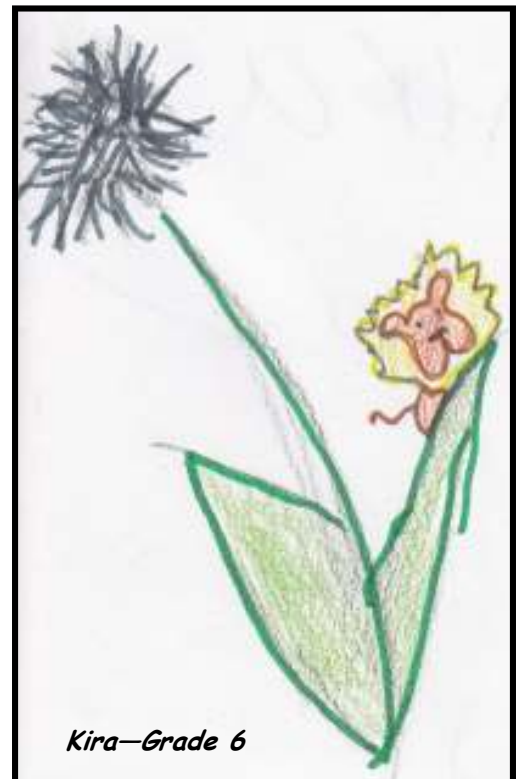


Our first big event of the year will take place the week of October 5-9, 2009 when Read-In Week will be celebrated. Members of the community will be coming into the school to read to the ECS to grade 6 classes. This year's theme for Read-in Week is Team Read!

Later in the month two special guests will be presenting to all the students of FSES. Karen Gummo is a story-teller from Calgary who will be talking to the Div I students on the morning of Oct 21 about stories and how to tell them. Div II students are looking forward to Spyder Yardley-Jones, well known illustrator from Edmonton, to give them some tips and ideas. His presentation date will be announced soon.

The new selections for Young Readers' Choice Awards are now available in the library. They are: The Candy Shop Wars by Brandon Mull, Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney, Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, Igraine the Brave by Cornelia Funke, Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick, Marley: a Dog Like No Other by John Grogan, Mysterious

(Continued on page 4)





ALLERGY AWARENESS

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is committed to creating an allergy-safe and allergy-aware environment. Management of students at risk of life-threatening allergies is a shared responsibility among students, parents, the school system, and health-care providers. Division *Policy IHCD-Medication/Personal Care* outlines procedures to follow in case of severe allergies. School staff are experienced in dealing with medical sensitivities including food allergies, and parents should speak to the principal regarding their child's medical needs. While the school cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure a safe environment for staff and students with life-threatening allergies.

To assist us in keeping your child safe, parents should make every effort to teach their allergic children to self-protect. Good safety habits should be established from an early age:

- Have one auto-injector labeled with the child's name, kept in a readily available, unlocked location (preferably carried on the person).
- Educate your allergic child on avoidance strategies including washing hands before and after eating not sharing food.
- Inform the school about your child's allergies, updating the school on any changes (e.g., diagnosis of an additional allergy, outgrowing an allergy).
- Provide the school with an unexpired epinephrine auto-injector for use in case of an allergic reaction.
- Complete an *Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan* including the

child's photograph, allergy information, emergency contact numbers, emergency protocol, and signature of the parent/guardian and physician.

- Provide consent allowing school staff to use an epinephrine auto-injector when they consider it necessary in an allergic emergency.
- Meet with foodservice staff to inquire about allergen-management policies and menu items if your child is to eat foods prepared at school.
- Encourage your child to carry his/her own auto-injector, when age appropriate.
- Discourage your child from eating if he/she does not have an auto-injector readily available.
- Encourage your child to be very cautious when eating foods prepared by others.
- Communicate with school staff about field trip arrangements.
- Have your child wear medical identification (such as a MedicAlert bracelet, a necklace for older children, or a special badge in the case of very young children), which clearly identifies the allergy.
- Encourage all children to comply with a 'no eating' rule during daily travel on school buses.
- Provide non-perishable foods and safe snacks for special occasions.

