

Robert W. Zahara Public School

PARENT NEWSLETTER
October 17, 2008

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

October 2008

REMINDER - STAFF MEETING - EARLY DISMISSAL

Monday, November 3, 2:40 p.m.

Safety in the Parking Lot

Safety in and around our school is a top priority for us. The arena parking lot is no different. When you arrive at the school to pick up children at the end of the day, have you ever considered parking so that when you leave you can drive straight forward without going into reverse? Primary grade students who are walking in the parking lot are especially difficult to see when drivers are backing up. Please ensure their safety by parking so that you can drive straight forward when leaving. Let's all contribute to the safety of our children.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents 2008-2009

Do you want to see what students are expected to learn in each grade, including overviews of subjects and topics? Curriculum Handbooks for Parents, Curriculum Summaries, and Curriculum Express contain information for parents on subjects, programs and courses available in Alberta schools. They are updated every year as changes are made to the curriculum. Print copies of the Curriculum Handbooks and Curriculum Express are

available for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). As well, included with this newsletter, are copies of the Curriculum Summaries for your child's grade level. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Safe Arrival Program



Help is urgently needed! The Safe Arrival Program is a program where parents volunteer their time to phone home of students who are reported absent first thing in the morning. Among other reasons, this is especially important for students who walk to school in the winter months. Unfortunately, there are not enough volunteers signed up for this school year. As a result, some revisions to the volunteer schedule will be necessitated to share the work load. If you are able and willing to donate 10-15 minutes of your morning time on a regular basis (approximately 2-3 times per month), please contact the school. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Halloween Costumes



Halloween is right around the corner and we will be having associated classroom activities on Friday, Oct. 31. Classroom activities will vary according to the age appropriateness of each classroom. However there will be a costume parade for all students at approximately 2:00 pm. If your child is participating, please do not have them dress up into their costume until the afternoon when their teacher will give them permission do so.

We also ask that parents help choose appropriate costumes for school. Please choose costumes that are positive, festive, humorous and gentle. Things to avoid:

- Fake blood
- Violence or violent characters
- Extreme or disfiguring injuries
- Fake plastic or wooded weapons
- Gory or repugnant themes

Thank you for your co-operation in this manner.



Great News!

The results of the Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) were recently mailed out to parents of students who wrote last year. Congratulations to the many students who scored strong individual results.

The previous three year average of our school-wide results indicates a need for improvement in some areas of the PATs. Thus, during the past school year (2007-2008), staff at RWZ made a commitment to improve our school-wide results for both grade 3 and grade 6. A number of goals and strategies were developed to help achieve that improvement.

We are now excited to announce that results from June 2008 indicate success in meeting our preliminary goals! We are well on our way to meaningful long term improvement.

This data shows that plenty of hard work by staff and students, along with the tremendous support from parents, is a major component of success. Congratulations to staff, students, and parents for your dedication to our children's education.



Are Your School Fees Paid?

Peace Wapiti School Board approves the use of school fees to offset the costs of books and materials used in the delivery of programs. School fees were due on September 30th 2008. Fortunately, for most families, payment of school fees is not a problem. However, if these fees pose a hardship for your family, please call the school principal to inquire about alternate arrangements, including the possibility of installments.

Payment of school fees will enable your child(ren) to participate in all the school opportunities available. You will also avoid having your account forwarded by the school board to a collection agency.

If you have already made these arrangements, we thank you for your payment, and ask you to please disregard this reminder.

IGA "SCHOOL IS COOL"

Did you know that our school, Robert W. Zahara Public School, has received over \$6,000.00 during the past few years from the IGA "School is Cool" program? The great thing about this program is that the money goes directly to local schools, with "no strings attached". The total disbursement from the program to date, to all schools in the Grande Prairie area, is close to \$400,000.00. WOW! As a parent, all you have to do is: when shopping at IGA please indicate to the cashier that you want your "School is Cool" points applied to Robert W. Zahara Public School (or Sexsmith Elementary School). That's all there is to it! Your points help all our students benefit from this worthwhile program.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Did you know that there is an avenue for parents to become involved in decisions at the school? The School Advisory Council (SAC) or parent council meets regularly throughout the school year. Our first meeting was held on October 1. The current executive is as follows:

- Chairperson – Sherry Fortier
- Vice-chairperson – Lisa Burletoff
- Secretary – Providence Petker
- Treasurer - Tammy Speerin
- Room Reps - Gr. 1 Ronda Louttit
Gr. 3 Lisa Burletoff



We need room reps for grades 2, 4, 5 & 6. as well as a Sexsmith Secondary School Rep., and Community Rep. The main focus for grade reps is coordinating parent volunteers for activities including weekly hot-dog sales. If you can help in this area, please give the school a call.

