



Principal's Message

Inside this issue:

<i>Student Led Results</i>	1
<i>Accountability Pillar</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>AISI News</i>	3
<i>Virtue of the Month</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Grade 5/6 ski trip is on Feb. 26th
- Blue Jaguars are leading in intramural points
- School entrance age change(Pg.4)
- Check us out at www.carselandschool.com

Dear Parents,
I would like to start this month again by thanking our school community for the generous support of our school. The Bow River Alliance Church has donated \$1500.00 for our library program. The School Council purchased a new microwave plus paid for our cultural event in March. The Carseland Kids Wellness Coalition donated another \$3000.00 to help the school purchase a new photocopier. Thank you to our volunteers for helping out every week. You all make a big difference in our children's education.

On January 29th, while students had the day off, teachers were busy at Westmount

Results Are In!

In November, Carseland School initiated a new parent teacher interview format in the form of student led conferences. Shortly after, we asked parents to provide feedback using a survey. We would like to share some of the results. 76% of responders left student led conferences with a solid

School working together with other Golden Hills teachers on improving student learning through assessment.

Please note that there are numerous school fees still outstanding. This money is extremely important to the operation of our small school. These fees are used for the basic instructional materials for our students. Please make arrangements to have these paid as soon as possible. Please contact Lynn if you need to set up a payment plan.

In the month of February Alberta Education sends out a survey to be completed by parents, as well as students &

teachers, of grades 4,7, & 10.



Please complete this survey and return it as it helps measure the quality of your child's education in our school.

The grade five and six students are looking forward to going skiing on Friday, February 26th to Nakiska.

Have a great month!

Jeff Grimdsdale

understanding of their child's academic performance. When asked, "Which method is preferred, student led conferences or traditional parent teacher interviews?" 82% chose student led conferences. In response to the question, "Do you agree that Carseland student led conferences are effective?" 90% responded positively. 95% of parents surveyed said that these conferences helped my child develop personal responsibility for their own learning. We would like to thank you for your support in this exciting new student assessment direction.

Accountability Survey

Please note that there is one important change to the parent survey this year – the parent survey in small schools (fewer than 100 students in grade 4-12) has been expanded to include parents of all students in grades 4 and above.

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 tal-

ents 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.

Thank– you to Feather Tribe, Brian Hall, Shelly Chicoine, & Charlene Ferrton for volunteering their time to keep the Early Literacy Program in Carseland School for the second part of the school year.

Reminder if you have not paid your school fees. Please make arrangements with the office 403-934-4161.



Volleyball Gold & Silver medal winners at Wheatland



Garret and Paul Thomas of the Crisis Center do some magic



Schedule of Events

- Feb. 2nd K/1 Post office visit
- Feb. 10thth Beach Day
- Feb. 12th Valentine Dance 6:00 -7:00pm
- Feb. 15th Family Day No School
- Feb. 17th Carseland Olympics
- Feb. 18 & 19th Teachers' Convention No school for students
- Feb. 26th Grade 5/6 Ski Trip to Nakiska

<i>February 2010</i>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2*	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10*	11	12*	13
14	15*	16	17*	18*	19*	20
21	22	23	24	25	26*	27
28						



AISI News

In order to fully participate in their learning and assessment, students need a safe school environment in which to learn. This includes a classroom community of learners where students know what matters and learn ways to get along with others. Students and teachers can be engaged in *assessment for learning* when everyone knows:

- that mistakes are essential for learning
- that they will have the time to try out their ideas
- that success has many different looks

(from Making Classroom Assessment Work by Anne Davies, Ph.D. 2007)



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The Small School with the Very Big Heart

Literacy Tip for the Month of February

Choose appropriate reading materials according to interest and success. An easy way to judge if your child is reading at his or her level, is to have him/ her read the first page. If there are five or more words that are causing difficulty, this book is too challenging for your child and may cause frustration. If your child is enthusiastic about a book that is too challenging, this could be a great book for you to read aloud together.



Early Literacy Team



Virtue of the month

School age entrance change. A child may enroll in Kindergarten if he/she is five years of age on or before the last day of February.

What is Kindness?

Kindness is showing you care, doing some good to make life better for others. It is being thoughtful about people's needs. Kindness is showing love and compassion to someone who is sad or needs your help. Kindness is treating yourself and others gently. It is caring about the earth and all living things.

Why Practice it?

Without kindness, no one would listen when people or animals need help. Everyone would be looking out for himself. The world is lonely without kindness. When someone reaches out to another in an act of kindness, it helps them both. People's lack of kindness to the earth damages the air, water and the land. This causes people and animals to suffer, too. Being kind allows us to feel connected to everything and everyone (Virtue Project).

