

## January 2012



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### Principal's Message

Happy New Year from the staff of Elnora School.

I would like first to thank all those who had a hand in helping with our annual Christmas Concert. The show was fantastic. Thank you for supporting your children as they performed so well. The Celebration Meal was fantastic. Our Silent Auction raised nearly \$1600 with half of this money going towards our Student's Union who organized the auction and the other half going towards our sports teams. We sold a record number of concert DVDs, but can make more. Please let Mrs. Ward know immediately if you would like one. The cost of a DVD is \$10 with proceeds going towards props, supplies, and costumes for next year's concert.

Our website, [www.elnoraschool.ca](http://www.elnoraschool.ca) has many interesting features. There is a 'prospective parent presentation' that has tons of pictures, graphs, and information showing why our school is so awesome. You will even get to read staff biographies and look at some photos that show what a great school we have.

The new year means new beginnings..... basketballs are bouncing and our boys and girls teams are doing fantastic. Skiing days are coming, as are swimming lessons and more great hot lunches by our helpful parents. A new round of complementary courses has started. Preparations are underway for our annual AISI week which will focus on critical thinking skills during a weeklong cross graded and classroom activities. Last year our students participated in the "Western Whoop Up". This year, it will be "Survivor Week" with cardboard boats, trips to the pool, a visit from Mantracker (Terry Grant), and a grades 1-8 school sleepover. Midterms for Junior High are this week and next week and all around the school kids are reading, writing, playing, and learning. It is great to be a part of Elnora School. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Mr. Larry Neville

### Important Dates:

- Feb 7—PAC Pizza Day**
- Feb 8—PAC meeting 7:30PM**
- Feb 10—NO SCHOOL**
- Feb 20—NO SCHOOL**
- Feb 21—Gr 1-8 Skiing**
- Feb 23, 24—NO SCHOOL**
- Feb 28—Gr 1-8 Skiing**



Thank-you to Conoco Phillips for your generous donation to our school breakfast program. We appreciate your support!!

### Child Care

Quite often the school fields inquiries about child care in the Elnora area. If you know of anyone who is interested in providing before and after school child care please let us know.

## *A Message from the Superintendent*

Teachers and staff in our schools work very hard to ensure quality learning and to provide opportunities for our students to develop new skills. As importantly, we work to build meaningful relationships and nurture a safe and caring culture where each student feels a sense of belonging. We recognize the uniqueness of every single child in our care and we know we don't just help students learn. We have the ability to help them change their lives for the better forever.

From their first day of Kindergarten to the time they graduate from high school, our students are surrounded by values that guide our every effort in Chinook's Edge. Our division's new Mission and Vision statements bring to life the values that we can all be proud of.

**Kurt Sacher**

**Superintendent of Schools**

### *Mission*

*Chinook's Edge School Division will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them.*

### *Vision*

*Chinook's Edge School Division will be universally recognized as a collaborative learning community where learning is personalized for all students to achieve success as compassionate and innovative global citizens.*

## *Thank-you's*

Elnora School is very fortunate to be able to thank the following organizations/people:

**Betty Mose**—for donating mitts and toques to our school

**Boomtown Trail Cowboy Church**—for your generous donation to the forgotten lunch program

**Nick and Deb Silbernagel**—for letting us borrow your palm tree for the concert

**Glenn and Gwen Craig**—for your hard work cleaning and moving tables and chairs after the concert

We appreciate all you do to make our school  
a wonderful place to be!!

## Kindergarten

Exciting news in Kindergarten!!! We have recently gotten a smartboard installed in our classroom. This gives us an opportunity for more interactive learning and play. I am very excited to see what I can do to help the students learn in new and exciting ways.

January was a month to get right back into learning, after a relaxing break, and that is exactly what we did. Our theme this month was "Winter" and that turned out to be quite appropriate. We had some very cold weather and some students that were tired of being cooped up inside on those cold days. Despite the deep freeze temperatures, the students really enjoyed studying the story "The Mitten" by Jan Brett. Some of the activities that we did were making mitten booklets and designing new homes for all the animals in the story to live in. We also built snowman glyphs and made snowmen button math booklets.

The students were excited to be back at school and are now looking forward to February and our new theme, "Bears".

