



Newsletter | December 2014

Important Dates

- Dec 1 / 2 Casino Fund Raiser
- Dec 2-18 Student Council Food Drive
- December 5 PD
NO CLASSES
- Dec 12 Coffee With the Principal
8:15 AM
- December 17 Kindergarten Concert
- December 18 Grade 1-6 Concert
- Dec 19 Half Day
- Dec 20 Winter Break Begins
- January 5 NO SCHOOL
- January 6, 2015 Classes resume

Message from the Principal

Happy Holidays!

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2015!

The school is alive with preparations for the winter celebration. Students are working hard rehearsing the wonderful music and scripts. Lots of excitement is in the air. The Kindergarten celebration will be on Tuesday, **December 17 beginning at 6:30**. On Wednesday, **December 18 at 6:30 Gr 1-6** will entertain you. Please save the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

On November 20 parents and students were invited to attend Student Led Conferences. Thanks for using the online booking system – this really helps us to save time and manpower at the school. We had an excellent turn out and teachers reported how helpful it was to meet with you and have 1:1 time. The first written report card will come home on January 30, 2015. Please join me in the library **Friday, December 12 at 8:15 am** to share your conference feedback, learn more about the report card, new indicator scale, results reporting and the outcomes used for student assessment.

We have Student Council elections this month and in a spirit of generosity the students are collecting food items for the Calgary Food Bank. Thanks to students, teachers and families for taking on this project. As part of a “WE DO” school this is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about helping others and contributing to the greater community.

Our library to Learning Commons renovation will start on December 5 and be completed over the winter break. Last year we received a grant from Education Matters to help us with our Learning Commons. Mrs. Rita Traxler has taken a leadership role with this project and the ‘Green Room’ is a great area for students to document their learning using a variety of media tools. Students are taking books out and returning them independently and our Library Assistant Ms. Kruger has been training students to develop independence and mastery. Do remember to bring your books back! Get ready for a brand new look and greater use of learning commons resources throughout the school.

In January, Ms. Kristy de Boon will be on leave for approximately 6 weeks. Ms. Harmony Jeffery Gordon will become our music and ELL teacher until she leaves on her maternity leave. I am currently interviewing candidates for a Grade 5/6 teacher to fill Ms. Jeffery Gordon’s position in January.

May you have a wonderful winter break – see you in the New Year!

Cheers in Education

Ms. Fran



Lead Class Goes to Zoo School

Our LEAD class spent a whole week at the zoo learning about how animals, plants and humans are connected. We enjoyed four different creature features: we fed the Bactrian camel, we touched the giant land snail, we got up close to a tarantula, and we met Kramer, the parakeet. We also toured the commissary (kitchen) and learned that it costs 1 million dollars a year to feed the animals. We did a scavenger hunt in the conservatory (plant house) and learned how to describe the different leaves. We studied Canadian wildlife bio facts (beaver skins, claws, and skeletons) and watched the penguins jump on their bellies, slide down the snowy hills, while basking in the sun.



"I liked the zoo. I loved the animals. The penguins were the best!"

Noorhan

"Zoo school was awesome and we saw some powerful animals, like the golden eagle. Their talons can grab their prey very quickly."

Esmat

"I learned that the pigs are the smartest animal in the zoo."

Sebastian

"I loved seeing the students feed the Bactrian camel carrots. It was an awesome experience for everyone!"

Ms. Christyne

"The primary highlight was seeing every student engaged in their learning."

Ms. Anderson



Connaught School Presents

THE POLAR EXPRESS



A Grade 1-6 Production



Thursday, December 18, 2014
6:30pm (performers please arrive at 6:15)



Please join us in the Connaught School
gymnasium for a festive musical concert!

Food donations gladly accepted.



Student Council News



Team Up Against Hunger

This December we are showing that We Act by Teaming Up Against Hunger. The student council is asking all students to bring in one non-perishable food item such as canned soups, canned fruit, rice or cereal. Each class will be collecting food to get us to our goal of 200 pounds of food. We will be collecting food from December 2 to 18. There will also be donation boxes at our winter celebration on December 17 and 18. We will be donating all food to the Calgary Food Bank. So let's get started and Team Up Against Hunger.

Do you have a pre-school child almost ready for kindergarten?

Kindergarten Registration for September 2015 Entry will begin on January 12, 2015

If you have a child who will be turning 5 before March 1, 2016, you may register them for kindergarten at any time after January 12, right in the school office. Please bring along your child's birth certificate, if your child was born in Canada. If your child is not a Canadian citizen, you will need to contact the Kingsland Center at 403-777-7373, and arrange a time to complete the registration process at their offices.

