

JENNIE EMERY SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009 - ISSUE #1

Dear Parents,

It is with considerable pleasure and anticipation that we welcome you and your children to a new school year at **Jennie Emery Elementary School**. We trust you have enjoyed a happy and productive summer. Please take note of the following important information.



"WELCOME"

Jennie Emery Elementary School welcomes all of the new students who will be attending our school this year, and their families to our school community. We would also like to welcome all new staff members.

1) **SCHOOL VISITOR PROTOCOL:**

ALL visitors to Jennie Emery Elementary School will be required to report to the school office upon their arrival inside the school. **REMINDER:** All outside doors to the school other than the front doors will be locked during instructional time. These are precautions we have set up for the safety of students, parents and staff.

2) **SCHOOL FEES:**

School fees for the **2009-10** school term for **Grades 1 through 4** students will be **\$40.00** for **each student**. It is broken down into the following denominations: 1) \$7.00 – Local Levy (used to purchase extra supplies needed for the Art and Science programs at the school), 2) \$8.00 – Agenda book (Every student in Gr. K - 4 will receive an agenda book, this book is used as a communication tool between the school and the student’s home), and 3) \$25.00 - Technology User fee.

The fees for the **Kindergarten** programs are **\$30.50:** \$10.00 – registration fee (paid at the time of registration or if it was not paid at registration, please submit it to the school office), \$12.50 - Technology User fee - ECS, and \$8.00 - for Agenda.

The fees for the **Preschool** program are as follows: \$10.00 – registration fee (paid at the time of registration or if it was not paid at registration, please submit it to the school office, **PLUS** \$75.00/month for either two mornings or two afternoons per week, or \$150.00 for four mornings or four afternoons per week. If your child registered in the Preschool programs at Jennie Emery Elementary School and was diagnosed as having challenges in areas such as: fine or gross motor skills, or speech delay, there is full funding through Alberta Learning.

Please pay all school fees by **October 1st, 2009**. If you anticipate financial difficulties in remitting these fees on time, please contact the school office so arrangements can be made. If necessary, a monthly payment schedule may be set up.

3) MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS:

Newsletters are posted on our website on a monthly basis to keep you up to date and informed of school events. A monthly calendar is attached to each newsletter highlighting upcoming events, professional development days, holidays, etc. As well, some homeroom teachers send out newsletters to help keep you informed of individual classroom events. You can expect your newsletter on the last school day of each month. The newsletter will be emailed home with the oldest or only family member attending our school (one per family). If you do not have access to a computer, please let the homeroom teacher know and we will send a paper copy of the newsletter home in your child's agenda.

5) STUDENT AGENDA BOOKS:

Student agenda books for Grades K – 4 students will be used as a communication tool between the school and home. The agenda includes the school handbook, school calendar, volunteer information and forms. New information will be written in the agendas most school days. Each day students will take home the agendas to share with their parents. Parents are asked to please sign the agenda to acknowledge they have reviewed the contents of the agenda with their child. Students are required to return their agenda to their teacher **each** morning. Individual teachers will explain the use of the agenda within their classrooms. Should your child's agenda get lost or damaged, an additional agenda may be purchased for \$8.00 at the office.

6) MEET THE TEACHER:

“Meet the Teachers Evening” will be held in the school gymnasium at 6:30 on **Tuesday, September 8th**. The evening will unfold as follows:

6:00 – 6:30 Kindergarten parents meet with kindergarten teachers in the gym.

6:30 – 7:00 General information presented to all parents by the principal in the gym.

7:00 – 7:15 Grade 1 parents meet with grade 1 teachers in the library and **Grade 2** parents meet with grade 2 teachers in the gym.

7:15 – 7:30 Grade 3 parents meet with grade 3 teachers in the gym and **Grade 4** parents meet with grade 4 Teachers in the library. We hope to see you all there!

**7) VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:**

We have an active volunteer program at Jennie Emery School and we encourage you to become involved in your child's education. A **“Calling All Volunteers”** questionnaire is included in your child's agenda. Please indicate on the form any areas you would be willing to help, and then return the questionnaire to your child's classroom teacher or the school office if indicated. A “Volunteer Orientation Luncheon” will be held after the October 2nd assembly. Please watch for further information in the next few weeks regarding this event.

8) SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES:

School-wide general assemblies are held the **FIRST SCHOOL FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** at **9:00 a.m.** in the gymnasium. Parents, friends, and relatives are welcome to attend these assemblies.

