



# John G. Diefenbaker High School

Mr. R. Tink, Principal



November 2011

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL***

The end of the first semester is rapidly approaching. All students should be working to complete all assignments and be well prepared for their tests. The exam schedule this year provides for only two days of instruction after the break so course work will be almost complete before the Winter break

Fall sports have been completed and we are gearing up for winter sports (basketball, badminton swimming and wrestling). Our musicians have put on their first program of the year and are looking ahead to upcoming festival competitions.

Our Fall Awards evening was well attended and it is always a pleasure to recognize the success of our students.

Please check the exam schedule included in this newsletter and mark relevant exams and times on your calendar. All exams are administered to Alberta Education Diploma guidelines. This means students must write final exams and are required to be on time. Students coming late will only be admitted within the first hour and no additional time is granted. In the case of a missed exam Alberta Education requires a medical certificate and in most cases will require students to write that exam in June.

In the meantime, there is still much study time ahead and many classes to improve grades. We encourage all students to set up a consistent routine for review and study in the coming weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Tink'.



**NEWS FLASH!!**

**Due to our current enrolment numbers and the anticipated growth in Panorama we will be unable to accept any new out-of-boundary students for next year!! We are obligated to meet the needs of those students who live within our designated boundaries first.**

**Is your son or daughter intercepting phone calls from the school?**



Every evening, the school's computer automated phone system calls the homes of students who have one or more unexcused absences for that day. If you are concerned that you are not receiving these calls, please contact the school and we will have the message go directly to a number of your choice.



**OUR PARKING LOT IS OVERCROWDED TOO!!!**

One of the impacts of having so many students at school is the number of cars in the parking lot.

When our staff are trying to enter or exit the parking lot there tends to be far too much congestion. Therefore, parents please make a point of dropping students off on 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue; not in our parking lot and definitely not in the staff parking stalls as each stall is assigned to a staff member.

## DEFERRED EXAMS POLICY

**Final Examinations** (diploma and non-diploma) are scheduled at the end of each semester in January and June. They comprise an essential component of the assessment for all academic courses at Diefenbaker.

**Diploma Examinations:** Alberta Education stipulates that in order for a student to receive a final course mark, they must write the diploma exam. Under exceptional circumstances the exam may be waived for medical and emergency reasons and only when the required documentation is provided by the school.

**Non-diploma Examinations** include Grade 10 and 11 academic courses with a scheduled final exam. If your student will be missing a scheduled final exam(s) for non-emergency reasons (for example, a family holiday) it is necessary for you to inform the school in advance by **completing an exam deferral form (available in the main office)**. Exams deferred in January will be written in June. June exam deferrals will be written during the last week of August prior to the start of school. Students will be notified by mail the time and date of the exam(s).

### Please note:

1. When an exam deferral is granted, the final course mark and credits are with-held until such time as (1) the final exam is written and (2) a combined teacher and final exam mark result in a passing final mark for the course.
2. If a student deferred an exam in January, for example, Social Studies 20 and they are registered in Social Studies 30 for second semester, they would not be able to take Social Studies 30, as the pre-requisite course (Social Studies 20) would not be complete.

## REPEATING COURSES AT JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER HIGH SCHOOL

Students should be aware that opportunities to repeat are limited; **your first chance is your best chance**. Flexibility is dependent on space. Taking course levels 10 & 20 in your grade 11 year or 20 & 30 in your grade 12 year may not be available to you due to limited space as students in that grade level will have priority.

Due to limited resources, not all requests to repeat a course can or will be filled. However, as a school, we recognize that it is sometimes in the best educational interests of students to provide an opportunity to repeat a course as soon as possible.

The following should be understood as the criteria upon which decisions to allow a student to repeat will be made. Every student who makes a request to repeat a course is assumed to have read and understood these criteria.

Available spaces in courses will be filled in the following order of priority:

1. Students new to the school.
2. Students in the school who wish to enroll for the first time at the appropriate grade level.
3. Students in the school who wish to enroll for the first time at a different grade level.
4. Students who wish to repeat the course.

Decisions on granting the opportunity to repeat will be based on:

- ◆ Available space.
- ◆ Present teacher recommendations which in part will be based on:
  - regular and punctual attendance;
  - regular and active participation in morning tutorials;
  - regular completion of homework.
- ◆ Suitability of request.