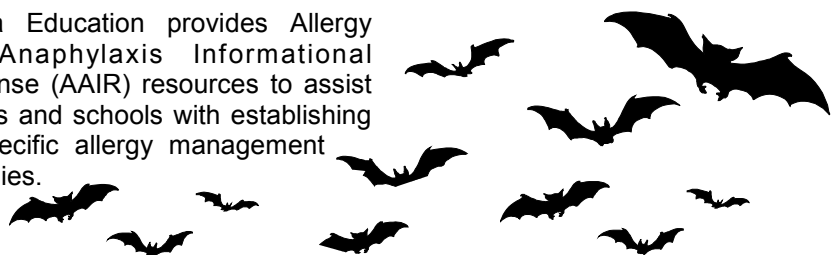
Alberta Education provides Allergy and Anaphylaxis Informational Response (AAIR) resources to assist parents and schools with establishing site-specific allergy management strategies.

Additional Resources:

**Allergy / Asthma
Information Association**
Anaphylaxis Canada
Alberta Asthma Centre
**Anaphylaxis: A Handbook
for School Boards**

PROVINCIAL FUNDING

With the recent announcements of budget "clawbacks" from Alberta Education, educators are now faced with the challenge of balancing budgets and keeping the integrity and effectiveness of programs and schools viable and of the highest quality. At this point, we at FSE have been able to keep our planned staffing and program levels. However, with the fluctuations in natural gas prices, we are all concerned about what next year will bring. It is important that those individuals who make provincial budgeting decisions be encouraged to continue to support education. Simply put, short term budgetary slashes will have long term societal impacts. Please take the time to let our provincial legislators know the importance of continued and generous educational investment.





NEWS & NOTES

School Fees

A school fee sheet was sent home on the first day of school with each FSE student. These fees cover the costs of noon supervision, field trips, and supplies and materials not covered by government grants. In short, they are critical to the daily operation of our school. Thank you in advance for your attention and commitment to this important matter. Please contact Mrs. Weir if an alternative payment schedule or arrangement is required.

Service Club

I am pleased to announce that our grade six Service Club is now officially up and running. This dedicated group of students volunteers for special projects around our school and is always ready and willing to help out. We thank them for their time and effort.

WHISPERS...

(Continued from page 2)

Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart, and No Talking by Andrew Clements. This year there are some newcomers to the scene and their tales will be a challenge for those authors who have been on the YRCA list in previous years. So Grade 4 – 6 students get reading! There are some great stories to be read this year. Voting will take place in March.

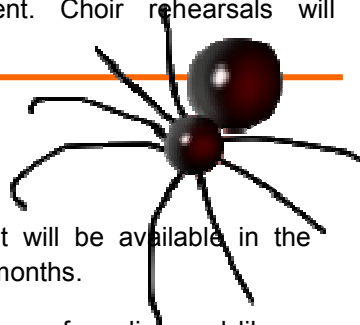
During the year I will be posting the new books that will be added to the library collection so keep checking to

Staffing News

With Mrs. Austen off to welcome her new little one into the world, we are pleased to have Mrs. Whitrow take over our morning kindergarten class, and Miss Barry teach Mrs. Austen's grade one and grade four classes. Miss Barry comes to us from Fort MacMurray where she was involved in a myriad of exciting school activities. Mrs. Whitrow is currently sharing a grade two class with Mrs. Thordarson; we are so pleased to be able to have her in our building full time.

FSE CHOIR

An extracurricular chorus will be formed at Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School this month. The choir is open to all students in grades 4, 5 and 6 who like to sing and who are willing to make the time commitment. Choir rehearsals will



see what will be available in the coming months.

A new year of reading and library book loaning begins. Please help your child to be responsible by going over the importance of bringing back their library books weekly. Returning books by the due date enables others to enjoy those books as well as giving the student a sense of responsibility and achievement.

Thanks!
Mrs. R. Johnston
Library

usually be held on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays at 12:35 pm. Further information regarding auditions and the year's schedule will be coming home with your Division II students this week. We are looking forward to an exciting year with many great musical opportunities!

Thanksgiving

We have many things to be thankful for! As we learn to become responsible citizens, we would like to lend a helping hand to families in our community. This year for Thanksgiving, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School will again be donating canned food and dried goods to the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. Students may bring in their donations any time before they are presented at our Thanksgiving Assembly.