9) NUT AND NUT PRODUCT ALLERGIES

There are students in our school who are extremely allergic to peanuts and other nuts. Given this, please **DO NOT SEND NUTS or PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS** to school with your child. An allergic reaction to nuts can be life threatening! Please assist us as we attempt to be a “Nut-free School”!

11) **SCHOOL PICTURES:**



Arrangements have been made through **Lifetime Canada Ltd.** for individual and class photographs to be taken. School pictures will be on a **PREPAID** program. This means that you will pay for your package at the time of your child's sitting. The pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, September 31 and Thursday, October 1st.** Further information will follow.

12) **CHRISTMAS CONCERT:**

The Jennie Emery Elementary School Christmas concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 9th and Thursday, December 10th, 2009.** Please watch the upcoming newsletters for further details.



14) **THE TERRY FOX RUN:**

The students and staff at Jennie Emery Elementary School will be participating in a "Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Walk" on **Friday, September 25th, 2009.** As a staff we have decided to ask each child to donate \$2.00 towards this very worthwhile cause. **TOONIE FOR TERRY**

Walking field trip forms must be completed and returned to the school **PRIOR** to the "walk". Kindergarten classes will participate in a teacher-led walk on a regular attendance day. Please watch the classroom newsletters for more information.

15) **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:**

There is a reasonably priced student accident insurance plan available for parents to purchase. This form will be sent home with your child.. You will receive one option for Student Accident Insurance this year through Industrial-Alliance Pacific Life Insurance Company - "The IAP Kids Plus Program". ***These forms are not to be returned to the school,*** please follow the instructions for application included with the form.

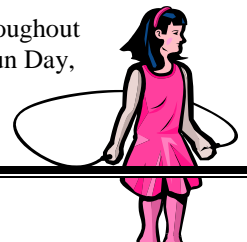
16) **SCHOOL COUNCIL:**

The Jennie Emery School Council Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.** in the school staffroom. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the incoming officers, community representative, and classroom representatives. One parent will also be elected to represent the Kindergarten program.

17) **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES**

Classroom representatives are a vital part of our school. At Jennie Emery Elementary School we require two classroom representatives per homeroom. They will be responsible for a number of situations in which they will be assisting the teacher and the individual classrooms. Parents/guardians of the children attending Jennie Emery Elementary School will have an opportunity to volunteer for the position of classroom representative at the "Meet The Teacher" night. The following is a list of situations where the classroom representatives may be of assistance:

1. Assist the teachers with the organization of special events (e.g. classroom parties, field trips skating party, etc.) as well as other projects upon request.
2. Assist School Council with Crisis Response by phoning parents and informing them of happenings in the event of a lockdown or other critical incidents.
3. Assist the Special Events Committee with related duties of special events that take place throughout the school year. The special events may include but not be limited to: i.e. Skip-A-Rama, Fun Day, Cupcake Sale, Pancake Breakfast



4. Assist the Librarian, if requested, in obtaining volunteers to work the Book Fairs.
5. Equitably distribute and share the workload amongst all parents in the classroom. A classroom parent representative is NOT required to do all the work himself or herself.
6. Attend the School Council meetings, if possible, to act as a spokesperson on behalf of the parents in your classroom. Generally School Council meetings occur every other month.
7. You will be requested to fill out a Volunteer Confidentiality form, which will be filed in the school office. This form will list the expectations of volunteers in our school. You will also receive a classroom phone list and Crisis Response phone list as a classroom representative to help you assist with an emergency procedure.

18) **CROSSWALK SAFETY:**



We encourage everyone to use the crosswalks around Jennie Emery to ensure safe travel to and from our school. We can work together to promote safe pedestrian practice in our community. Parents, please make sure to model appropriate crossing for all children

19) **ALTERNATE BUSSING ARRANGEMENTS:**

If your child is **NOT** presently a bus student and will require bussing to go to another location i.e. another student's house, Palliser Regional School District requires you to contact Mr. Randy Whittal at the Palliser Education Center @ (403) 328-4111, to check on the following conditions before approval is granted for alternate bussing arrangements:

- a) Is there presently room on the bus that your child will need to board?
- b) Have you contacted both the school office and the current bus driver to inform them of the changes?
- c) If there is room available on the bus, have you sent a note to school with your child giving written permission for your child to ride that particular bus?
- d) If all of the above conditions have been met and dealt with, then bussing may be permitted for your child.



