

Dream, Discover, Do!

HAULTAIN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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Principal

JANUARY 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The New Year will bring some considerable changes to our lives at Haultain Memorial. As you know, McKenzie Towne students and staff finally get to enjoy their brand new building, come January 5, 2010. While this will create more room in our school, the energy, enthusiasm, smiling faces and many friends we have shared our building with over the past three years will be sorely missed. On behalf of all of the students, staff, and families at Haultain, I'd like to wish McKenzie Towne a seamless and joyous start up in their new home.

Our community engagement process also continues come January, with an Open House meeting at Queensland Downs on Thurs. Jan. 7, 2010. This meeting will reflect more of a "town-hall" type process with an opportunity to publicly ask questions concerning the proposal to combine the schools in our area. This "regulatory process" is now in the hands of the Board of Trustees. Please visit our website, the blog, and the CBE website to stay informed, and if possible, plan to attend this important meeting on Jan. 7th.

While the upcoming months will certainly be ripe with change, we do want to take time to wish all of you a restful and joyous holiday season. We look forward to the opportunities that the New Year will bring. May all your holiday wishes and New Year resolutions come true.

School Council and Parent Association

From myself and all the members of the Council and Association; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those who have participated in the Council and Association activities for the past year. It has been a pleasure working with you and I have enjoyed myself thoroughly this year working in your company and being a part of your enthusiasm and interest.

The past year has seen a marked increase in engagement and I see more and more informed parents in everything that we do. I'm looking forward to another year working with this great group of volunteers and am anticipating meeting even more of you as we seek to increase our volunteer base next year.

See you in the New Year, have a safe and happy holiday.

Shane Campsall
scampsall@gmail.com

HMS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thanks to all who attended our Christmas Concert on Dec. 16th or our dress rehearsal on Dec. 15th. We truly appreciate you taking time out of busy schedules to support your child's school and learning. These events could not have been possible without the wonderful coordination and extremely hard work of our staff, parent volunteers, and of course, Mrs. Brosh. The gym was "transformed" through the amazing decorative talents of our very own Judith Nichols and Carol Cote, as well as our classroom teachers and student artwork. A big thank you also goes out to Angela Lively for coordinating another very successful basket raffle. As we have mentioned on numerous occasions, this gift of time is invaluable and extremely appreciated. Finally, thanks to our dedicated students who worked so tirelessly on the performance.

BASKET RAFFLE SPONSORS

On the topic of thanks, Haultain Memorial Parent Association would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations and support of the 11th Annual Christmas Celebration Basket Raffle:

1. Deer Valley Royal Bank
2. Deer Valley Co-op
3. Heather Forsyth, MLA
4. Deer Valley Kal-Tire
5. Sonoma Café
6. Napa Auto Parts
7. Image Wear
8. Great Beginnings Preschool
9. Avon
10. Haultain Memorial Parent Association
11. The staff of Haultain Memorial

And finally, thanks to all Haultain families and friends who donated baskets or items to help our students, including:

12. Cindy Mitchell
13. Monika Decaire
14. Laura Peters
15. Angela Lively
16. Kara Going
17. Kristie Angevine
18. Christy Ridders
19. Pat Brennan
20. Carolyn Hebblethwaite
21. Aaron Allard and Stephan Faivre

Happy Holidays
Angela Lively

SALVATION ARMY TOY DRIVE

Our Christmas toy drive culminated with our Christmas Concert on December 16. Thanks to everyone who donated to this very worthy cause and helped promote and coordinate this charitable effort. Over 7 full boxes, equalling hundreds of new toys were delivered to the Salvation Army and will make many children very happy this Christmas. This initiative exemplifies our second Pillar of Care; Care for Others as well as the CBE's Ends E-5 and E-3 which concentrate on character and citizenship.

VIRTUE IN FOCUS

Our virtue in focus for January is confidence. Confidence plays an extremely important role in learning and in life in general. As stated on the [BC Teacher's Federation website](#):

A child who is generally confident and who has high self-esteem is more likely to ask questions, participate actively, express ideas, and take on new challenges. Confident children are also better able to learn from mistakes, handle constructive criticism and to generally push themselves harder in learning.

