

Dunstable School Scoop - February - 2012
Phone:780-674-4401 Email: www.dunstableschool.ca



A small school with a BIG heart!
Where students have the "Freedom to Grow" and the "Opportunity to Learn"

Well, January seemed to breeze by very quickly?! In fact, what happened to winter or the first half of the school year?! I won't complain about the mild temperatures, nor will I about all the activities that have been occurring here in the school and classrooms. You know the saying "time flies when you're having fun" – well, we have had our share this year here at Dunstable School. Even so, as I recently mentioned to the students and staff, we are now only halfway through our year and still have considerable work to complete – so now is the time to stay focused.

We've had a busy January – we recognized some student character and behaviour with the Care Bears and Pizza with the Principal; and we sent home some progress reports to let you know how things were going here at school. As well, we ended the month off with a school spirit day where we celebrated winter and each other with some special outside games and cookie making to end the day. As you know, these recognition activities and communication efforts are all part of developing a Safe and Caring school with a focus on good teaching and learning. We feel we have made considerable progress on our efforts to firmly establish this as our culture and appreciate all your help in helping us build a healthy school climate, all in an effort to support our Safe and Caring School mandate – thanks again!

A number of things come to mind as we usher in February. The first thing is not letting go of the commitments we made to begin our year. We focused on "Perseverance" as our January virtue and have been so impressed with our student and staff work in working through challenges and obstacles as we pursue our hopes, ambitions, goals, and commitments. As for February, we have decided to recognize the virtue of "Friendship" as it is a special month recognizing matters of the heart. We believe that the virtue of Friendship can be described simply as a personal relationship that is closer than association, and that it is a special and important virtue that should be developed in our students. We hope that you can find ways to help support that at home with your children.

Finally, as odd as it may seem, this time of year also marks the beginning of the school improvement reflective process where we consider what is, what could be, and how we could get there. The process begins with our Education Partners Stakeholder meeting at the end of the January and then carries on in the community and at the school. Over the course of the next several weeks, you will have an opportunity to provide feedback in PHRD and Alberta Education Accountability Surveys. This is also my first call out to families and community members to consider and provide feedback how well the school is doing in relation to its goals as we will be reviewing our education plan in the near future. *Again, please consider "what is," "how we got there," "what could be," and "how we could do that?"* I will be sending out more information on this later this month. The progress we have made on behalf of your children could not be done without your help and support. Please stay tuned and consider how valuable we believe your input is in building an effective school for your children and our community.

Please read the newsletter carefully as it outlines a great deal of what is happening in February. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to a successful second half of the school year.

Wishing you the very best,
Steven Kaplan and the Dunstable School Staff

Important dates in February:

- Feb. 2 - Hot lunch. \$1.00 for pasta
- Feb. 2 - We will pick a "Secret Pal" name
- Feb. 2 - Cup Cake Sale
- Feb. 3 - Dunstable Day. No school here
- Feb. 4 - Scrapbooking day.
(Playschool fundraiser)
- Feb. 6 - Basketball game @ Clyde
- Feb. 6,7,8,13,14 - **Secret Pal days**
- Feb. 8 - EXTRA kindergarten day
- Feb. 9 & 10 - Teacher's Convention.
No school in PHRD
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day. Red Day.
We reveal our Secret Pal
- Feb. 15 - Basketball game @ Dapp
- Feb. 17 - Dunstable Day. No school here
- Feb. 20 - Family Day. No school in PHRD
- Feb. 23 - Hot Lunch. 1.00 for Soup & biscuits
- Feb. 23 - Farm Safety pgm. for Gr. K-6
- Feb. 28 - Basketball @ Dunstable
- Feb. 29 - Early dismissal. Students arrive home one hour earlier

Parents/Students - Please

Note: ALL students are asked to wear ski pants outside at recesses and noon hour.

January and February etc. are traditionally cold months and this is our policy.



Birthdays for the month of February are:

Trinity Chenier
Austin Golby
Leah Young
Glenn Phillips
Amanda Meakin



"Breakfast Program" and "Hot Lunch Days" in February:

February 2nd and 23rd will be hot lunch days this month. (\$1.00 buys you lunch)



Breakfast Snacks will continue to be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in February.

We sincerely thank **BUMP** (Barry's Ultra Motor Sport) and Breakfast for Learning grant for sponsoring the Tuesday and Thursday morning breakfast snacks for our students. Students look forward to these "breakfast snack" mornings. Thank you to those of you that cook/organize and fill in the grant application for us. Much appreciated!

FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND WELL BEING.....

Please Note: If students are leaving the school with someone else, please notify the school and your child's bus driver. We cannot allow students to go anywhere other than to catch the bus and go home, unless you have a note in their agenda on that particular day telling us otherwise.