## **DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS**

The following sections contain valuable information for students writing diploma examinations this school year.

### *Alberta Education's Diploma Examination Web Page*

There is a plethora of information found on this page. Students and parents are encouraged to access this valuable information.

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/learning/studentservices/ASNLookup/>

### *Diploma Examination Information Bulletins*

Information bulletins are produced in all the diploma examination subjects. The purpose of information bulletins is to provide students and teachers with information about the diploma examinations. The contents of these bulletins include sample questions, writing assignments, and scoring criteria.

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/exambulletins.aspx>

### *Information for Students Planning to Write Diploma Examinations*

Are you planning to write a diploma examination and need more information? This web page will provide details on; who can write diploma examinations, how do you register to write a diploma examination, how to register to rewrite a diploma examination, and much more.

<http://education.alberta.ca/students.aspx>

### *Information for Parents about writing Diploma Examinations*

Is your son or daughter writing a diploma exam soon? Here is some helpful information.

<http://education.alberta.ca/parents.aspx>

### *Marks*

If a student repeats a course or rewrites a diploma examination, most recent school mark will be blended with the most recent diploma examination mark to produce the final mark that will appear on the student's Results Statement. Note, however, that the transcript will show only the highest school and diploma examination marks earned over the most recent two year period.

### *Guides for Students*

The guides have been prepared by members of Alberta Education's Learner Assessment Branch. These individuals develop the examinations and have first-hand experience assessing thousands of examinations written by high school students each year. The purpose of the guides is to provide students with information that will increase the likelihood of their success in the examination.

### *Examples of the Standards for Students' Writing*

The written responses in these documents are examples of diploma examination writings that would receive scores of Satisfactory (S), Proficient (Pf), or Excellent (E). These example responses are taken from the Diploma Examinations. Along with the commentaries that accompany them, they should help you and your students to understand the standards for diploma examination writing in relation to the scoring criteria.

The purpose of the example responses is to illustrate the standards that governed the marking session and that anchored similar example responses selected for subsequent marking sessions. The example papers and the commentaries were also used to train markers to apply the scoring criteria consistently and to justify their decisions about scores in terms of the student's work and the criteria. These example responses represent a very small sample of how students successfully approached the assignments. The example responses are arranged by assignment, not by entire examination paper.

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/examples.aspx>

### *Previous Diploma Examinations and Answer Keys*

This web page provides some past diploma examinations and answer keys for the mathematics and science diploma subjects. Unfortunately, it is not possible to gain permission for electronic publication of all the source material on the English and Social Studies Diploma Examinations. Consequently, Alberta Education cannot post any complete examinations for these subjects. You may purchase copies of some examinations at [Learning Resources Centre](#). For your convenience, the keys to the machine scored parts of some of these examinations are posted in this section.

<http://education.alberta.ca/students/exams/answerkeys.aspx>

## **STUDENT SERVICES WITH ALBERTA EDUCATION**

### *Student Transcripts and Registration Information*

The Student Information System is a critical system Alberta Education uses for data exchange activities and information for student registration and course information. Need a copy of your transcript, statement of courses or marks forms, check this web page: <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/learning/studentervices/transcripts/>

### *Learner Registry*

The Alberta Student Number (ASN) is the single unique identifier for all Alberta learners. Through the use of the ASN, Alberta Education and all educational institutions in Alberta will have better information to evaluate programming and emerging trends in student choices across the education system. This will lead to improved programs and services for students and improved administrative efficiency for Alberta Education. If you have attended a school or public Post-Secondary institution in Alberta and wish to know your Alberta Student Number (ASN), you can use the [Lookup ASN](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/learning/studentervices/ASNLookup/) on the following web page: <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/learning/studentervices/ASNLookup/>

## **MATHEMATICS**

Our grade 12 math students have written Midterm Exams in November and preliminary results look encouraging. We still have Applied Math 30 Key books available for students to purchase in the Math Office. These books have notes, solutions and practice questions similar to those found on Diploma Exams.

Tutorials are still ongoing with sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:00 a.m. It's great to see many students there asking questions and helping one another. Since the beginning of September, we have had 1358 students attend these tutorials!