Miss Thiessen

## Grade 1/2

We have had a wonderful start to the second half of the school year. Students have settled in and are enjoying being back at school. Since the beginning of the school year, we have been keeping track of the school days. Students are excited to celebrate one hundred days of school in February. We will spend the day participating in activities to do with the number 100.

In January, students have been learning about hot and cold temperatures. Students have learned about hot and cold materials and how to handle them safely, as well as, sources of heat. We will continue to learn about hot and cold temperatures in February.

In Language Arts, students have been introduced to the process of story writing. We have discussed the elements of a story, planned and wrote a penguin themed story as a class titled The Stollen Stuff. Students illustrated the pictures and the story is now a big book in our classroom library. Students have been engaged in the story writing process and are enthusiastic about writing their own penguin themed stories. We

will continue to learn and practice story writing this month.

In Math, students have enjoyed our *Measurement Unit* and the hands-on activities. Students have measured their desks, the classroom, carpets and other objects using paper clips, blocks and other units of measure. Students have a good understanding of how to order and compare objects using their measurements. In February, grade one students will be learning about numbers to 20 and grade two students will be learning about numbers to 100.

Miss Robb

## Grade 3/4

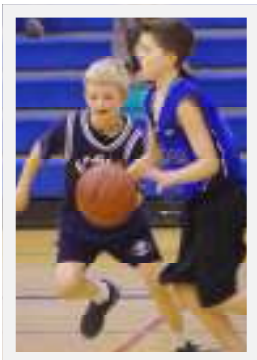
January has been a month of hard work, and some very cold weather! We have completed a study of the book Fantastic Mr. Fox, and are wrapping it up by being reporters direct from the scene of the action! We have learned to add and subtract larger numbers, and are now studying geometry, including shapes, solids, symmetry and congruency. Students have studied the country of India in social studies and we have been learning about simple machines. We built dragsters out of pop cans, and are learning about how stored energy can move vehicles forward. Next we talk about wheels and axles, and will lift the teacher using a lever!

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas concert and auction, and the grade 3-4 class hopes you stay warm and well over the next month.

Mrs. Peterson

### Elnora Basketball

Elnora is excited to have boys and girls junior high basketball teams this year. They have both been practicing hard over the last month or so. Both teams have competed and performed well. Good luck for the rest of the season!



## Grade 5/6

Since returning from Christmas break, the students have been engaged in many exciting activities at school. I am so fortunate to have this wonderful group of students that are a collective group of hard working, kind, dedicated and fun-loving individuals.

**Language Arts:** The students are engrossed in story writing. We have been writing short stories with a focus on developing plot, setting and character. They have created their own short stories based on a given picture, and then created an organized plan, prior to writing the story. We continued to use the Blended Style and Structure program, focusing on sentence openers and dress-ups. As a class, we wrote a story based on a picture prompt and the students were very engaged in this process.

**Science:** Recently, we completed our unit called Electricity and Magnetism and have moved onto a related topic called Mechanism Using Electricity. In this unit the students will create a burglar alarm, motorized car and electronic quiz board, to demonstrate their understanding of electrical principles.

**Math:** Both grades completed the unit on Transformations. Currently, the grade 5's are working on Multiplication and Division. They have made flash cards to help them memorize the times tables. I encourage them to be practicing at home! Multiplying 2 digit by two digit numbers and long division are

the key elements of this unit. The grade 6's are working on Decimals, focusing on place value to the millionths, and multiplying and dividing decimal numbers.

The grade 5/6's have enjoyed their scrapbooking complementary with Mrs. Pennock. The grade 1/2 students had computers with me. They have worked hard to learn to log onto the network, as well as learn the Notebook 10 software program and MS Word. In addition, they learned about the home row for typing and played on some fun websites. It is nice to have an opportunity to teach the younger students in the school, through our various complementary classes!

### Important dates to remember:

**Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>** – Junior Eagles basketball at noon  
(Grade 4 and 5, registered students)

**Friday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Junior Eagles basketball at noon

**Wednesday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** - Junior Eagles basketball at noon  
PAC meeting, 7:30 pm

**Friday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>** – Flex, No School

**Tuesday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine's Day – Information to come

**Friday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Junior Eagles basketball at noon

**Monday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>** – Family Day – No School

**Tuesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>** – Skiing at Canyon

**Feb. 23 and 24** – Teachers' Convention, No School

**Tuesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>** – Skiing at Canyon

**Thursday, Mar. 1** – Parent Teacher Interviews

I hope to see many parents at interviews on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions,  
[tsimpson@chinooksedge.ab.ca](mailto:tsimpson@chinooksedge.ab.ca)  
or 773-3624.