Topics in January's agenda also deal with confidence in terms of speaking and listening. Take time to discuss the concept of confidence with your child and ways that they can find and demonstrate this virtue.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION

We are pleased to offer orientations to our kindergarten program for the 2010 – 2011 school year. This will be held in three parts:

- an informal, early orientation session on Monday, January 11, 2010 from 11:10 AM- 11:45 AM for parents and children who are potential students
- registration for students to begin Monday, January 11, 2010
- a parent orientation meeting for those registered on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

If you have a child who is four years of age by March 1, 2010, please bring a copy of their birth certificate and register them for kindergarten. If you don't, please help spread the word that kindergarten registration begins on January 11.

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING BY GRADE 6

We recently spent a week outdoors at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary as part of our Open Minds program. Our focus was to become more comfortable and confident with nature and to develop our writing skills. The students' writing samples below show the depth and detail of their observations and the enjoyment they had while immersed in nature – despite the blizzard like conditions.

2nd Day at Bird School - by Jonathan H

There are tonnes of dead grass blowing in the wind and there are animal tracks covering the ice. What looks to be rabbit and deer tracks as a chase might have been going on across the ice between a deer and coyote maybe. There are a bunch of dead trees surrounding me as I could be buried in some grass. There is a nice clear blue sky right above me with not a cloud in sight. There is a dead tree leaning over the ice covered with dead branches and sparkling snow on the top of the tree. I smell the nice fresh air scent that is glistening in the air. There are birds flying over me as they chirp. It sounds like an alarm clock. You can hear the construction in the background and also trains going by making the sound chooo chooo. There are sounds of hammers nailing something down. There are smells of dead grass lurking in the air. I wonder what it smells like in different seasons. I feel like I just want to be apart of this - like being an animal running across the thin smooth cold ice. The tree I am leaning on has a bunch of snow covered on it with some bark torn off from probably I would have to guess a porcupine nibbling some of the bark off. There are little narrow twigs sticking out of the ground poking me everywhere. There is a cold slight breeze in the air.

My Frozen Den - by: Mitchell R.

As I sit here and journal, I think back to Monday when it was like today because we are inside early and journaling because all of our pages kept getting wet. As I was saying about Monday, it is like today because I was journaling about the freezing cold weather and the terrible wind and the snow falling on my page. As I sit in my frozen den I try to write but my page keeps getting wet. So on our way back we saw a Great Horned Owl. As it sit perched on a tree it watches us as if we were on T.V. Also before we started to journal, we saw a Mule Deer. It was even more amazing through Marc's telescope. On our way back to the class we saw a Great Horned Owl through Marc's telescope and our group was the only group to see another Great Horned Owl take off over the Bow River. It was one of the best field trips ever!

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Day 1 Observations - by Mackenzie C.

In the Inglewood world everything is still and quiet. The only noises I hear are the whisperings of the wind and the slow moving of an ice covered river. It feels calm and peaceful. I am sitting in a spot surrounded by looming branches. They shelter me from the sharp sting of the wind. A light, almost invisible snow begins to fall. As I take a deep breath, the smell of musky scent of dead leaves dances in my nostrils. Everything around me has started to tuck itself in for the winter. Outside of my sheltered space the wind rustles and swerves through the hay coloured grass. It makes each piece bob and swing in one direction. The calls of talking birds interrupt the wonderful quiet. The snow starts to fall heavier as the wind becomes stronger. A slicing ring echoes throughout the air. A strange, unnatural sound, I wonder what is making it. Again the sound pierces the area. What is it? Ignoring the noise my eyes travel around me. The snow has found a way through my cover and is making my page wet. I am lucky not to be sitting in the open; the snow is drifting through the air. Thick and chilly, it is as if winter is trying to cover the world with a blanket. There is not a speck of ground not covered with tiny flecks of snow. I feel separated from all mankind; the sounds are muted as if I was underwater. It is a strange but not unpleasant feeling. The snow falls thicker still. I study a single leaf, trying to take in every detail. Each vein is different from all the rest. It is amazing how detailed such a small piece of the world can be. Our world had to have been created by something, and that something put a lot of work into it. I am grateful for that. The snowflakes are getting bigger and wetter; my page is now too soaked to write much more. Outside has turned into a small blizzard. The branches of this bush are covered in snow but the bottom is not. The snow looks like icing sugar on top of a cake. I find this quite fascinating. My fingers are becoming red and becoming numb. I take another deep breath. The smell has changed! Instead of musty decomposing leaves the hollow smells fresh and cold, stinging your nose as you breath in. The only hint of the smell it was before is a lingering scent at the back of your nose. The snow has become even wetter soaking my page. I cannot write any longer, it is time to go back. I look forward to our next journaling period.



