



Penison School Newsletter



January 2012

Important Dates:

Basketball Practices on
Tues. & Thurs. from 4-
5:30 pm

Jan12-Science Fair

Jan 16-GPRC
Paleontology Presentation

Jan 26-Penison Literacy
Day

Jan 31-UFA Farm Safety

**Penison School
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Principal:
Mrs. J. McAusland

Penison Website:
[http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/
school/penison/Pages/
default.aspx](http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca/school/penison/Pages/default.aspx)

or

www.pwsd76.ab.ca
Click on Schools
Click on Penison

Look at the website for
updates, forms, and Miss
McKenzie has class
assignment due dates and
exams.

Principal's Message

Happy New Year everyone! The new year is often a time of reflecting on what has been and perhaps wondering with anticipation about what will be in this blank slate of a new year. As I look back on the past four months at Penison, I am so grateful for this school community and the way the staff, the students and the parents work together to help create a wonderful environment for all.

Parents are often asking what they can do to help their child be successful. The most important thing you can do is read with your child on a daily basis. The benefits of this time with your child are immense. It not only shows your child that you value reading, but also that you value them and provides you with special time together which is invaluable because we all know how quickly our children seem to grow up. January 27th marks National Family Literacy Day, and on the 26th we invite you to come play word games for literacy! Please watch for more information in the upcoming month.

As we pounce into the New Year, Pete the Panther would like to remind all students of our Code of Conduct...

I am respectful

I am responsible

I am prepared

I will share and be fair

I am cooperative

I will settle conflicts peacefully; my hands are for helping, not hurting

I am here to learn

***By acting this way, I am a capable and contributing member of
Penison School***

On a final note, we would like to recognize the exceptional character traits that students at Penison School demonstrate. When we have guest teachers or visitors in our school, they frequently comment on how *nice* our students are. We couldn't agree more, and we are very proud when we see them making good decisions. If the past four months are an indication of how this new year will unfold, then we have a wonderful year ahead of us.

**Yours in Learning,
Mrs. J McAusland**

**READ TOGETHER.
GROW TOGETHER.**
Family Literacy Day is January 27



Family Literacy Day 2012

Family Literacy Day takes place annually on January 27 to celebrate adults and children reading and learning together, and to encourage Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes enjoying a learning activity as a family every day.

The theme for the 2012 Family Literacy Day is “Play for Literacy”. Playing games that encourage literacy and numeracy - such as board games, card games and word games - is a great way for parents and children to practice their literacy skills and have fun. Possible games to play at home could include:

Board games – Scrabble, Boggle, Blurt, Mad Gab, Scattergories, Pictionary, Balderdash, Taboo, Cranium, Trivial Pursuit, etc.

Word games – crosswords, word searches, hangman, etc.

Card games - Apples to Apples, Typo, Scrabble Slam, etc.

Online or computer games – Many word-based games are available on-line, and can even be downloaded onto handheld devices. Check out *Chicktionary!*

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.

At Penson School, we will celebrate Family Literacy Day in several ways. Students will be engaged in Buddy Hallway Reading, where the whole school comes together in the hallway to enjoy the act of reading for 30 minutes on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th. We will have a “Favorite Book as recommended by our Staff” draw, where families may enter to win a Coles gift certificate. Finally, we will be hosting a Family Games afternoon on January 26, where families will be encouraged to come out and spend the afternoon playing games with their children. Look for more information on this special occasion in the near future. Together, we can make literacy learning fun and engaging for the entire family!



Exercise Time at Penson School

Shelia Green is offering exercise classes at the Penson School Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:15-8:15 pm. Costs are \$3/drop-in or \$20/month. Any questions please call Shelia at 780-402-8318

BOARD POLICY REGARDING STUDENT APPAREL DURING WINTER SEASON:

Due to our insurance policy requirements, students riding on Board buses must comply with the following policy regarding winter dress:

“All students riding on school buses during the winter months shall be required to wear winter footwear and outerwear, and to carry with them winter headwear and gloves or mitts, effective November 1 to March 31. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their children comply with this requirement.”

***Peace Wapiti Public Schools
Transportation Department
is recruiting spare school bus drivers
for all areas of our Division.
All necessary training will be provided.
If you have time in the morning and afternoon
please contact
Joanne Peters, Transportation Student Manager
@ 780-532-7734.***

January News From The Penson School Fundraising Society...