Mrs. Simpson

### **Social Studies**

We completed our study of the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Lowlands region. The students developed a strong understanding of why the Loyalists came to the region, the impact that the Great Migration had on the region and how the Underground Railway contributed to further settlement in the region. The other regions of Canada will be examined through a research project completed by the students. Structured research requirements, various available sources, and teacher guidance and assistance will allow the students to create a poster and a diorama to display their understanding of the region.

Mrs. Pennock

## Grade 7/8

It is that busy time of year as mid-term exams are in full swing. The Junior High students will breathe a sigh of relief when they are all completed at the end of the month.

We have just begun our *Cut Lens* with Dr. Seuss unit in Language Arts. The focus of this unit is to examine the underlying themes/messages that are portrayed in various Dr. Seuss books. For example, the book entitled *The Butter Battle* was actually written with an underlying theme about the Cold War and *The Sneetches* touches on the theme of racism and prejudice. As part of our Dr. Seuss unit, the Grade 7/8 students will be completing written work, comprehension questions, Venn diagrams and they will read Dr. Seuss books with the Grade 1/2 students for a special "Buddy Read" once a week.

In Science, we are exploring a unit focused on *Planet Earth*. This unit

looks at many aspects of our planet including gradual and sudden changes of the earth, the rock cycle, continental drift, and tracing geological change using fossils. The students have completed a model of planet earth and a research poster based on the famous earthquakes that have occurred in history.

We have completed our Renaissance Europe unit in Social. The latter portion of the unit looked at how the Renaissance period sparked the exchange of ideas across Europe and what factors contributed to world exploration. As we move forward in Social, we will begin to study the contact between the Aztecs and the Spanish. The students will come to understand the intercultural contact between the two groups and the factors that led to the dominance of the Spanish over the Aztecs.

Mrs. Pennock



### Elnora Student Council Update

Elnora's Got Talent was a huge success! We had 48 participants and 18 acts. All students were very brave singing, dancing, and playing instruments for the audience. It was a very fun afternoon. All of the participants received a little gift bag, compliments of us! The winning act received helium balloons to proudly display in their classroom!

Emily Neville, Madison Cunningham, Maren Flexhaug, Catrina Craig, Emma Wilson and Mrs. Simpson

## *Elnora Library – the happening place in your town*

\$10.00 per year includes everyone in the house hold and you can use any library in Alberta, request books from anywhere in Alberta or even Canada.

### In February we will have:

- \* Hockey Books (loaned by Randy Armstrong)
- \* Movies to loan to patrons (donations gratefully accepted)
- \* Some unique books for our youngest readers (donated by Tamara Haskell)

Tamara also supplied a display of the original Anne of Green Gables novels. Reminisce with the originals, and take out the loaner copies. She donated her set of Patricia Cornwall books. Big thanks to her, eh?

- \* 4 x a month – we receive new, first run novels.

Please don't be intimidated by our closed door. Come in, we're friendly.

- \* E-readers: I'm not an expert but together we can do anything
- \* Read Alikes: Want to know who writes like your favourite author?
- \* Local talent section and History Books

We have High Speed wifi Internet – same as all libraries and schools in Alberta. Our gov't has said that every Al-bertan will have access. (You could say: I'm fast and free)

2012 means new board members. Every one on my Board expires. Contact anyone below telling them you want to be associated with Wanda, Sharon and Eileen. Please note, we can only stay open when we have 11 board members.