We want to say a special "thank you" to Lee Stanfield for all of her work coordinating our first Casino fundraiser.

Everything has gone extremely smoothly and we are grateful for everything Lee has done.

KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE

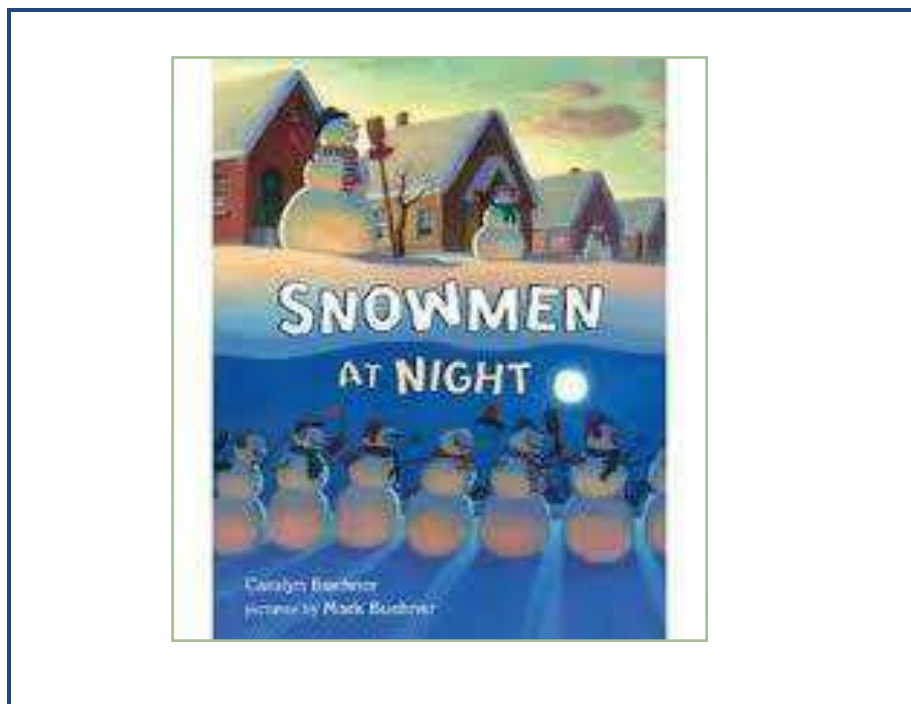
If you are late, picking up your child or volunteering please use the main entrance. In the morning Ms. Dahlia gives late slips to students to ensure we know every student who is in the building. We ask all students not to open fire exits, east or west doors. Parents, please honour this rule. It is very important to sign in at the main desk and come to the office if you are taking your child out of the school before



Kindergarten students present...

Snowmen at Night

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 @6:30 P.M.



Please join us in the Connaught School gymnasium for a kindergarten performance. Parents drop off kindergarten students to Ms. Andrea's classroom at 6:15 p.m. sharp. Children will be dismissed from the classroom when the performance is over.

Dear Parents - Re: Trickster Theatre Artist-In-Residency Program

Trickster Theatre Company will be coming to our school to lead a one-week artist-in-residency program. This residency involves the entire school. Students and staff, through daily workshops, lecture/demonstrations and rehearsals, will create and perform an original performance based on a theme we have chosen to explore. This 60 - 90-minute performance will be presented on a Friday evening for the community. Trickster Theatre has been in the educational touring program in Alberta since 1979, and taught hundreds of workshops for teachers and students. They have performed in Canada at the Toronto, Edmonton, and Calgary Children's festivals, and tour internationally to Denmark, Singapore, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand.

Trickster Theatre's Artist-in-residency program is a spectacular event! The company will be working at our school during the week of February 2-6, 2015. Our school has asked Trickster Theatre to help us build a performance based on the theme of We Act which connects with our We Day focus. This original performance will be based on ideas from our students and staff and involve students and staff as actors. The show will take place on Friday, February 6 at 6:30pm. Exploring our theme through Action Learning will be a wonderful educational experience for our school. During this week, we will experience how to make the education process more physical and fun. More information will be forthcoming as we approach the residency week.

Parents who might be interested in volunteering: One of the goals of the residency is community participation -- either to take part in the construction of the performance or just to see what kinds of activities are taking place. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours during the residency week, there are many areas where assistance is greatly welcomed. There is no experience required. If you are interested in participating in the residency week, please indicate and return this slip by November 15, 2014. You will be contacted for more details.



