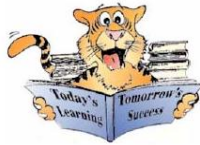


BRENTWOOD BULLETIN



Calgary Board of Education
www.cbe.ab.ca/b204

Virtue Focus of the Month- Jerome Iginla February 2012

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Administrator's Message

Opportunities, Experiences, Inspiration, Exposure

School should reflect the world we live in. Dynamic, evolving and current, our school extends the learning of students beyond the classroom walls practically, creatively, virtually and physically. The February 7th Calgary Board of Trustee's meeting will open with a video of our students singing Oh Canada. On February 9th our Grade 2 students are hosting an assembly during the day with a performance in the evening. February 10th our grade 1-4 students will travel to the Jubilee Auditorium for Alberta Ballet's performance of Cinderella. At the end of the month students will have the opportunity to see Vertigo Theatre's Cat in the Hat. Please remember that students are required to wear their formal uniform for assemblies and field trips and may lose the privilege of attending as a consequence. Our parents are hosting their annual Family Carnival and Dance contributing to the range of experiences available to our students. Just before the Teachers' Convention – Family Day weekend students will get involved in our school's Winter Festival providing a physical component to a diverse selection of events.

I encourage parents to contribute and participate in the many invitations for input into the changes in education proposed by the Minister of Education. I know that our Board of Trustees is also very interested in hearing from the public and the parents and students which it serves. Please take the time to complete the surveys sent home, offered online or forums arranged. These organizations are engaged in providing opportunities for stakeholder input and these must be accessed to be effective and prove their value.

A reminder that the newsletter is longer than the one-page Calendar and first page that goes home with students. The rest of it is available online at

the address on this page and through a link on our school website. It is also available in hard copy upon request from our school office.

Teachers' Convention

On February 16th and 17th, all Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District teachers will participate in our annual Calgary City Teachers' Convention. Attendance at this convention is both a professional and legal obligation for teachers. Teachers pay for this convention through dues levied by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Teachers' Convention provides an excellent means for professional development. Caretaking staff and support staff also attend conventions at this time so please make sure that you do not drop your children at school on these days.

As noted on our calendar, **children do not attend school on the February 16th and 17th, Teachers' Convention days. Please also remember that Monday, February 20th is Alberta Family Day and is a day when all schools are closed.**

Upcoming Events

February 9 th	Grade 2 Performance 7:00 p.m.
February 10 th	Alberta Ballet 12:15 - 2:30
February 15 th	Winter Festival 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.
Feb 28 th /29 th	Vertigo Theatre 12:15 - 2:10 p.m.

Highlights of this Month's Newsletter available online:

www.cbe.ab.ca/b204

- Accountability Pillar Survey
- Registration for Area I TLC
- In Line Skating
- Requests from Teachers
- Gr. 2 Assembly
- No School Days
- Creating a Culture of Character
- Winter Festival
- Spelling Club
- Attention-Loading or Unloading
- Student/Staff/Building Security
- Parent Corner
 - School Nurse
 - Parent Council News
- Trustees Message



Accountability Pillar Survey

Information for parents:

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.



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 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

Registration for Area 1 Traditional Learning Centre Programs

Registration for the Area 1 TLC programs at Brentwood and T. B. Riley Schools began on January 16th and will be ongoing until March 16th. If you have a younger sibling of a child currently attending, who will be joining us next fall, please make sure you come in and complete the required paper work as soon as possible. If you haven't received a phone call by April 30th then you know your child has been accepted into the TLC program. Our office staff are also happy to send

home a registration package with your older child if you call them and request one.

Our grade 4 students will be automatically assigned to the TLC program at Thomas B. Riley School unless you contact us to let us know that your child will be attending their community school or other program.

**In-line Skating was a Hit Once Again!**

Once again this year, our students have had a fantastic time learning to in-line skate. It is amazing the progress each student makes during their lessons. We are especially pleased that the instructor from Alien In-Line places such great importance of using the appropriate equipment and skating safely, while still having fun. This is a great activity that has the potential of providing a lifelong physical hobby for all of our students.