The next Math League contest will be written on Tuesday December 13 at 8:25 in room 132. Good Luck! For additional information on other contests, please see Mr. McLeod.

With another school report card comes a new set of Math Stars. The purpose of Math Stars is to recognize those students who are working hard, attending tutorials, asking questions and doing their homework regularly. Some of these students have greatly increased their grades by demonstrating these characteristics. If your child is one of these Math Stars, come by the Math Office and check out their picture!

## **SCIENCE NEWS**

Final exams are fast approaching; students are reminded that it is wise to begin their review process earlier as opposed to later. Students should approach their science teachers to inquire about review problems to work on over the holiday break. Final exams for science courses are worth the following amounts: Grade 10 ---25% , Grade 11 ---35%, with Grade 12 diploma courses worth 50 % of the final grade.

## **STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE**

It has been a busy start up for the SLC. Applications for exam accommodations for diploma exams have now been sent in to Alberta Education for approval. If you have any questions or concerns about accommodations, please contact the Student Learning Centre Team. (274-2240 ext. 3242)

### **Diploma Exam Guides**

Preparation for diploma exams should begin now! There are guides available on the Alberta Education website. <http://education.alberta.ca/students/exams/guides.aspx>

These guides have been prepared by members of Alberta Education's Learner Assessment Branch. These individuals develop the examinations and have first-hand experience assessing thousands of examinations written by high school students each year. The purpose of the guides is to provide students with information that will increase the likelihood of their success in the examination.

The Student Learning Centre team is available before school, at lunch, and after school for support and help with studying. Drop by with any questions or concerns.

Peer tutoring is also back at Diefenbaker! Please visit the Student Learning Centre office to arrange for a student tutor to help with your learning. Tutoring may be arranged for mornings and after school.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Graduation Requirements for Participation:

#### High School Diploma

To attain an Alberta High School Diploma, a student must earn a minimum of 100 credits and meet the following requirements:

English	15 credits (including ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2)
Social Studies	15 credits (including Social Studies 30-1 or Social Studies 30-2)
Math	10 credits (including Mathematics 20 Applied, Mathematics 20 Pure or Mathematics 24) <b>Or</b> (Mathematics 20-1, Mathematics 20-2, or Mathematics 20-3)
Science	10 credits (including Science 20 or 24, Biology 20, Physics 20 or Chemistry 20)
Physical Education	3 credits (Phys Ed 10)
CALM	3 credits
Other	10 additional credits at the grade 12 level <b>AND</b> 10 credits, in any combination, from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Career and Technology Studies (CTS);</li><li>• Fine Arts;</li><li>• Second Languages; or</li><li>• Physical Education 20 or 30</li></ul>

## CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

To attain a Certificate of High School Achievement, a student must earn a minimum of 80 credits and meet the following requirements:

English	English Language Arts 20-2 or English Language Arts 30-4
Social Studies	10-2 or 20-4
Math	10-3, 14 or 20-4
Science	14 or 20-4
Physical Education	3 credits (Phys Ed 10)
CALM	3 credits
Other	5 credits in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30-level Knowledge and Employability occupational course, or</li><li>• 30-level Career and Technology Studies (CTS) or</li><li>• 30-level locally developed course with an occupational focus</li></ul> And 5 credits in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30-level Knowledge and Employability Workplace Practicum course, or</li><li>• 30-level Work Experience course, or</li><li>• 30-level Green Certificate courses</li></ul> <b>OR</b> 5 credits in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 35-level Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) course</li></ul>

**If your student is not registered in the required courses for an Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of Achievement by April 15, they will not be able to participate in the graduation day ceremonies at the University of Calgary.**

Please make an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor if you are concerned about graduation requirements.

Mrs. MacDonald – extension 2410- works with students with surnames A through H.

Ms. Mensink – extension 2408- works with students with surnames H through P.

Mr. Reitbauer – 2409- works with students surnames P through Z.