403-773-2353	Alanna Metcalfe	metcalfea@live.com	Chairperson
403-773-3551	Cheryl Warren	cwarren@wispernet.ca	Treasurer
403-773-3191	Corrine Jewell	hiddenjewell@live.com	Secretary
403-773-2452	Sharon Barnes	sj.barnes@hotmail.com	Senior's representative
403-773-3781	Patricia Richardson	B-Rich-123@hotmail.com	
403-773-3699	Tamara Haskell	trhaskell@platinuim.ca	

Photo Frenzy in February! :D

For anyone interested in the very basics of photos, Jill would be happy to see you! We will take you through the step-by-step process of almost anything photo related! And with our take-home brochures, you can easily do it yourself after 1 lesson. Satisfaction guaranteed to our loyal patrons! Let me know if there is anything else you would like to learn about.

Submitted by Jillian Metcalfe

## Elnora School PAC Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2012

**Attendance:** Larry Neville, Tammy Berglund, Colleen Butler, Tricia Simpson, Wendy Corry, Helena Smith.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:30pm

**Approval of Agenda:** Larry approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tricia approved.

### **Old Business:**

-Parent Council phone survey, Jackie not at meeting but is planning on getting it going January 2012; possibly arrange childcare for the meeting & start earlier to up the turnout by parents?!

### **New Business:**

-Elnora Community meeting; information session on family violence, Tammy attended on behalf of PAC & reported it was great & encouraged anyone to attend future meetings, Helena agreed.

-Call in survey with the Minister of Education in November 2011, Tammy reports that the minister is basically trying to rewrite the education act; still gathering info. on ALL aspects of education & schools in our division from educators, parents & students. Letter was sent home with students on how they can contact him directly! Info @ Minister of Educations web site.

-Milk Program; Tammy approached & questioned as to why we don't have a milk program this year. A parent has volunteered to take on the program for twice a week; we will table the idea until the next meeting so that all the information can be gathered for her.

-Breakfast Program; Larry discussed the grant application & that we have not heard anything back yet (with Helena's help), \$500 grant from Conoco Phillips has come in support of the program, the grant that FCSS applied for was for \$2984 thru Breakfast Club of Canada. Wait & see what grants come thru as we would really like to be able to offer this to our students. Need to look at how to co-ordinate the program with a possible February start date! Tammy will look into grants possibly from Viterra as well. Will need a program coordinator & volunteers for the service; Larry looking for a donation for funding from PAC & the coordinator.

-Before & After School Care: Larry brought up as has come up in the past & needs discussion for future reference. A lot of paper work, cost & concern involved in getting the program going.

-Skiing Funding: Tricia looking after, will be in February for 2 full days, \$45 for skiing & \$70 for snowboarding, permission forms have already gone home.

-Teacher in Excellence Program; Larry presented the package as the nominations need to be in right away if there is a nominee. Tammy has the information if parents are looking into nominating a member of staff.

-Fruit to the School Program-concerns with the plastic trays being used, tried tinfoil & will not work, Helena will buy glass trays ASAP. Cost about \$1200 per year to run program. Change is collected at Jewell's Grocery for the program as well. Please donate loose change there!!

### **Reports:**

**Treasures Report:** Leslie not at meeting to report

**School Trustee Report:** Colleen reports that a person has been hired as the program director for Community Learning Campus, will be looking after the Community Engagement Sites & the reviews of these sites. Penhold's new school is scheduled to open in 2014, River Glenn is scheduled to close & the school boundaries will need to be adjusted accordingly. Board is trying to visit all the schools in the division over 3 years.

**Hot Lunch:** Stephanie not at meeting to report.

**Principle & Teachers:** Tricia reports that January is going great with enthusiastic students. Larry agrees & feels the concert & all the prep work was great & the Christmas meal went over fantastic this year. Miss Thiessen coaching boy's basketball, Mrs. Pennock coaching the girls. Additional AISI funding received for provincial exam reviews. New educational assistant in  $\frac{3}{4}$  classroom. Increased EA time in all elementary classes as well. Family School Wellness Worker program being revamped & hopefully we will get a permanent worker 1 day per week at the school. Tina Bjorn has officially resigned her position at the school; Miss Robb will hold her position until the end of the year.

**Question & Answer:** Elnora's Got Talent, attendance open to everyone in the community. Helena has made the Youth Centre Karaoke Machine available to the show. Helena wondering about doing "Heart Campaign" for the community if the staff is behind the idea! Silent Auction made around \$1500 from the Christmas Fair this year.

**Next Meeting: February 08, 2012 @ 7:30pm**

**Adjournment of Meeting @ 9:10 pm.**