Requests from Teachers

Teachers would like to remind you to write a note in the daily agenda or to leave them a telephone message if you will be picking your child up prior to the end of the school day. Teachers are then more able to ensure that important messages are written in the agenda ahead of time and that homework resources are ready to go when you arrive. Teachers are generally unable to interrupt their teaching to stop and get those things ready for your child. Teachers also would like to remind you that when you leave a telephone message on their voice mail, you should not expect an immediate response. Each teacher's priority is to be actively involved with the students throughout the day. Teachers also often have supervision responsibilities before school, at recess and may hold meetings or offer clubs at lunch time. Teachers will attempt to return calls within 24 hours. If you have a message of an urgent nature, please call the main office and the secretaries will contact the teacher. You may also want to send a note in your child's agenda book, which teachers check daily.

**Gr.2 Assembly**

The Grade two children are pleased to be presenting "An Evening with Brentwood's Best". Our theme is Excellence and the variety of ways we can demonstrate excellence. The performance is Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. Please note that you must have a ticket for the evening performance.



No School Days for 2011-2012

Please note these dates are also in the student planners.

February 3 rd	System Professional Day – no school for students
February 16th – 17th	Teachers Convention – no classes for students
February 20th	Alberta Family Day – NO School
March 23rd	Parent Teacher Conferences – no classes for students
March 26th-March 30th	Schools closed – Spring Break
April 6th	Good Friday – No School
April 9th	System Professional Day – no school for students
May 18th	Professional Development Day – no classes for students
May 21st	Victoria Day – schools closed
June 27th	Time Bank Day – no classes for students
June 28th	Appeals Day – no classes for students
June 29th	Organizational Day – no classes for students

Creating a Culture of Character
Our virtue focus for the month of February is Jarome Iginla

During February, students continue their study of excellence with a focus on Jarome Iginla and athletic excellence. Through our study of Jarome Iginla, we are learning what it means to be an outstanding athlete and contributing member of a community. In particular, students are learning about the virtues of sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork, commitment, focus, optimism, dedication and generosity. Brentwood students are being encouraged to demonstrate these virtues on the playground, in their classrooms/gymnasiums, and in our bus lines. In recognition of their efforts to strive for personal excellence, students who earn a character cheque in January or February are being entered into a draw to win a prize from our Jarome Iginla showcase.



Winter Festival

Once again this year we will be kicking off the long Teachers' Convention and Family Day weekend by celebrating winter with a Winter Festival on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 15th from approximately 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. This is an opportunity for our students to get outside and explore ways to be fit and active despite the winter weather, which sometimes seems to go on forever here in Calgary! There will be events of all sorts, face painting and hockey themed games. We will be looking for parent volunteers as well, so watch for more information coming home soon. Students will go home as usual at dismissal time. This is an outdoor event so please make sure that your children are appropriately dressed in layers of winter clothing. In the case of really inclement weather (below -20 C) the Winter Festival will be cancelled and we will try to reschedule at a later date.



Spelling Club

The grade four Spelling Club was a huge success. We would like to thank all of the students who participated in the club. Brentwood School held their second annual school spelling bee in December. We were extremely impressed with how hard the participants studied and prepared for the bee. The winner of the spelling bee was Daniel C. from Ms. McNeil's class, spelling 'irresponsible' for the win. We would also like to recognize the runner up, Devon K. for his hard work and strong performance.



Our staff parking lots are certainly the most dangerous area of the school especially around the start and end of the day. Despite posted signs, reminders from staff and frequent reminders in the newsletters parents continue to place their own needs ahead of the polite direction to **NOT USE THE PARKING LOTS FOR STUDENT DROP OFF and PICK UP.**

Parents who park in the staff parking lots and bring their children into the school cause parking hassles for teachers who pay to park in these lots.

We know that many parents drive their children to school, especially on cold days, but we strongly urge you to stop using this area in ways that it was never designed. If needed, please park on the street,- NOT in the crosswalk, bus stop, or designated bus zones- and walk with your children to the school.

We will be reinforcing these safety practices in our daily announcements and will ask our students to ensure that parents are always following these safety rules.

Thank you for joining us to keep all of our students and staff safe.

Student/Staff/Building Security

Just a reminder that there is **NO REGULAR supervision of students outside before 8:53.** We do not provide supervision for students dropped off early and cannot accommodate parents arriving early with their children except for occasional and extreme situations.

There is **NO** supervision after school for students being picked up, inside or outside. With so many students riding the bus, supervision is provided for this, but does not extend to parent pick ups. Please ensure that if you are picking up a child, that a note has been included in their agenda and that they wait in the office.



Students and parents are reminded that they are asked to remain in the foyer of the school, until they have checked in with the office or have made prior arrangements to meet with a teacher.

Before school clubs provide supervision only for the students involved and parents must make arrangements for siblings to arrive at school at the regular time.