### **Post-Secondary Admission Information:**

1. **Mount Royal University** (Fall 2012 start)  
Apply online at [www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca)  
There is a non-refundable application processing fee of \$70.00  
Primary application period December 1, 2011 – March 1, 2012  
Entrance Awards application deadline March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012
2. **SAIT** (Fall 2012 start)  
When to apply: Now!  
Apply on-line at [www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca)  
There is a non-refundable application processing fee of \$50.00  
Entrance Awards application deadline May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012
3. **University of Calgary** (Fall 2012 start)  
Complete the online application before April 1, 2012. Visit [www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca)  
Students are encouraged to apply early and should submit their self-reported grades between Oct 1 and April 1.  
Application fee is \$115.00  
Prospective Student Website: [www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents](http://www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents)  
Presidents Admission Awards & Schulich Engineering Awards – December 15, 2011  
All other U of C Entrance Awards April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012
4. **University of Alberta** (Fall 2012 start)  
Apply early! Complete the online application for admission at [www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca)  
Deadlines are program specific  
Application fee is \$115.00  
Scholastic Distinction Awards Deadline February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Leadership Awards Deadline February 15, 2012
5. **University of Lethbridge (Fall 2012 start)**  
Apply online @ [www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca)  
There is a non-refundable application fee of \$75.00  
General Admission deadline June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 (check website for specific faculties)  
Entrance awards – various deadlines (check university website)

### **CAREER CENTRE**

#### **Upcoming Career Events:**

Post-Secondary/Career Exploration Fair

Friday March 2, 2012

9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Main Gym

Over 50 representatives attend this fair to meet John Diefenbaker students and recruit them for their programs. Students will have an opportunity to learn about particular schools and gain an early start on the university application process.

Students will also meet with employers in an informal setting, and learn more about job and internship opportunities offered by companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Students will:

- ✓ Explore the possibilities of education.
- ✓ Learn about academic requirements for a variety of post-secondary institutions.
- ✓ Gain detailed information about various schools and their programs.
- ✓ Gather materials they can review later.
- ✓ Network with professionals in their future field.

\*Although the Fair is primarily organized for our Grade 12's, Grade 10 and 11 students and their parents are welcome to tour the gym as this coincides with our Program Planning Day.

Past attendees include:

Academy of Learning	Cardel Place	NorQuest College
Academy of Learning/Digital School	Center for Arts & Technology	Olds College
Alberta Big Rig Driver Education	Centre for Excellence	Prairie Bible College
Alberta Business and Educational Services (ABES)	Chic Studios	Professional Institute of Massage
Alberta College of Art & Design	Chinook Learning Services	Red Deer College
Alliance & Nazarene University	City of Calgary	Robertson College
Colleges	Columbia College	SAIT Polytechnic
Artists Within	Concordia University College of Alberta	SAIT Telecom,
Automotive Industries Association	CSEG Student Outreach	Broadcast Technologies Programs
AWMAC-Southern Alberta	DeVry Institute of Technology	Sprott-Shaw Community College
Chapter	Grant MacEwan College	St. Mary's University College
Bow Valley College	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers	Taylor University College & Seminary
Calgary City Police	Junior Achievement	The Art Institutes
Calgary College of Holistic Health and Clinics	Lakeland College	The Association of Professional Engineers (APEGGA)
Calgary Flight Training Centre	Lethbridge Community College	The Aveda Institute
Calgary Health Region	MC College Group	The King's University College
Calgary Immigrant Aid Society	Medicine Hat College	The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Canada Safeway	Money School	Travel Cuts
Canadian Armed Forces	Mount Royal University	
	Non-Abusive Futures	

## MUSIC NEWS

Wow, how time flies. It seems like yesterday we were welcoming new students into the music room, and here it is, almost the end of the semester. It has been busy few months, with a lot of learning taking place.

We had our first performance this year during the **Remembrance Day Ceremony**. Both the **Chamber Choir** and **Concert Choir** performed for the students, as well as trumpeters from the **Concert Band**. Thank-you for a meaningful contribution to that ceremony.

**November 16** was the annual **Fall Concert**. This evening was filled with excitement and music. All groups performed at Centre Street Church, a wonderful evening of music was had by all. Thank-you to all the parents who were involved with this evening, without your support an evening like this just would not happen.

**November 17** brought us the Fall Awards Evening. Three groups had the opportunity to perform, the Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz and Instrumental Jazz 1.

Still to come is a performance for the Open House/Parent Orientation on December 1. This evening is geared toward grade nine parents who are considering Diefenbaker for their children. The **Chamber Choir** as well as the **Jazz 1** will be performing that evening, and also again in January for our feeder Junior High schools.

