



PWSD76

Helen E. Taylor School

January 2012 Mid-Month "Mini News"

Basketball season is here!

A & B Girl's Coaches: Mrs. Sarah McDonald & Kymberlyn Dombrova

A & B Boy's Coach: Mr. Rob Robinson



Boys A Team

Colin Antypowich
Darren DePeuter
Darrick
Sutherland
Jordan Mutz
Justin Griffin
Kaelyn McCarty
Nate Surine

Boys B Team

Bryton Reid
Christian Eifert
Daniel Eifert
Connor McCarty
Jeremy Obst
Jordan Hennig
Riley Graham

Girls A Team

BJ Berlasty
Mikayla Wiseman
Juel Bundy
Kaitlyn Issac
Taylor Barfett
Heather Taylor
Jacey Toerper
Katie Wiseman

Girls B Team

Jessyka Doerksen
Chloe Hepditch
Sierra Bruyere
Mya Toerper
Brianna Wright
Corista Young
Hannah Wood
Jessica Gervais

Canteen

Monday: Chicken Fingers \$3.00
Tuesday: Taco salad \$3.00
Wednesday: Chicken Burgers \$3.00
Thursday: Chicken Caesar Salad \$3.00
Friday: Hot Dogs! \$3.00
We also sell Milk, Baked Chips, Beef Jerky and Jello!



Helen E. Taylor School Ski Trip!

Nite Hawk Recreation Area

February 2 & 3, 2012

Buses leave HET at 8:45 and return by 3:15

Ski Forms must be returned to school by January 23!



Next Assembly! January 24 at 1:30 pm



Agenda will include:

Term One Honor Roll!

**Compassion Canada President ~ Cheque presentation
Beaverlodge Legion ~ Remembrance Day Contest Winners!**

Grade Five Swimming
February 6-14, 2012
Grande Prairie Multiplex!

CLASSROOM NEWS !

Grade Seven Science

The grade seven students are currently studying the Plants for Food and Fibre unit. They have looked at the different structures of seed plants and their functions. The students also have looked at plant processes such as osmosis, photosynthesis and, cellular respiration. During this time we have done a science lab which involved plant cuttings, looked at the inside of the seed, and we have planted our own seed tomatoes. We are currently studying the reproduction of seed plants and soon going to be moving on to how plants have adaptations for their environment.

Grade Eight Science

Before, Christmas the grade eight students took a trip to Grande Prairie Regional College, where they were able to use their lab equipment and observe many interesting specimens. Students are now looking at the systems of the human body. Next week students will hopefully be able to do "fetal pig dissections"! The students have been looking forward to this for a long time!

Grade Nine Science

The grade nine students wrapped up their second unit by completing an online lab, performing different tests on unknown substances. The grade nines are on their third unit of study Environmental Chemistry. In the first section of study the students will look at the chemicals in the environment that support or harm living things.

Grade 8 LA students have started a new unit on secrets – they are writing poetry about one of the wonders of the world!

Grade 7 LA students are working on listening strategies – they are writing scripts that demonstrate them!

JH French

French 8 – Describing actions using as much French vocabulary as possible.

Jr. High Phys. Ed.

Fitness testing will be completed by the end of the month!
Students are working to improve their present fitness levels
and will be retested later in the spring
to determine improvement!



Mr. Robinson's goings-on for January:

LA 9 – Students have just completed a letter to the Minister of Education, Thomas Lukaszuk, about their comments on their school and Lukaszuk's proposed changes to the Education Act. From here we begin our new unit focusing on the Nelson resources and short print texts under the blanket theme of "courage."

Social 9 – Students have just finished looking at the collective rights of First Nations and the issues surrounding the Indian Act and the formation of the Numbered Treaties.

Social 8 – In grade 8 we are continuing our look into the often cruel leadership of the shoguns in 17th century Japan.

Social 7 – In Social 7 we've just completed our look at the Fur Trade and its effects on migration and settlement in Canada, and we'll move into the very interesting section on France and Britain's battle to control Canada.

Jr. High Math

Math 7 – Measurement, understanding units

Math 8 – Percent Ratio and Rate

Math 9 - Linear Equations and Inequalities



CLASSROOM NEWS !

Grade 5L Language Arts & Math

In Language Arts this month, we wrapped up our novel study of "Number the Stars", an amazing story about a young Danish girl who risks everything to save her Jewish friend during World War II. We did a variety of thought provoking activities, and the novel is now counted by many as their "favorite book of all times"! We completed our multiplication unit in math, and are now practicing our division skills for our test on Friday January 20. Some students are experiencing difficulties in these areas because they are still struggling with their basic facts. Practicing for even five minutes every night would go a long way in ensuring mathematical success not only in Grade Five, but the older grades as well.