Our Thanksgiving Assembly will take place on Thursday, October 8, at 1:20 pm and will be hosted by the Grade 3 classes. Family members are welcome to attend. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Halloween Festivities

As always, we are excited about our students getting a chance to dress up for Halloween on Friday, October 30. Students can dress up after lunch for the afternoon assembly at 1:20 pm. This assembly will be hosted by our grade two classes. As always, parents are welcome to attend. Please make sure that costumes are safe, and appropriate. Individual classrooms will each celebrate this fun day in their own way.



UPDATE TO ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 'HKAB' - LEARNING ASSESSMENT POLICY

On September 1, 2009 Elk Island Public Schools released a *revised* version of the Learning Assessment Policy. The policy requires that assessment be ongoing, meaningful, consistent and accurate. In 2008-09 feedback from stakeholders suggested changes to terminology, that would in turn more clearly state the intent of the policy. As a result, some definitions were removed and placed in a separate document. Explanations were added to emphasize the importance of students meeting deadlines, completing homework and to serve notice that consequences will be issued for missed work. The intended aim of the policy however, remained unchanged.

Definitions unnecessary in the policy, but helpful to support its successful implementation were moved and explained further in a separate document titled:

Fine Tuning Assessment: A Support Tool for Learning Assessment Policy HKAB. This document and the revised Learning Assessment Policy are available on the EIPS website at

<http://www.eips.ca/documents>

under the heading policies or

http://www.eips.ca/files/HKABsep01-09_tools.pdf

**We welcome
your feedback!**

Please tell us what you think about our newsletter by either dropping us a note, calling us at school at 998-7771, or emailing Mrs. Weir at deb.weir@ei.educ.ab.ca

PROVINCIAL BUDGET UPDATE

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) Financial Services, along with cooperation and support from our schools and departments, continues to monitor and navigate the financial circumstances facing Alberta Education and school boards across the province. Our priority in dealing with the current economic situation is minimizing the impact on the classroom, and 2009/2010 allocations to schools and departments will not be impacted by this in-year adjustment.

Our school and central office staff are committed to providing quality educational opportunities throughout EIPS. With the cooperation and support of our parents, communities, schools, and departments, as a system we will deal with the economic realities. As always, we will continue to focus our efforts on providing excellence in education for all our students.

Egbert Stang, Superintendent
Elk Island Public Schools

Alberta Health Services works together with parents, schools and community agencies to provide a range of coordinated community health services for school-age children and their families. Our common goal is to improve students' health and learning outcomes. Various health services are provided by nursing, dental, rehabilitation and speech and language staff. If you would like to contact someone from the School Health Team, please call the Fort Saskatchewan Health Unit at 780-342-2366.





MORE NEWS & NOTES

FSE GOES GREEN

We are committed to maintaining our environment. One of things we can do is eliminate the amount of paper we send home. We are therefore inviting all FSE families to access our monthly "Lion's Roar" newsletter online. The newsletter will be posted on our website (www.fortelem.ca) on the first Friday after staff meeting Wednesdays. If you prefer to continue receiving it on paper and sent home with your child, please fill in the form below and return it to the school at your earliest convenience. Otherwise, the newsletter will only be available to you via our website.



BREAKFAST IS SERVED!

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Dewilde and company, our breakfast program is thriving. Each school morning children enjoy at least three food groups and start their day with full tummies and smiles on their faces.

The Fort Saskatchewan community has been very generous with their donations; we are pleased to report that the Royal Canadian Legion recently donated \$999.99 to the program. Thank you!!

Please consider volunteering one, two, or more mornings. Every hand helps and it's a great way to get to know our students and staff.



PLEASE SEND US A PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER!!

We prefer to continue receiving "The Lion's Roar" on paper, sent home with the child listed on the right!

| Name of Student | Grade | Teacher |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| | | |

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____



BREAKFAST PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in great need of volunteers who would be willing to help us serve breakfast to our students. Please complete the form below and return it to the school if you are able to assist us one, two, or more mornings per week. Our program depends on our wonderful volunteers and this is a great way to meet and get to know all of our students. We would be very pleased to host any “drop in” volunteers who wish to come and see how the program runs. Please visit!

Yes, I am willing to come into the school and help with the Breakfast Program from 7:30—8:45 am on school days.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

I am available on:

___ Mondays ___ Tuesdays ___ Wednesdays ___ Thursdays ___ Fridays

And can start on or about: _____

Please contact Mabel Underwood-Dewilde for more information @780 998 7771, or email Deb Weir (deb.weir@ei.educ.ab.ca). Together we can keep our program strong!