As you can see, we are very engaged in learning and performing music. Again we would like to congratulate all the music students for all their hard work in making the music program at John G. Diefenbaker a success. We would also like to thank the administration, the staff, and the parents at John G. Diefenbaker for their continued support of the music program. We hope you all have a very restful Christmas break.

## **DRAMA NEWS**

John G. Diefenbaker presents the 2011 Drama Production of:  
A Tiny Miracle With a Fiberoptic Unicorn by Don Zolidis  
Performances December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Tickets at the door - \$7 adults, \$5 students

### **Synopsis:**

It's the winter of 1986 and thirteen-year old Louis vows to kiss the love of his life, the quirky theater queen Carolyn, before Christmas. Standing in his way are the forces of puberty, his big-haired "too cool" older sister, his control freak mother, and his eternally amused father. The surprise arrival of both grandmothers, each crazy in their own way, throws the family into turmoil and cracks Louis' world wide open.

Starring: Jocelyn A, Austin C, Kyra D, Colton H, Alice K, Spencer M, Hailie S, Cecily T

## **HUMANITIES NEWS**

### **Languages**

Winter holidays are fast approaching and much work has yet to be completed in courses; there are only two days of regular classes after the holiday. Students need to be focussed and keeping up with their work. Reviewing on a regular basis is essential with so little time after the holiday before final exams begin. To this end, we issue a reminder about tutorials being offered by teachers and the availability of diploma exam preparation materials from ELA teachers.

### **Speech Club**

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, John G. Diefenbaker hosted the annual Stampede Speech Tournament. Approximately 50 of our students volunteered as timekeepers and hosts. Diefenbaker students who won medals at the competition were Janakee Randhawa, Serena Tejpar, Christine Cao, and Mandy Ho. There are four local tournaments this school year, and, of course, Regionals and Provincials. Even students, new to Speech Club, can compete in December if they wish. As usual, we invite parents to serve as volunteer judges at upcoming tournaments. Please contact Mr. Noble if you can help with this very important task.

### **Social**

We have just passed the halfway mark in the semester and this reporting period should be a good indicator of what students final marks will be. Students should be taking advantage of tutorials and extra help offered by teachers. Regular review at home, as well as extra reading and writing tasks, would be of benefit. Teachers will be talking with students about preparing for final exams and will be offering tutorials at regular times as well as tutorials during the exam break in January. Considering midterm results and the upcoming final exams in January, students in grade ten and eleven courses must "keep their noses to the grindstone" as these exams constitute 25% of their final course marks. Grade twelve students are well aware of the difficulty and importance of the provincial Diploma Examinations and should begin reviewing course material.

## **IB PROGRAM**

Registrations for the May 2012 examination session have been completed. 141 students are registered in 258 exams in 10 different subjects. In May these students will write 663 different exam papers! Please help us support them as they continue with their studies.

## **YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORP / CREATIVITY ACTION & SERVICE (CAS)**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Diefenbaker sent over 100 students and staff to volunteer as race marshals at the CIBC Run for the Cure. It was the largest contingent of student volunteers provided by any one organization! Thanks to everyone involved for getting up bright and early to travel to South Centre Mall to help with this worthy cause.

Youth helping youth: The next big YVC initiative is to help the Aspen Foundation collect donations of toiletries or food to help youth that have found accommodation away from home, with necessary items that they may not be able to afford. Watch for YVC student volunteers at Thorncliffe Safeway and Shoppers Drug Mart (4<sup>th</sup> Street NW) on Sat Nov 26 and Sun Nov 27 for 9 AM- 4PM if you would like to make a donation.

YVC meets every Tuesday at lunch in Room 116. Newcomers welcome. This is a great way to learn about service opportunities available to all students.

## **STUCO**

STUCO (Student Council) is made up of 60 students in Grade 10, 11 and 12. Over the course of the year the students in STUCO plan several events to add to the positive culture of the school. There are five committees that are responsible for different events.