Battle Of Winter - by Caleb M.

Right now I am in the middle of a place that is battling. Ice and cold vs. fire and heat in a never-ending battle. Above me there are clear skies and an ocean of air like in the summer. But underneath me is a land of ice and snow.

It is the middle of the week right now and I feel a little cold as usual. But this time I am with something new around me. I am in a different spot now and I can hear nothing but a few things. I hear the annoying sound of small shrubs brushing against me like they are trying to warn me about something. Everything is quiet - nothing is going on. All is peaceful where I sit. Where I sit is across from the Colonel Walker mansion. I am blinded from this mansion because of all the trees shrubs and other things in front of me.

I can see in front of me that there is a small shrub-like plant. I can see that some of the frost has melted. I start to think of what could have made this shrub melt, but then I realize that it is only the heat of my breath. I feel like I am in an area that is cold and big. Even though this place is cold I know that there are thousands of kilometres of the world that are covered of ice and snow, and others that warm and hot. The snow underneath me is freezing my toes maybe because I have not moved from my spot since I started journaling. Time is up now and I want to keep going but it will only get colder and colder every second so I must go inside.

**Bird School Observations
(Day Three)** - by Samantha N.

In my new spot I feel like a caged animal lost, lonely, in an unknown place. Everything here is still. Even the leaves on the trees hang motionless - almost like a paused movie.

It is like the trees are the bars of the cage because they stand so tall - protecting almost. The one problem is that I am not sure if they are holding me captive, protecting the other animals around me or protecting me from something out there. Maybe this part of the forest is trying to show me something - if it is I am obviously not seeing it - maybe they want me to save them from something.

Here you feel trapped but in a good way, which, of course, sounds odd but it is true. Here I feel comfortable but ill at ease. It is the oddest feeling. This place is almost to still - like I entered a time warp and I am now in a completely different dimension.

There is *absolutely* no noise at all - it is rather unnerving, but I could most likely get used to it.

Our Last Day

Fri. Dec. 4, 2009 - by Sarah C.

Wow! It's our last day here at the Bird Sanctuary and it is the best day yet. We saw about 7 deer all in one day ☺

I think that it is so cool how it is the last day and the wind is howling and the trees are blowing, it is almost as if they are talking to us, saying "It is time for you to leave now, this place doesn't belong to you." As I think about that, I say to myself that we've been here for a week now and it was ours for then, but we can't keep it forever.

I have had an amazing week at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and I hope to come back soon. I have learned so many new and exciting aspects over the past week. I learned how to tell a mule deer from a white tailed deer, how to identify animal tracks, and that owls swallow their food whole. But the most important thing that I learned over the course of the week would be how to feel comfortable and confident in nature.

I would like to thank Marc, Ms. Summers and all of the parent volunteers for making this trip so fun and exciting!

Good Bye Walk - by Melissa O.

Every thing looks as if it were a pencil sketch, even my own skin is pale enough to be a part of it. A flock of chickadees land in front of me as if they were saying goodbye. They too look paler than usual as if they were nothing more than a memory waiting to be forgotten. But I will not forget this place as it has too many memories to be forgotten. And all the birds and mammals who live here witness us and have memories too, so this place will not be forgotten.

HMS SCIENCE FAIR CLUB

The HMS Science Fair Club is off and running with 14 students meeting each Tuesday lunch hour to develop their investigations. We would like to welcome, from grade 5, Jordan A., Maggie B., Grace C., Kimberly H., Rowan L., Rebecca T., and Meagan W. From grade 6, we have Sarah C., Mackenzie C., Bailey J., Nicole N., Samantha N., Shayla S., and Jake T. working on exciting projects for our school-wide science showcase in February.

Thank you to these ambitious and hard working young scientists.

