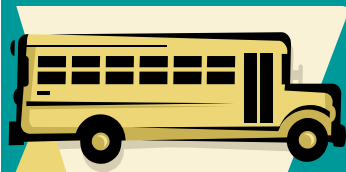


Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2011



Helen E. Taylor School

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

I trust everyone had a safe and restful summer and are ready for another year of learning and fun! Our school will continue to follow the Health and Fitness Focus as was done last year. A wide range of complementary courses will again be offered, as well as several new ones. Both Elementary and Jr. High students will receive two Nutrition Breaks at 10:55 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Jr. High students will enjoy a wide range of fitness focused and Phys. Ed. class beginning at 1:45 each day.

All students will enjoy coming together and taking an active part in our school intramural activities, particularly during this first week of school! Parents and family members are welcome to come and watch the many exciting team-building, school-spirit activities the teachers have planned!

Our school strives to build strong partnerships within our school & community. Your child will bring home your HET Calendar Fridge Magnet showing important 2011-12 school dates. An HET School Newsletter will also be sent home to each family; this newsletter will also be posted on our school website. If you do not wish to receive paper copies of the school newsletter and would rather they be emailed to you, please call the school office. We trust this information will be helpful in keeping parents and families informed about school activities, academic and classroom happenings!

If you have an email address that you check regularly, please provide this address to the school. In this day of digital communication, emails are often a quicker and more reliable way of communicating and reaching each other. **Please complete the slip on the back of this newsletter and return it to the school as soon as possible. This information is for school use only and will not be shared with anyone.**

Please remember, that as your principal, I strongly believe in open, honest communication between stakeholders. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please take the time to call or drop in to see me. I look forward to meeting and re-connecting with all of you!

Sincerely,
Lynda Miller, Principal

School Council 2010-11

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed their time and talents to Helen E. Taylor School this year!

- Ted Watt
- Verna Dickinson
- Loni Antypowich
- Cathy Proteau
- Joe LaValley
- Val Bundy
- Cheryl Yewell
- Maureen Stamp
- Debbi Lorette
- Wendi Nordell
- Sarah Eifert
- Shannon Obst
- Wendy Kelm
- Debbie Coupland

The Next School Council Meeting
will be held

Welcome Back BBQ & Family Dance

Friday, September 9
6:00 BBQ
7:00—9:00 Dance

Students **MUST** be accompanied by an adult

Come & meet your child's teacher and friends!

Helen E. Taylor School Teachers & Staff

- Grade 5M:** Sarah McDonald
- Grade 5L:** Joelanne Liland
- Grade 6:** Rob Twelvetree
- Grade 7C:** Candice Collins
- Grade 8R:** Rob Robinson
- Grade 8M:** Lynda Miller
Jennifer Martin

Grade 9B:
Dawn Marie Balisky

Teacher Assistants:
Paulette Dunlop
Belinda Sieker
Lisa Wiseman
Shauna Green

Librarian: Janice Willsey

Admin. Assistant:
Rene Metituk

Principal: Lynda Miller

Bus Drivers:
Lorna Dahl
Diana Ketchum
Ruth Sieker
Char Majoros
Chris Stacey
May Blew

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Helen E. Taylor School

**“The Truth About Drugs”
Parent Night
Wednesday, September 14
7:00 -9:00 pm**

The presentation is part of the Dare to Care program which is designed to assist schools in establishing a positive climate and socially responsible individuals. The Truth About Drugs is a comprehensive approach to dealing with challenges in school communities and involves students, teachers, parents and the community in an effort to eliminate dangerous behaviors in our school.

The Truth About Drugs Parent Session is facilitated by Dwayne Peace, a retired RCMP officer from Calgary.

Today’s teens often overlook the dangers they face when using drugs — including rape, homelessness, suicide, jail time, and the inability to focus or study. The damage drugs inflict is not always obvious.

Learn the difference between Marijuana from the 60’s and 70’s and Marijuana today. How does Marijuana lead to other drugs?

A component of this presentation also includes charges under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act that are applicable to those who chose to use drugs. The definitions and penalties for Possession, Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking, and Trafficking are all discussed in this educational and revealing presentation. Choices & Consequences are clearly presented during this session.

This session will provide information and ideas that you, as a parent, can use to protect your child against the use of drugs.

Please come out to this session. You won’t regret it. It is one of the most important sessions you can attend in order to protect your child.

Statistics show that parents who are involved at the school and show an interest in what their kids do and need to deal with, those kids are more likely to succeed academically and stay out of trouble.

**Please plan on attending this very important Parent Session on
Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm. in the Helen E. Taylor School music room!**

**“TAKE THE TIME” Gr. 7-9 STUDENT DAY
Wednesday, September 14
8:45-3:30 pm**

The success of the student day depends a great deal on the preparation that goes into the day. We would ask that all students and adult volunteers commit to the ENTIRE DAY.

We require one adult volunteer for every 5 students. This can be teachers, parents, community members.....but we must have a 5:1 ratio of students to adults. Please! If you can volunteer for this program please call Mrs. Miller at the school 780-766-9103 or 780-505-2754.

The *Take the Time* day will be a very different experience! Please consider volunteering! The day is designed to shift the imbalance of power away from the few students who bully and into the hands of the caring majority. The day is carefully designed to facilitate real change in the students, and in many cases the adults, who are part of this day.

Through a combination of games, small group activities, and large group activities, participants will discover that they really do have the power to make a difference in their school and community.

Your role as adult facilitator will be to simply shadow what the students are doing and to fully participate in the day. Please consider volunteering!