Several TA's carved their version of what a Halloween pumpkin should look like and there were many great entries. There could only be one winner per grade however, and those legendary pumpkins (T.A.'s) were Grade 10 – Ms. Weiss, Grade 11 – Mr. Kirkpatrick, Grade 12 – Mr. Taven. Halloween dress up saw several interesting costumes and plenty of students showing their Halloween spirit. The Leagues and Tournaments committee saw the crowning of a new Extreme Dodge Ball champion and currently they are working on our 3 on 3 basketball tournament. The tournament has 22 teams with 8 games every lunch hour. Students compete in a round robin tournament at lunch time for the chance of winning the always popular 3 on 3 t-shirt and their teams name on the wall. Charities is planning a food drive to help support one of the cities food banks, and has been putting on several fundraisers to raise monies and awareness for the Mustard Seed. Also, this group of hard working students have organized 'The Life Bus' to pick up Diefenbaker blood donors on November 16<sup>th</sup>, our second blood donation drive this school year! Hosting and Appreciation welcomed parents into the school at parent teacher interviews and assisted in hosting the Charities committee at our junior volleyball tournament. Our advertising and promotion committee has been doing a great job promoting our STUCO events as well as our athletic teams. All of the committees are working hard to make Diefenbaker a great place to be. Go Chiefs!

## **PARENT COUNCIL**

All parents and guardians of students at Diefenbaker are members of the School Council and JGD Chiefs Parent Association, and are invited to our monthly meetings. Starting in October, we meet on the first Tuesday of every month, (except January and June), at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room by the office. Pizza dinner is included. Please join us! Next meeting is scheduled for December 6th – Please mark your calendars!

**Request for Casino Volunteers.** Our next casino is set for Wednesday, April 4th and Thursday, April 5th, 2012. All positions are open. Shifts run from 10:30 am to 6:30pm or 6:00pm to close or 10:30 to close (countroom). No experience necessary and training, and meals, will be provided. If you are available to work a shift or two please call Gloria at 403-274-4392 or email us at [diefcasino@yahoo.ca](mailto:diefcasino@yahoo.ca).

## **GRADUATION NEWS 2012**

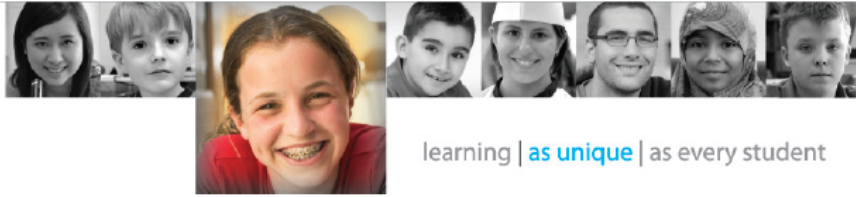
Graduation 2012 will be taking place on **Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** at the University of Calgary beginning at 2 pm. Please note that the date published in the school agenda is incorrect. Please advise any relatives travelling about the date change!

Grad rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. Graduates must be present at the rehearsal to pick up their grad gown.

The Graduation Committee will be looking for enthusiastic and dedicated student volunteers to help organize the ceremony at the U of C and the evening banquet at the Telus Convention Centre. Please listen to bulletin announcements in TA to volunteer