20) **COUNSELLOR'S CORNER:**

The Role of the Family School Liaison Counsellor in the School and Community



As Family School Liaison Counselors, we are often asked to provide a number of services to our schools and communities. Generally, we help children and families cope with difficulties they are having in their lives, either at home or at school. When needed we make appropriate referrals to agencies such as Mental Health, medical clinics, and Social Services. In other cases, we simply provide information and resources through consultations.

In our communities, some counselors provide educational workshops and crisis intervention services in partnership with other community agencies. Others are very active in extracurricular activities involving students.

The Family School Liaison Counselors in Palliser are responsible for more than one school. This means that although the counselors have a schedule for their specific schools, they are occasionally called away to deal with issues in their other schools.

Discussion concerning roles of the counselors in their respective schools and communities would not be complete without mention of the existing myths surrounding their roles. Counselors are not used as punishment for misbehaving students. People often are under the assumption that we discipline students. We are involved with identifying possible consequences for behaviors, but only after teachers have dealt with the initial behaviors.

Students cannot be forced to see a counsellor. This needs to be a voluntary action if initiated by a parent or teacher. Information gathered in counseling sessions is not automatically shared with teachers and/or parents. Permission to release information must be obtained from the parent, before information can be shared with other parties.

In all cases, the "best interests" of the client take priority when assessing options in counseling. This means that if there is some debate concerning what direction counseling needs to go, the best interests of the client will be held above all else.

It is important to note that while all counselors abide by the same general guidelines, each has their own strengths and abilities. If you have any questions concerning the counseling services in your school and community, please contact your local Family School Liaison Counsellor for Jennie Emery School: Glen Jankowiak at the school or at 634-9662.



CHILDREN WHO WON'T GO TO SCHOOL

Children with school refusal are scared to go to school. They may be so scared that they won't leave the house. School refusal is most common in 5 and 6 year olds and in 10 and 11 year olds, but it can start at any age.

The problem might start after a child has been home for a while, such as after a holiday, summer vacation, or brief illness. It also might happen after a stressful event, such as moving to a new house or the death of a pet or relative. Children who won't go to school often say they feel sick. They might wake up and say they have a headache, stomachache, or sore throat. If they stay home from school, the "illness" might go away, but it comes back the next morning before school. Some children may have crying spells or temper tantrums. They may be worrying about the safety of their parents or themselves.

What To Do If Your Child Has Difficulties

If your child has significant difficulty with separation, consider staying for a portion of the first day or two. Discuss this plan with the teacher. As he/she becomes more comfortable, make your stay shorter, until eventually, you stay only long enough to help him/her off with his/her coat, greet the teacher and say goodbye.

What To Do If Your Child Has Difficulties – cont'd:

Be firm about attendance if your child is reluctant.

At the end of the school day, make every effort to return when he/she expects you to and don't make him/her wait and worry that you've forgotten him/her. If your child has specific worries about school, be reassuring and responsive to his/her concerns. Ask him/her specific questions "I know that sometimes kids are afraid of school because they're not sure where things are, or because they have problems with school work, or a teacher, or a classmate. Is something like that bothering you?" It often helps to admit that you were fearful of something at school as a child and that many children have similar worries.

Some children may show regression in some behaviors, such as clinginess, sleep difficulties, thumb sucking, bed-wetting, and a reluctance to go back to school. These behaviors should be temporary and will be helped by your continuing encouragement and positive expectations.

For some children the beginning of every school year may be a little bumpy. Change is exciting, but it can be scary, too. With your understanding, patience, and sometimes a needed, but gentle nudge, your child should have an exciting and rewarding school experience.

For more information contact your Family/School Liaison Counsellor at your son/daughter's school.

Community News

**Coaldale Rec Hockey
“Coaldale Cool Canucks”**

Players Welcome

Boys & Girls

Ages 7 – 17

Non-Body Contact

Season Begins: Monday, September 21, 2009

Juniors Play: 6:30 – 7:30pm

Seniors Play: 7:30 – 8:30pm

No Fundraising, No Volunteer Hours

\$200.00 per player

Mass Registration: Monday, September 9, 2009 7:00 – 9:00pm

Coaldale Curling Rink

Space is Limited

For more information contact Cheryl Neufeld 403-345-5663



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