

Dunstable School Scoop, December - 2011



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

From the Desk of the Principal:



Welcome to December - it is the season to be jolly and thankful! We often mark this time of year by showing others how much we care through generosity and gifts, both physical and of the spirit. And, I must say "thank you" to everyone who joined in our "Movember Madness" effort for raising awareness for men's cancers. It was a tremendous success and we raised over \$50 dollars and had a lot of fun too! In addition, we are very pleased that Alberta Education reinstated funding that was cut last year, which will allow us to make a small increase in teaching time at the school to enhance math instruction. These items, among others, give reason to remember how fortunate we are.

The Christmas season is perhaps one of the most exciting months of the year for most students. It is a very busy time of family, festivities, Christmas cheer, and many good times. We wish you the best of December! Unfortunately, it isn't that way for all kids and families. For some, it's quite different. It can be an unhappy time filled with stress as much of their life seems far more troublesome than at most other times of the year. We will ask our students, as well as the rest of our Dunstable community to remember these people during this month. With that in mind, for this month's virtue, we will be focusing on giving with a particular focus in those around us who really need support. Giving has much to do with generosity, which is about giving and sharing. You share freely, not with the idea of receiving something in return. You find ways to give others happiness, and give just for the joy of giving. Giving and generosity is one of the best ways to show love and friendship.

Finally, we are continuing our work on building a Safe and Caring School. We have added a dimension to this effort, which was always part of it, but now is part of our message to everyone. We are committed to keeping our kids safe and *maintain that students learn best in this type of culture*. We have adopted an unofficial motto which is that we are a "Safe and Caring Learning Community." We hope you'll join us in celebrating this work.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

Steven Kaplan and the Dunstable School Staff"

Important dates in December

- Dec. 1 & 2 - Professional Development days. No school for students in PHRD
- Dec. 06 - D.A.R.E. Grad
- Dec. 08 - Hot Dog Day
- Dec. 09 - Dunstable Day. No school here
- Dec. 13 - Concert Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 14 - Concert day!! **Extra Kindergarten Day**
- Dec. 15 - Video Conference With Santa!
- Dec. 16 - Dunstable Day. No school here
- Dec. 20 - Telus World of Science - "Light Before Christmas"
- Dec. 22 - PIZZA lunch day. for \$2.00. Gift exchange.
- Dec. 23 - Dunstable Day.
- Jan. 09 - **School Resumes!**

Special "Thank You" to Mrs. Beattie and the Grade 5-6 class for the wonderful job organizing our Halloween party. A great time was had by one & all!
Also, a huge "Thank You" to everyone who supported our "Craft Sale" and "Used Book Sale". Special "Thank You" from our librarian for all the used book donations.



Birthdays for the month of December are:

Payton George
Ezra Careless



"Breakfast program" and "Hot Dog Day" in December.

Dec. 8th is our only hot dog day this month. (\$1.00 per hot dog)



On **Thursday, Dec. 22nd**, a PIZZA lunch will be served for \$2.00. Thank you to the moms who do this for our students!



Students are also really enjoying the **breakfast snack program!** Thanks to the generous donation of **\$2000.00** from **"BUMP" and the Barry family** we are able to offer students breakfast snacks twice per week again this year! Much appreciated!

Our **Student Council** will be planning a few activities for our students during December. Watch for notification in your child's agenda of special events that they may be planning.



Our **Annual Christmas Concert** will be on **Wednesday, Dec. 14th.**

Our first performance will be at 1:30 p.m. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, community members, are encouraged to attend this performance. Our evening performance will start at **7:00 p.m.** Doors open at 6:00 and we are asking **all students to be at the school by 6:45 p.m.** Juice and snacks will be served after the evening performance. Parents, a donation of a snack for the evening performance would be



appreciated. After the evening concert, Santa will be coming to visit and will be bringing candy bags for the children.



We will have a **"Loonie Tree"** set up in the foyer. For a **"Loonie"** students and community people will get their name on a paper Christmas ornament and then they can hang it on the Christmas tree in the foyer.

The money collected will be given to Barrhead FCSS for the less fortunate.



On **Thursday, December 22**, each classroom will be having a gift exchange in the morning. **Boys buy a suitable gift** for a boy their age, (label the gift **"boy gift"**) and **girls buy a suitable gift** for a girl their age (label **"girl gift"**). The cost of the gift should be between **\$2.00 - \$3.00.**

Our **Student Council** will also plan an **afternoon activity** at the school on this day for our students.

From School Council:

School Council are organizing a Christmas draw at the concert. (\$1 per ticket) Donations of new articles for the draw can be sent in to the school from now until the concert date. A non-perishable "food Donation" for F.C.S.S. would be appreciated as well.



Our next **School Council meeting** will be on **January 10th, @ 7:00 p.m.** Babysitting will be offered. Please come out and join us for this meeting.



Thank you to all who came out to the volleyball games in November, and also to the tournament on Nov. 29th in Westlock. We appreciated your support! Our thanks to Miss Braben for coaching volleyball in our school this season.

Basketball season will begin at the end of January. The teams will be travelling to Busby on **January 31st** for their first game. Permission slips will be sent out in early January with the rest of the games that are scheduled.

From the Library.....



A big heartfelt "Thank You" to all parents and community members who contributed to the success of the used book sale, hosted in conjunction with the craft sale. Special thank you to the Laing family who donated a huge amount of books to our library as well as to the used book sale. Special thanks also to Mrs. George, Mrs. McKenzie and Ms. Sloan for their generous donations to the used book sale, as well as numerous others for their support. You have made our library a better place and all the students will enjoy the wonderful new books we were able to buy.

Mrs. Benefeldt

The **Dunstable Playschool** would like to thank the Dunstable School community family and friends for their support of our **Cookie Dough fundraiser.**



There is still some cookie dough available if anyone wanted to purchase more. Playschool will have the cookie dough ready for pickup at the Christmas Concert and extra containers for sale on a "first come, first served" basis.

Scholastic Book Orders:

Please send "cheques only" made out to **Scholastics** when purchasing from the order forms. This will simplify and speed up the orders as we cannot send cash in the mail. This is for your protection as well as our accountability.



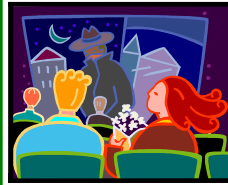
One of our focuses this year is maintaining a "Safe & Caring School". We will continue to work on this in 2011. Each month a different virtue is chosen and students are encouraged to practice this virtue. For the month of December we will focus on "giving". Students are practicing the virtue of **giving** when they:

- * Share with others
- * Are generous to those less fortunate
- * Give of themselves by helping out others



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.



The **IMAX** at the **Space Science Center** is showing "The Light Before Christmas".

We will be taking the whole school on **December 20th** to this show. We will also be touring the exhibits and the "**Discovery Center**" which we have been told is new! Students are asked to bring a **bag lunch** on this day. (no microwave items please).

The cost for this day is **\$8.00 per student for the IMAX, Discovery Center and Exhibits**. Transportation to and from the Space Science Center will be free to students. Contact the office with any questions.



Our Christmas Wish For You

*Our Christmas wish for you
Is not a simple one,
For we wish you hope and joy and peace
Days filled with warmth and sun.*



*May you count your blessings, one by one
And when totalled by the lot,
May you find all you've been given
To be more than what you sought.*

*May God be your strength and light,
May your spirit never grow old,
May all your clouds have silver linings
And your rainbows pots of gold.*

*We wish this all and so much more
May all your dreams come true,
May you have a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year too!*



Anonymous