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

November 21	Report Cards home with students	March 2	No Classes
November 30	IB Info Night - 7:00 PM		Program Planning- Gr 10 & 11 (appt only) Post-Secondary & Career Exploration (Gr 12 mandatory attendance)
December 1	Open House – Gr 9 Parents – 7:00 PM	March 13	Math League Contest 6
December 2	NO CLASSES	March 19	Report Cards home with students
December 2-3	Jr. Boys/Girls Basketball Tournament	March 22	Student/Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews: 4:00-8:00 PM (12:17 dismissal) Last Day of Classes – Spring Break
December 5-7	Door Decorating		NO CLASSES
December 7	Monday Schedule	March 23	
December 7-9	Drama Production – 7:00 PM		Classes Resume after Spring Break
December 9	Door Judging	April 2	Good Friday – School Closed
December 12-13	Talent Show	April 6	PD/Org Day - NO CLASSES
December 13	Math League Contest 3	April 9	Monday Schedule
December 15	Tuesday Schedule	April 11	Euclid Contest
December 22	Last day of classes – Winter Break	April 16	Term 4 classes begin
December 23	NO CLASSES		
January 9	Classes resume after Winter Break	May 2-22	IB Exams
January 10	Math League Contest 4	May 7	Report Cards home with students
	Last day of classes for semester 1	May 9	Monday Schedule
January 11-27	Final Examinations	May 16	Music Awards – 7:00 PM
January 16	Grade 12 Tutorial Day	May 18	NO CLASSES
January 23	Grade 9 Tours	May 21	Victoria Day Holiday
January 31	School Organization Day – NO CLASSES	May 24	8:00 AM – Grad Pancake Breakfast Modified Schedule (TA,1,2,3,4) Grad Rehearsal (periods 3 & 4) Graduation Ceremony – 2:00 PM - U of C
February 1	First day of Classes for second semester	May 25	
	Report Cards home with students		
February 3	PD/Org Day- NO CLASSES	June 6	Night of the Chiefs – 6:30 PM
February 7-8	Band Camp	June 7	Spring Awards; Senior Art, Fashion, CTS Show – 6:15 PM
February 9	Blood Donor Clinic – East Gym		
February 14	Math League Contest 5	June 11	Last day of classes for semester 2
February 16-17	Teachers’ Convention	June 12-28	Final Exams
February 20	Family Day Holiday – No Classes	June 14	Grade 12 Tutorial Day
February 23	Cayley Contest (Grade 10)	June 28	9:00 – Report Card Distribution 9:00-12:00 – Appeals Day
	Fermat Contest (Grade 11)		
February 24	IPP Day – NO CLASSES	June 29	Organizational Day – School closed to parents and students
March 1	Program Planning - Gr 10 & 11 (appt only) 5:00 – 8:00 PM		



November 2011

## Schools get provincial funding directly

Principals are deciding how the funding will be spent because they know their school communities best.

Principals are deciding how additional funding from the provincial government will benefit their schools.

During her campaign for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party, Alison Redford promised to put \$107 million back into education in Alberta. Within two weeks of winning the leadership, Premier Redford and new Minister of Education, Thomas Lukaszuk, announced that the money was secured.

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) portion of the additional funding is \$19.2 million. During a public meeting on Oct. 18, the CBE's Board of Trustees directed the one-time funding to schools so principals, who know their school communities better than anyone, can decide how to spend the money.

The CBE money comes from Alberta Education in two buckets. Part is earmarked for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement or "AISIS" projects. These projects are designed to improve our teaching across the system. The additional \$4.2 million of AISIS funding equals \$43.50 per student. This money will be directed to schools for their personalized learning initiatives.

The rest of the additional funding for the CBE totals \$15 million or \$155.30 per student. Principals

can use this money to make a difference in classrooms.

In general, Alberta Education has clear expectations for how the money is used. Minister Lukaszuk has stated that the additional funding be "felt by" students and teachers. In other words, the funding is to be spent on people. This expectation is consistent with the feedback the CBE received to an online survey.

The CBE asked people to rate priorities for additional funding. Between Oct. 4 and 11, more than 6,100 responded to the survey. Teachers and support for teachers topped the list.

School principals have been asked to submit their spending plans for the additional funding by Nov. 1. The short deadline means the one-time money will get to students and classrooms quickly.

Principals will connect with their school council chairs to explain the funding for their schools and the spending plans. Given the quick turnaround, it is hard to consult with the community again. That is part of the reason why the decision-making was delegated to principals. They know their schools. The spending plans will be a response to ongoing conversations about what is important in each school.

### Public sets priorities

More than 6,100 completed an online survey to rank CBE priorities for additional funding from the provincial government. Here are the results in order of importance.

- |                                             |                                           |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1   Teachers in schools                     | 6   Support for English-language learners |
| 2   Support for teachers                    | 7   Professional development for teachers |
| 3   Support for students with special needs | 8   Reducing student fees                 |
| 4   School maintenance and repair           | 9   Replenish CBE reserves                |
| 5   Technology for students                 | 10   New schools                          |

In addition to these choices, people could write in a response they thought was missing. Many of the 900 written responses emphasized the choices above. The most common write-in response was smaller class sizes, with 138 mentions. Almost half of the people who answered the survey described themselves as parents with school-age children. About 40 per cent described themselves as CBE employees. For the most part, parents and CBE employees agreed on the priorities.