For the safety and security of everyone using the building we require that all visitors check in at the office upon arrival.

Parent Corner
A Message from our School Nurse

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week occurs during the month of February. It is an opportunity for each of us to stop and evaluate the way our attitudes towards body shape impact the quality of our lives. We need to challenge cultural attitudes, values, and myths that contribute to body dissatisfaction. Together, we can work towards healthy lifestyles that celebrate all of our attributes.



We need to celebrate the diversity of body sizes and shapes of all people. Health comes in all shapes and sizes. Of course, the range of food and weight problems must be taken seriously because they can affect an individual's physical health, and contribute to feelings of powerlessness. In doing this, we need to emphasize identity and personhood rather than external appearance.

WHAT IS BODY IMAGE?

Body image is the mental picture we have of our physical appearance and our attitudes and feelings toward it.

A FEW TIPS TO START BUILDING A POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

1. **Accept Yourself.** Healthy bodies come in all shapes and sizes. Focus on your good qualities and treat your body with respect and love. Remind yourself of all the things you are besides a body.
2. **Remind Yourself.** Standards of beauty vary over time and culture. Currently, our culture has set an unattainable and unhealthy standard of thinness. You do not have to buy into the "ideal" society is selling.
3. **Do Not Diet.** Dieting is an ineffective strategy for permanent weight loss.
4. **Enjoy Eating Well.** Eat for energy and for pleasure. Follow *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating* and choose a variety of foods everyday.
5. **Enjoy Being Active.** Physical activity helps you deal with stress and strengthens your heart. Incorporate activity into your daily life.



Parent Council News

Hope everyone is settling back after the chilly festive season.

Hope you have your dancing shoes ready with a hearty, fun filled February ahead of us. The annual family dance/carnival is being held this year on Friday, February 24th, 2012. Further details will be sent home closer to the event.

Please take note that the next parent council meeting is being held on March 6th 2012 at 7:00 p.m.. The parent council meeting is a great way to communicate between other parents and receive an insight on the progression of Brentwood School.

The last fun lunch on January 27th, 2012 was a big success and coincided nicely with casual day. The kids enjoyed their pizza from Panago once again. Watch for the form coming home in regards to the next round of special lunches.





Feb. 2012

Role of the Board of Trustees in one of the world's best education systems

Citizens of Calgary elect trustees to govern the Calgary Board of Education, one of the best education systems in the world.

How to provide good governance is a choice that every board has to make. In 2007 the Conference Board of Canada recognized the CBE Board of Trustees for its governance excellence. Building on that success, we are committed to continuously learning and improving.

In the spring, the Board of Trustees agreed that we would all work together, with educational governance consultants, to review the work that we do and how we work together to oversee, govern and focus the performance of the CBE.

Governing our school system means directing and monitoring the work of administration through policies. These policies give us oversight on important matters that affect all aspects of our school system including financial matters.

Another aspect of governing is to set the outcomes that parents and Calgarians expect for students. These are our *results*. Our results have been inspired by Alberta Education's Inspiring Action and its Framework for Student Learning.

The Framework for Student Learning outlines key competencies Albertans expect students to gain in school. These competencies include being an engaged thinker, an ethical citizen, and having an entrepreneurial spirit.

We have incorporated these expected competencies into our results, which are academic success, citizenship, character, and personal development.

Through any changes in policy or governance, we remain focused on student learning and success. At

the end of the day that is what is truly important. Of course, we are accountable to all Calgarians for the quality of education your children receive in our schools and how well they are prepared for their futures as adults. We expect to be held accountable for the results of Calgary's public schools system.

Are students completing high school with a foundation of learning necessary to thrive in life, work and continued learning?

We count on Calgarians to express their views on the direction of public education, the values that it needs to uphold and what learning should be now and into the future.

We have an important job. Not just us as a Board of Trustees, but all of us as citizens. The children and youth in our schools are the future leaders of our city, our country and our world. They certainly deserve the best.

To learn more about the new governance model or student results visit our website www.cbe.ab.ca.

We want to hear from you

The Board of Trustees wants to hear from you if you have questions, ideas or concerns about public education in Calgary. You can also visit our website at www.cbe.ab.ca to learn more about the Board of Trustees, the CBE or to acquire a board meeting schedule.

The 2012 Report to the Community is published online as of Jan. 31. Visit www.cbe.ab.ca.

Joy Bowen-Eyre, wards 1 & 2 | Lynn Ferguson, wards 3 & 4
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