Grade Five & Six
Bully Proofing Program with Lisa Dixon –Wells
Thursday, September 15

The latest statistic states that only 4% of bullying is ever reported by students. At Dare to Care they believe that most students are very caring and want to do what is right, whether it be to stand up to the bullies or to report the incidents to staff. Unfortunately, the reality is that without the support and the skills to do what is right, students of all ages are fearful and the code of silence becomes a way of survival. Students are fearful that they will make the situation worse, that adults won't listen, and most importantly, that they will be seen as 'rats' or 'tattlers'.

Through grade appropriate assemblies and skill development, students are given the knowledge and skill set to collectively make a difference in their lives and in the lives of others. The Dare to Care Student day emphasizes the important concepts of awareness, empathy and social responsibility.

Facts about Bullying:

- In the average elementary school classroom, two to three students spend their day afraid and in need of help.
- In Canada, an episode of bullying occurs every 7.5 minutes on the playground and every 20 minutes in the classroom.
- In any school population: 15% of students are victims of bullying, 6% are doing the bullying and 79% make up the silent majority.
- Only 4% of bullying incidents are reported to an adult.

**Bullying behavior in elementary school can easily turn into violence
 by middle and high school.**

ADHD Support Group
Guest Speaker: Joyce Clayton
Sexsmith Community Centre
Friday, Sept. 30 @ 7 pm

Parents will be provided an overview of some new digital resources such as Medical & Social Participation sections of the Inclusive Education Planning Tool (IEPT) Come hear about the various parent & teacher resources available for supporting the education of students with ADHD.

Dress Code Reminder

- *Students need suitable clothes for physical education and shop. JH students are required to wear appropriate gym clothing as part of their Phys. Ed. mark.
- *Clothing should be clean, tidy and appropriate to an educational setting. No midriff skin or beach wear is allowed at Helen E. Taylor School.
- *Students are to avoid wearing design or word motifs that are suggestive, indecent or contain profanity.
- *Students are to avoid wearing "colors" or other items of dress that may suggest gang-related behaviors.
- *Hats worn indoors are only allowed on "casual Fridays". Hats must be kept in student lockers. Appropriate underwear is to be worn not seen.
- *Skirts must be a reasonable length. When arms are hanging down, the edge of the skirt must meet the finger tips.
- *Short-shorts are not allowed. Mid-thigh and Capri-style shorts that are knee-length are acceptable. When arms are hanging down, the edge of the skirt must meet the finger tips.
- *No spaghetti-strap tops or tops that expose underwear are allowed.

FCSS

Family Community Support Services

The County of Grande Prairie FCSS School Liaison Program will be available to our school again this year!

The purpose of the School Liaison Program is to improve the quality of life for children and families by:

- providing services that support the students academic functioning
- support relationships through a wide range of counseling services
- offer resources & program to students that develop an increased awareness about self & others

**Our School Liaison Worker is
 Jolene Nellis**

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:

We are a NO CELL PHONE Zone!
 Cameras, and their use at school, are not allowed unless prior permission from the principal has been received.
 As per our Locker policy (F) above, it is recommended that students leave any valuables at home. This includes **Cell Phones, Ipods, MP3 Players**)
 If a student chooses to bring a cell phone or electronic device to school, these items are expected to be placed in the student's locked locker or signed in at the office.
 Helen E. Taylor School staff accepts no responsibility for valuables, **including Cell Phones, Ipods, MP3 Players** whether they are in student lockers, teacher desks or signed in at the office.
 Due to privacy issues and the potential for disruption, cell phones must either be entrusted to a teacher, the office, or in the student's locker at all times throughout the school day.

**ALL Cell Phones MUST REMAIN OFF
 at all times, even phones that are
 locked in lockers.**

September 2011 Calendar!

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			August 31 Student First Day Back!	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day No School	6	7	8	9 Welcome Back BBQ & Family Dance 6-9 pm	10
11	12 Staff Meeting Early Dismissal	13	14 Grade 7-9 "Take the Time" student sessions "The Truth About Drugs" Parent Session HET Music Room 7 pm	15 Grade 5 & 6 "Bully Proofing Your School" Grade 7-9 Life's Challenges in Secondary School" Meet Your Community @ Wembley Rec Centre 7 pm	16 CSW No School Staff PD Day	17 Town of Wembley Demolition Derby
18	19	20 School Pictures! School Council 6:35 pm	21	22	23 CSW No School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2011-12 School Fees

Grade	Texts	Supplies	P.A.	Swim	Cultural	Rec Fees	Agendas	Total
5	50.00	30.00		60.00	5.00	7.00	7.00	159.00
6	50.00	30.00		10.50	5.00	7.00	7.00	109.50
7	60.00		5.00	10.50	5.00	14.00		94.50
8	60.00		5.00	10.50	5.00	14.00		94.50
9	60.00		40.00	10.50	5.00	14.00		129.50

School fees for Budget include: Textbooks, Photocopying, Supplies, Practical Arts, Swim fees, Cultural events, Agendas
Recreational fees, Busing

School Fees are payable at the main office and can be made by cash or cheque.
Sorry, debit is not available.

All School Fees paid PRIOR to October 3, 2011 will be entered into a draw!

You may win the cost of your school fees back!

Should you be encountering financial difficulties, please call the school principal.
There are various payment options available for school fees, such as posted-dated cheques, monthly payments or working your school fees off.

September 2011 Newsletter Return Slip

To encourage students to deliver the newsletter to their parents, we will be drawing for a monthly Family Gift Certificate.

Please have your child return this slip to his/her teacher or write a note to the teacher stating you have read it on-line!

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

My Email Address is: _____

If prefer to be contacted by: _____ Email _____ Phone _____ Both Email & Phone