**Calgary Board  
of Education**

*Naomi Johnson  
Chief Superintendent of Schools*



## CBE students are globally connected

### Online fee payment option now available

The Calgary Board of Education is now offering an online payment option for the payment of selected school fees. This pilot project will allow you to pay noon supervision, incidental activity and Instructional Supplies and Materials (ISM) fees using our online application. Depending on the results of the pilot, other fees will be added. Payments can be made by credit card and/or debit card (debit option coming soon) and your school will be notified of the payment by 7 a.m. the next day. For more information, please visit [cbe.ab.ca](http://cbe.ab.ca).

In November, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all the ways in which CBE students are globally engaged and connected.

CBE students attend schools inside the city limits, but once they get to class, they experience the world.

Some students travel the world through language, with 38,000 CBE students engaged in second language learning.

Some students travel the world daily by interacting with international students in their own classes. A record 640 international students are enrolled in CBE schools this fall.

Some students form long-distance relationships with students from abroad because their schools are twinned. That twinning and the personal contacts enrich their experience.

CBE students also learn much from their teachers who participate in teacher exchanges around the world and bring international teachers into their classrooms – both face to face and through the use of innovative technology.

And some of the students literally travel the world.

Last year, hundreds of students benefited from international travel through various high-school programs. They visited cities in Europe and China.

But whatever their experience, all CBE students learn about becoming responsible citizens, because that is a key goal for the CBE. Increasingly, learning to be a citizen means learning to be a global citizen and why that's important.

Providing broad access to global learning experiences is an important part of how we personalize learning. The CBE's diverse international programs have, at their heart, the understanding that learning must be as unique as every student.

The CBE's range of programs recognize that communities in Calgary value the study of language and culture and see it as a necessity in today's globalized world. To that end, CBE schools are participating in a wide range of school-based programs and activities Nov. 14 to 18 to celebrate International Education Week. I invite you to visit your children's schools and see how they are globally connected this year.

*Naomi Johnson*  
Chief Superintendent of Schools

### School nutrition improves for 2012

CBE schools have worked very hard over the last three years to improve nutrition in schools. As a school system, we want to continually create learning environments that reinforce the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

The previous regulation has now been updated and will support schools in making even more positive changes to the food items sold or served by CBE staff to CBE students.

The most visible change to our regulation is that 100 per cent of foods or beverages sold or served by CBE staff and contracted food service providers to CBE students will come from the "Choose Most Often" or "Choose Sometimes" categories in our schools. No items will be available from the "Choose Least Often" category which some call "junk food".

For more information about these categories, visit <http://www.healthyalberta.com/HealthyEating/ANGCY.htm>.

"Frequently Asked Questions" are provided on the CBE website.

#### CBE policy will have:

##### Elementary Schools

100 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"

##### Junior High Schools/Middle Schools

Minimum 60 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"; maximum 40 per cent "Choose Sometimes"

##### Senior High Schools

Minimum 50 per cent from the "Choose Most Often"; maximum 50 per cent "Choose Sometimes"



October 24, 2011

Education Centre  
1221 – 8 Street S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2R 0L4

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Calgary Board of Education is continuing to make positive changes to our Administrative Regulation on nutrition, and we would like to share these changes with you. We value the health of our students and know that healthy learners learn better. As such, we are providing healthier choices for our students to more closely align with what we teach in our schools around healthy lifestyles.

These changes build on an Administrative Regulation that took effect three years ago, and we will continue to advance this work as better products and more information become available.

The Administrative Regulation will come into effect on January 1, 2012. The Administrative Regulation is limited to foods served or sold by the Calgary Board of Education staff to Calgary Board of Education students. In your child's high school some changes you will see are:

- Deep fat fryers will not be used in high schools with the exception of high schools with Culinary Arts programs. The fryers will only be used for instructional purposes and not for profit
- Vending machines will only contain items from the "Choose Most Often" and "Choose Sometimes" categories as defined by the *Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth*

We hope these changes will further encourage students to make healthy nutrition choices. For more information please go to:

<http://v400int18.b400.cbe.ab.ca/new/spotlights11-12/102111-nutrition.asp>

Thank you,

Cathy Faber  
Superintendent and Chief Information Officer  
Learning Innovation  
t | 403-817-7555  
cfaber@cbe.ab.ca

learning | as unique | as every student