I am willing to assist:

- In the unloading and set-up of gear (First morning of residency – approx. 7:30 a.m.)
- With the strike (taking down of theatre equipment) after the final performance
- With the construction of props and costumes
- With classroom workshops and rehearsals
- With performance organization
- Where needed

Days or hours I can help: _____

PARENT NAME _____ Phone # _____

School Fees Are Due

If you have not yet paid for your child's school fees, as listed below, you may pay these at any time on-line at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/Parents/fees.asp> You may also pay by sending in a cheque to the the school, or by coming in person to the school office with either a debit or credit card.

All students MUST fill out a Registration Form and make payment for the Noon Supervision Service. If you have not yet done so this year, please take care of this as soon as possible. Forms are available either online or in the school office.

2014-2015 fees are as follows:

School Supplies (ISM Fee)	\$30 / year
Incidental Activity Fee	\$10 / year
Field Trip Fees (For Grade 1-6)	\$40 / year
Field Trip Fees (For Kindergarten)	\$30 / year
Noon Supervision (all students)	\$250 / year



The school handbook contains information about our school – it can be found on the Connaught School web page <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b114/>

Go to parents/publications Handbook 2014-15

Answer the following questions, submit them on the tear off sheet below and you can win a prize! October's winner was Meghana Tadimeti – thanks for learning about our school!

1. What does a Litter Free Lunch mean? _____
2. What is the website for S4? _____
3. When do report cards go home? _____
4. How much homework can my child expect? _____
5. Which of these beverages are not allowed at school?

Circle the correct answer – milk, pop/soda, water juice

Student Name _____ Teacher _____

Instructional Supplies and Material Fees: 2013 – 2014 Report to Parents

Instructional Supplies and Materials Fees are Board-mandated fees and are set by the Calgary Board of Education. In 2013-2014 all students at Connaught School (K-6) were charged \$30.00. The CBE provides funding for students whose fees are waived because of financial difficulty, and for other unpaid ISMs.

Revenue	
Fees Paid by Parents	\$6,405.00
Waived Fees funded by CBE	<u>\$1,182.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$7,587.00
Expenses	
Student Classroom Supplies	<u>\$10439.72</u>
Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$(2,852.72) (funded from decentralized budget)

Optional Events and Off-Site Activities

Swimming	
Revenue	\$3,425.00
Expenses	<u>\$3,396.00</u>
Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$ 29.00
Outdoor School	
Revenue	\$6,701.00
Expenses	<u>\$6,992.20</u>
Net Revenue/(Expense)	\$ (291.20)



year's end | a focus on the future

As a busy and productive 2014 comes to a close we look back on the gifts and accomplishments of the past year.

The fall is when we review the performance of the Calgary Board of Education through the learning of our students and through the feedback we receive from staff and parents. It is also when we turn our thoughts to continuing learning for each student, each staff member, and to our goals for continuous improvement. We have much to celebrate and to look forward to in the Calgary Board of Education.

This fall we had more than 3,700 new students enrol in our schools, bringing our total enrolment to 114,500 students. We are very proud to be the dynamic learning community of choice for students across Calgary.

We are also proud of the academic results our students are achieving. In the 2013-14 provincial achievement tests and diploma exams, our students continued to outperform the province in most subjects, particularly at the standard of excellence.

Over the past five years, we've seen high school completion rates climb from 69.6 per cent to 74 per cent for those who complete high school in three years. For those who complete high school in five years, the rate improves to 80.7 per cent.

In the last year, our students have also made significant contributions in their communities, volunteering thousands of hours and raising much-needed funds for local and global initiatives. Many of those students celebrated their achievements in November at We Day in Calgary, where 16,000 students were inspired to "be the change" in their world.

To each of you who have stood alongside our students as they've learned, grown, contributed and flourished, we offer our appreciation. Together as staff and parents and community we can be proud and humbled by what our students have accomplished and by the fine people they are becoming. Together we can know that our efforts have made a difference. The Calgary Board of Education is a place of great commitment and of collective impact.

Looking ahead to 2015 and beyond, we are committed to continued excellence and to creating new levels of success for all.

We will seek new ways to offer flexibility and choice to our students from their first day in kindergarten to their graduation in Grade 12. We want every child to choose a path that makes the most sense for them, and we want to provide the support they need to be successful.

We will continue to build learning programs that help students build their knowledge and skills and that engage them as learners of today and prepare them for dynamic and successful futures.

I look forward to 2015 with optimism, hope and a strong belief that the work we do together will benefit our community for decades to come.

Please accept my wish for you and your family to enjoy a happy, restful and safe holiday season.

David Stevenson
Chief Superintendent of Schools

December 2014