Ms. S. Summers

ART CENTRAL



ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMS WITHIN THE CBE

We think we do a great job here at Haultain, so it seems odd that we "advertise" for other programs. However, some students benefit from more "specialised" programs and ultimately, parents are free to decide. We've been asked to include these alternative programs in our newsletter. Take a look (just not TOO closely!!!).

Arts-Centred Learning at Willow Park School

Does your child have a passion for the arts? Do they learn best when the arts are incorporated into their learning? If so, you may wish to consider having them apply for the Arts-Centred Learning program at Willow Park, a middle school located in the Willow Park community.

The Arts-Centred Learning program focuses on learning **IN** and **THROUGH** the arts.

Students take courses in art, drama, dance, music and media arts to learn the foundation of these disciplines. Our distinguishing feature is the focus in core curriculum on learning and teaching using the arts as a means of understanding the world.

Applications for the program can be found online at <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b331> after December 19 and in school offices in Area IV and V just prior to the Winter Break. Completed applications are returned to Willow Park School anytime between January 5th and February 18th, 2010. **All interested students and their parents are invited to our Open House on Thursday, January 27, 2010 beginning in the gym at 7:00.** We'll see you there!



Calgary Board of Education

German Bilingual Program at Bowcroft Elementary School Grundschule Bowcroft

"Lernen macht Spaß"



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German Bilingual classes Kindergarten to Grade Six

Registration is ongoing.

Open House for the German Bilingual Program
Thursday, January 28, 2010, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Calgary Board of Education Parent Weather Advisory



Calgary Board of Education

The cold, windy weather can occur at any time. Parents/guardians are strongly cautioned as to the following:

- **Children should be well prepared for extreme cold and not left unattended at bus stops for any period of time, under any circumstances.**
- Parents/guardians should provide alternate arrangements for their child(ren) that provide timely shelter, if required (i.e.: a neighbour who will be at home during the day).
- If parents/guardians cannot ensure the safety of their children to and from school the child should be kept at home or other arrangements made for the daily supervision of the child.
- **All CBE schools will remain open** to provide a safe, warm and secure environment for attending students.

The CBE and its chartered bus carriers always monitor the weather for developments and will keep parents/guardians and media informed of any decisions.

*** Please know that in the case of inclement weather, students at Haultain do not go out for recess, and doors are opened in the morning and at lunch to allow walkers to come inside. If the weather is chilly but not too cold, students do go out for recess, but doors are open to allow children to warm up. Decisions are made based on current conditions at Haultain, not airport temperatures or wind chills. Always prepare your child for the weather.

CALGARY READS' CORNER

Here is the December 2009 newsletter insert about reading from Calgary Reads, an early literacy initiative that changes the lives of struggling grade one and two readers and their families in Calgary and area schools. We want to provide you with informative and fun ideas about the importance and value of reading.



NEW YEAR'S READING RESOLUTIONS FOR 2010

This year, for my kids, I will...

- Set aside time to read to/with them every day.
- Read all kinds of materials – including stories, poems, magazines, newspaper articles and comics.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give books as gifts (and do the same myself).
- Point out words all around me – on cereal boxes, street signs, maps, posters, books.
- Be a role model by having the children see me reading to myself.
- Try reading new authors, styles and topics.
- Play word games like Scrabble, Hangman, Apples to Apples, and Bananagrams (or many others).
- Take them to the library regularly.
- Set aside time to read to/with them every day.

JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	For our newsletter please see our website at: www.cbe.ab.ca/b362 If you require a paper copy please contact the school at 777-6860.				1 	2
3	4	5 Professional Development Day No Classes	6 Classes resume	7 7:00 Community Engagement Open House at Queensland Downs School	8	9
Winter break - classes resume Jan. 6, 2009						
10 Virtue in focus: Confidence	11 Kindergarten Registration begins Kindergarten Open House 11:10 – 11:45 AM	12 12:00 Science Fair club	13 6:30 School Council meeting in library	14 Modified lunch 11:50 - 1:14	15	16
17	18	19 12:00 Science Fair club	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 12:00 Science Fair club	27	28 Modified lunch 11:50 - 1:14	29 CBE Professional Development Day No Classes	30