BOOK FAIR



The scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school from October 20th – 24th and the family evening will

be held from 5 – 8 PM on Wednesday, October 22. We are thrilled to offer this literary event to our students. We invite your entire family to participate by purchasing the latest and greatest in children's books. Did you know that for every \$10 you spend at the Book Fair, at least \$6 in product profit goes directly back to our school? Your support of this event is key to our obtaining new resources for our library and school.

You will find hundreds of quality children's books at our Book Fair with a wide assortment of titles for all reading levels. To make your shopping easier, children will be able to fill out wish lists, which we will keep on file here at the library to assist you with your shopping.

Our classroom libraries are also in need of books. We invite you to increase the size of your child's classroom library by purchasing books for your child's teacher. Each book will include a gift donation bookplate that your child can personalize.

We look forward to seeing you during our Scholastic Book Fair and thank you in advance for supporting this very important literary fundraiser. Mostly, thank you for believing in books and the importance reading has for your child's future.



MORNING ARRIVAL FOR STUDENTS

School has been underway for a couple of weeks, and everything is running quite well. Our first bell rings at 8:35, and that is when students can come into the school. This gives them 10 minutes before classes start at 8:45 to get organized and settled for the day. Your cooperation in having your child arrive at school between 8:35 and 8:40 is appreciated.



YES WE ARE STILL COLLECTING CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS!!

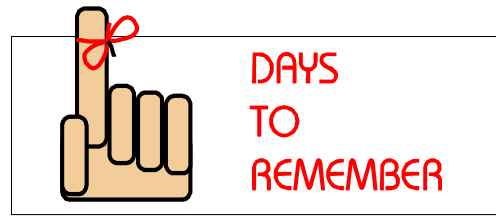
We would appreciate your continued support by saving your labels and sending them in to the school.

Ink Cartridge Recycling

We are continuing our ink cartridge and cell phone recycling program again this year. Please keep sending in your ink cartridges and



cell phones so they are not going into the landfills.



IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

Oct 17	ECS M/W Class
Oct 20-24	Book Fair
Oct 21	Inside Out Day
Oct 22	Quizno Sub Sale
Oct 24	Parent Night-Book Fair 5 8pm
Oct 31	Halloween

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 2	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 3	Early Dismissal – 2:40
Nov 3	Band Parent Meeting 7pm SSS
Nov 4	4B Bake Sale
Nov 7	Report Cards
Nov 10	Day in lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
Nov 12, 13	Parent Teacher Interview 5-8 pm
Nov 14	ECS M/W
Nov 21	ECS T/T
Nov 25	Quizno Sub Sale

FRIDAY EVENTS & MILK SALES

Hot dogs are sold every Friday (or the last day of each week) for \$1.50 each. Remember to show your school spirit and wear your red shirts on the last day of each week. Milk is sold every day of the week at a cost of 75 cents. Ice cream is sold on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and the cost for this is 75 cents.

ONGOING EVENTS:

Milk, Ice Cream & Hotdogs

- ✓ Milk is sold every day.
- ✓ Ice Cream is sold on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- ✓ Hot dogs are sold the last school day of every week.



School Spirit-Team Colours

Black
Orange
Blue
Green
Yellow
Purple



Peace Wapiti School Division #76 **Transportation Department**

is now accepting applications for people interested in acting as a spare bus driver in the Sexsmith Area. If you have a good driving record and enjoy working with children please apply, with a copy of your drivers abstract to:

Joanne Peters

Student Transportation Coordinator

8611a – 108 St

Grande Prairie, AB

T8V 4C5

Phone: 532 – 7734



School Trustee

Did you know that the Peace Wapiti School Division has nine subdivisions, each of which is represented by an elected Trustee?

Your Trustee Is: Dana McIntosh – Phone (780) 532-2448 For more information and education links, check out the Peace Wapiti School Division web site at:

<http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca>

Wolves Minor Basketball

Students wanting to join Wolves Minor Basketball, please see Mrs. Biendarra for registration forms.

Puzzles

Our special needs program is in need of 24 piece puzzles. If anyone has any that they would like to donate, we would like to use them.

Band Parents



If your child is in a band program at RWZ, you are a member of the Band Parents' Association. This association meets on the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Sexsmith Secondary School Staffroom. Primarily involved in fundraising for the band program, this association also plans trips and purchases music and materials for the program. Next meeting is Nov 3 at 7pm and this will be when we will have an Election of Officers. Positions open are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Bingo Coordinator. We'll also sign up volunteers for the phoning committees. Please plan to attend.

101 Dalmatians

There are still DVD's available for last years production of 101 Dalmatians. If you would like to purchase DVD's, they are available at the office for \$5.00 each.