From Our STUDENT Council:

Our "Student Council" is busy planning fun activities for our students. We have had our winter fun "spirit day" and look forward to the "Secret Pal" activity. February 14th will also be "red day", so students be sure to wear something red!



Thank you to our Student Council for attending the "Partners in Education". Well done, Erica, Natasha & Shayna. You represented our school well!



Secret Pals: Once again, we will be hosting our annual "secret pal" activity. This is a very popular event with our students!

Students and staff will be drawing names on Feb. 2nd to determine who our "secret pal" will be. This is a "cross grade" activity. Your child will have their secret pal's name taped in their agenda. Please encourage your child to keep his/her secret pal's name a "**secret**".

This is a cross grade activity. Students can start bringing little "surprises" for their secret pal on Monday, Feb. 6th. Secret pals will only run on Feb. 6,7,8, 13, and we will reveal our secret pal on Valentine's day, Feb. 14th.



Remember to **clearly mark gifts** with only the name of your **child's secret pal** (not your child's name)

Please help your child with this activity. Something from the dollar store, homemade cards, cookies, candy or any little thing is fine. Students eagerly look forward to giving or receiving some small item each day. On Feb. 14th, we will gather in the gym to reveal our secret pals and exchange a "final gift". If you have any questions about this activity, please phone the school.





Basketball season is underway. The teams will be travelling to Busby on **January 31st** for their first game.

The Basketball Schedule for Grades 4,5,6 is as follows. Mark these important dates on your calendar:

Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Dunstable @ Busby

Monday, Feb. 6 - Dunstable @ Clyde

Wednesday, Feb. 15- Dunstable @ Dapp

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - Westlock @ Dunstable

Tuesday, March 6 - Busby @ Dunstable

Friday, March 9 - Tournament @ Dapp

(Due to unforeseen circumstances, for example, weather, dates are subject to change).

Parents; Remember to check PowerSchool for updates on your child's progress. Teachers have been entering information about new concepts that have been taught. For more information, refer to the following websites:

Powerschool website:

<http://powerschool.phrd.ab.ca/public/>

Tutorial on PHRD website:

<http://www.phrd.ab.ca/Tutorials.php>



In keeping with our focus for the 2011-12 school year, (maintaining a "**Safe and Caring School**"), we have chosen the virtue of "**Friendship**" for February.

A good friend:

- Forgives your mistakes
- * Helps you
- * Accepts you as you are
- * Never judges you
- * Says nice things about you
- * Tells you the truth when you need to hear it
- * Understands you
- * Offers support when you need it



Remember, to **have a good friend** you have to **be a good friend**.

Reminder: Teacher's Convention is on **Feb. 9th & 10th**. There is no school in PHRD on these days.



The **Farm Safety** program will be offered to our students - Kindergarten through grade 6, on Thursday, February 23rd. Parents are welcome to attend. The classroom schedule is as follows:

Kindergarten - 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Gr. 1-2----- 10:40 - 11:30 a.m.

Gr. 3-4 ----- 1:10 - 1:50 p.m.

Gr. 5-6 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Beginning of "March" Information:

On Thursday, **March 1st** "Rocks and Rings" will be at our school. This program will give our students an insight into the game of "Curling". Our gym will become a curling rink for the day, and all students will be able to try their hand at curling!



We are also in the process of setting up a ski day for some time in March. Watch for more details to follow soon.



Sutton Realty and the Hamblings are holding their annual "**Spring Fest**" on **Saturday, Feb. 25th, 2012.**

(Please see attached flyer). Our students will be busy making "**Safety When Playing**" posters that they will enter in a contest and the posters will be displayed on the 25th at the "Spring Fest".

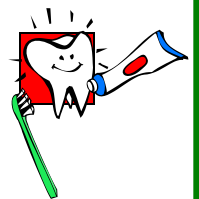


Back By Popular Demand.....



Due to the generosity of the Grade 1 -2 parents & some staff members, we will be able to host another cup cake sale for Genet, our foster child. This second cup cake sale will take place on **Thursday, Feb. 2nd.** Cupcakes will be **fifty cents each.** A huge thank you to the people who donated to this cause.

Could Grades K-1-2 please return their dental consent forms to the school so that the health unit can complete this project.



On Saturday, Feb. 4th, Playschool will be hosting a "Scrapbooking Day" Fundraiser. It will be a fun filled day with door prizes and demos all day! For more information phone Krista @ 780-307-2099 or Blythe @ 780-349-5856.



A best friend is like a four leaf clover....hard to find and lucky to have.



Enjoy Family Day with your loved ones!