On December 19 The MD of Greenview approved a \$20 000 grant for the Penson Playground!!!

74% of the Cars for Christmas tickets sold- meaning 14 non-profit groups, including our playground WILL receive funding from the proceeds- \$5000.

The Grovedale South Wapiti Recreation Board recently approved a \$2500 grant for our new playground.

The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie has approved our funding request of \$25 000 to put towards replacing our playground!!! In exchange for this generous funding we have agreed to supply volunteers to sell Dream Home tickets for them this spring. Please watch for these volunteer opportunities. The shifts will be evenings and weekends. J

We are nearly there! Only \$25 000 more to go- and we will have a brand new playground in Grovedale.

A Huge THANK YOU to these VOLUNTEERS!!!

Cars for Christmas Audit Workers- December 21, 2011

- Lori Szmul

- Lesley Vandemark

The PSC Would like to thanks the following people:

Santa Gift Shop- Dec 12-14, 2011

Stacy Johnson

Kendra Toews

Beth Dyck

Tanya Frith

Donna Smith

Bingo Workers- January 8, 2012

Shelley Penson

Jordan Penson

Cheryl Kotscherofski

Carol and Paul Freemark

Kathryn Soderholm- Martell

Tanya Frith

Donna Smith

Helping young children get off to a good start

The Early Child Development Mapping Project (ECMap) is working with communities in your area to map information related to early childhood development and build coalitions to promote healthy development. ECMap is funded by Alberta Education and is part of the Government of Alberta's Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Initiative. This five-year research and community-building initiative will help Albertans to better understand how well their young children are doing, the socio-economic and community factors that may be affecting their development and how they can work together to give their children the best possible early start in life. Local community coalitions can also apply for seed grants for planning local early childhood development responses and actions.

Studies show that the early years (from birth to age five) are critically important to children's development. Children's experiences during this period shape the brain and other basic development in ways that affect lifelong learning, behavior, health and quality of life. Getting a positive early start is key to a successful future.

For further information on the project please visit the project's website: www.ecmap.ca

If you are interested in participating in the Early Childhood Coalition in your area please contact the ECMap community development coordinator for our area: Holly Handfield
hhandfield@ualberta.ca 780.518.7361.

The Early Childhood Coalition that Grovedale is a part of is interested in ensuring that there is representation from the Grovedale area. They would like to invite interested parents or community members to join them at the coalition meetings. If you are interested, please be sure to contact Holly Handfield and she will ensure that you receive the information for the next meeting.

People are encouraged to provide ideas on Alberta's education legislation:

- Online: www.education.alberta.ca/engage
- Email: engage.education@gov.ab.ca
- By mail : Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk
Minister of Education
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlbertaEducation
- Twitter: Use the #abed hash tag

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Early Monday 3:15 pm	10 Basketball Practice 4-5:30 pm	11	12 Science Fair Basketball Practice 4-5:30 pm	13 CSW	14
15	16 GPRC Paleontology Presentation	17 Basketball Practice 4-5:30 pm	18	19 Basketball Game	20	21
22	23	24 Basketball Practice 4-5:30 pm	25	26 Literacy Day at Penson Basketball Game	27 CSW	28
29	30	31 UFA Farm Safety Presentations Basketball Practice 4-5:30 pm				

- Jan 3 Back to School
- Jan 9 Early Monday 3:15 pm
- Jan 10 Basketball Practices start for Boys and Girls 4-5:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Jan 12 Science Fair--Public viewing 10am-12pm; Judging (closed) 1-3pm; Awards Assembly 3:15 pm
- Jan 13 CSW
- Jan 16 GPRC Paleontology Grades 6-9
- Jan 19 Basketball League game at Penson School vs. Ridgevalley
- Jan 26 Literacy Day at Penson. Parents welcome.
- Jan 26 Basketball League game at Penson School vs. Valhalla
- Jan 27 CSW & National Literacy Day
- Jan 31 Grades K-5 UFA Farm Safety Presentations

Looking Ahead

- Feb 2 Basketball League game at Penson School vs. Elsworth
- Feb 6 Early Monday 3:15 pm
- Feb 9 Basketball League game in Ridgevalley
- Feb 10 CSW
- Feb 16 Basketball League game in Valhalla
- Feb 17 District PD Day
- Feb 20 Family Day