Grade 5 Social

Fish, furs, wigwams, colonies... these are just a few of the many topics we're covering as we continue to learn about the Atlantic region. Our unit test is scheduled for Tuesday January 24. All students have a variety of study aids in their duotangs. Some specific questions on the test will include locating the region on a map, and identifying the major land features, resources and industries. The history of the area, particularly the plight of the Acadians and Loyalists, as well as the lifestyles of the First Nations people, will also need to be reviewed.

Grade 5 Phys. Ed.

It's basketball season, and the students in Grade Five have proven themselves to be a pretty talented bunch. They can handle the ball, dribble, pass and shoot quite well. Over the next ten days, we will put our skills to use in some modified games.

We've made a change to our running program since the Christmas break ended. Instead of intervals, we are now building up our endurance to run without taking any walking breaks. By the end of this month, our goal is to run non-stop for at least five minutes.

We are looking forward to our ski trip (Feb. 2-3), and to our swimming lessons (Feb. 6-9, 13-14) next month.

Grade 5 Health

We are very excited that baby Sophia will be in this week for our Roots of Empathy program! We are curious to see how her needs and methods of communication have changed since we last saw her 5 weeks ago. We are truly appreciative of Sophia's mom, Mrs. Rhonda Johnson, for being part of our program, and of Mrs. Wiseman for facilitating it. Thank you very much!

Grade 5M

5M has been very busy during the past month! We have been actively studying tornadoes and hurricanes in Science. We even had the opportunity to create our own "mini-tornadoes" to discover how tornadoes are formed.

In Math, we are learning many new strategies for multiplication and division. In the next few weeks, we will be multiplying larger numbers, so please remember to continue practicing your child's basic facts with them at home. We have also been doing a lot of problem solving each day to learn how these strategies can help us to solve real world problems.

In Language Arts, we have been working on descriptive writing, creating "Missing Emily" posters to describe the mysterious disappearance of an imaginary girl. In the next few months we will begin practicing our presentation skills, as we begin our Reader's Theatre unit.

In French, we have been learning the rooms in a house, and are beginning to become familiar with the items in each room. Soon, we will be able to describe the objects in our own room!

Remember to keep checking eCommunity for fun and exciting educational games!

Great News From Grade 6!

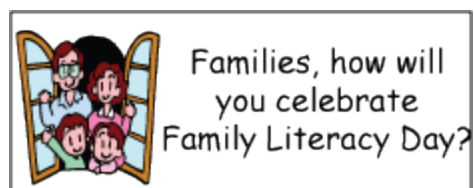
In Language Arts we just finished writing our DARE reports. They were a necessary part of the program, and gave us the chance to reflect on what we learned in the program. It also gave us practice with a formal report-style of writing, as opposed to creative writing that we usually do. We continue to spend time on Daily Five. We are in groups and spend time each day at a series of centers designed to provide a variety of activities. Everything from a listening station, to free story writing, to Guided reading are part of the Daily Five program.

In Science we are completing our latest unit of study that examines all aspects of Forensic Science. We look at how detectives gather physical evidence through careful observation. We use these observations to then make inferences about the nature of the crime and answer the five 'W's'.

In Social Studies, we have begun a unit on Local Government. We've been looking at the role municipalities have on the lives of their citizens and how these types of governments are structured. We've looked at how they generate income and what services they provide. We hope to have Mayor Turnmire and Councilor Trudel in to speak with the class about the town government.

In Math, we're wrapping up a unit called Patterns and Relations. We've looked at something called an Input/output machine and worked on determining pattern rules. We have plotted ordered pairs on a grid and constructed graphs using coordinates! A game of Battleship anyone?

Remember that the DARE Graduation ceremony is this Thursday, the 19th! All parents and guardians are more than welcome to attend this event. We'll be gathering at 12:30 in the music room! Bring your cameras! Anyway, that's about it from Grade 6. If you ever have any questions about what your child is doing or their results, feel free to contact me here at the school or send me an email at robtwelvetree@pwsd76.ab.ca



Helen E. Taylor School

Family Literacy Day 2012

Mark your calendars – January 27th is Family Literacy Day! This annual celebration promotes adults and children reading and learning together, and encourages Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes enjoying a learning activity as a family every day.

About Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day® is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. More than 1.5 million Canadians have already participated in the initiative since its debut. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

Every year on Family Literacy Day thousands of events coordinated by literacy providers, schools, libraries and community organizations take place across the country. These activities range from fundraisers, book drives and children's reading circles, to literacy-themed contests and family games nights. In 2011, the theme was Play for Literacy, and thousands of Canadians celebrated by participating in play-themed events. For more information on Family Literacy Day, visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.

Take the Learning Journey

In 2012, all Canadians are invited to "Take the Learning Journey"! Learning happens everywhere, and it's easy to embrace it and make learning part of your daily life. The benefits of dedicating this time together on a daily basis, whether reading and writing, playing and exercising, or simply talking about your day, are far-reaching and beneficial for everyone. Increased literacy levels among parents mean more reading and literacy-building activities in the home, preparing their children for success in school and encouraging a lifelong love of reading and learning.

More information about Family Literacy Day can be found at the national website (www.abclifeliteracy.ca/en/family-literacy-day). Many schools and communities in the Peace region are hosting events which support literacy development and encourage families to come together to play and learn through games.

Helen E. Taylor School will celebrate Family Literacy Day in several ways!

Monday-Thursday, January 24-26:

The Best Book You've Ever Read"

Language Arts BINGO! Great prizes! *Complete at home & returned to school by Jan. 26!

Monday, January 24: JH Author Visit "Karen Bass"

Monday, January 23 from 11:15-2:30: Book Swap!

Tuesday, January 24 from 12:15-2:30: Book Swap!

*Students, staff & parents may bring in books to trade

Wednesday, January 25: Paired-Reading with students at Wembley Elementary School

Thursday, January 26: If you would like to come in and read to individual students or small groups, please call me at the school to make arrangements.

Parents – please check out FamilyLiteracyDay.ca for many "At Home" activities available

Sincerely,

Lynda Miller, Principal

Canadian parents missing time to help their child learn



Daily activities such as sorting laundry, cooking and travelling to and from school are perfect learning opportunities in busy households

Family literacy fact

Quality of life for families, including income levels and employment status, is directly related to the literacy levels of parents

(Toronto, ON – January 10, 2012) – ABC Life Literacy Canada today released new national research regarding the learning habits of Canadian families. The study, conducted by national research firm Ipsos Reid on behalf of ABC Life Literacy Canada, found that 62 per cent of Canadian parents agree that they don't have as much time as they would like to spend helping their child learn.

Despite the belief and desire to nurture a learning environment at home, with six in 10 Canadian parents indicating that the primary place for a child to learn is in the home, parents are overlooking inherent learning moments in their daily activities, with just three in 10 using daily tasks as key learning opportunities.

“While it's encouraging to see that three in 10 Canadian parents always use grocery shopping, traveling or participation in sport as a learning opportunity, there are still 70 per cent of parents who are missing out on embracing these moments,” said Margaret Eaton, President, ABC Life Literacy Canada. “It's easy to use day-to-day tasks as a way to teach children. When traveling in the car, play word-association games with the letters on license plates, or when grocery shopping, try to add up the total before the cashier tells you. Learning can happen anywhere.”

When it comes to paying bills, for example, over half of Canadian parents surveyed rarely (27 per cent) or never (28 per cent) use it as an opportunity to teach their children key financial literacy skills. Colours, matching and measurement can be taught while doing the laundry, yet only 19 per cent of parents always use it as such.

Looking at more traditional literacy activities, we see that:

- Writing stories is an activity that is almost never done as a family, with 68 per cent of parents taking part in that activity less than once a month.
- 81 per cent of parents visit a library less often than once a month or just once a month.
- Digital literacy is still not fully embraced as a family activity, with only 22 per cent of parents using a computer daily with their children.

Regionally, parents in Quebec and Atlantic Canada spend the most time writing stories with their children, with 22 per cent writing together daily or weekly. Parents in B.C. visit libraries the most, with 49 per cent going at least one a month. The majority of parents in Atlantic Canada, Saskatchewan and Manitoba visit the library less than once a month. When it comes to using a computer as a family, 34 per cent of Atlantic parents do it daily, but that number dips to 20 per cent in Alberta and just 14 per cent in Quebec.

“Seventy per cent of Canadian parents agree that they are their child's best teacher,” commented Sean Simpson, Associate Vice President of Ipsos Reid. “This data shows us that there are many more opportunities they could use to be a non-conventional teacher to their kids.”

With Family Literacy Day taking place this month on January 27; parents have the perfect opportunity to start embracing learning opportunities happening in their daily lives. By downloading the Journey to Learning Passport, families can see how easy and fun it is to share these moments and start learning together.

For more information on Family Literacy Day, including event listings, literacy tips and activities, please visit FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.