


**Riverbend School**

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<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b386>

## Newsletter | October 2012

### Principal's Message

Principal's Message Oct 2012

Hello Riverbend Parents and Guardians,

Where did this month go? It feels as if we just got back into school after a glorious summer break. And here we are, expecting snow flurries this week!

There are many exciting things happening at Riverbend these days. Our Kindergarten classes have gone on their first community walk; Grade three and four classes are heading to the Zoo in the next couple of weeks to see the Penguins; and the Grade five-six classes will each enjoy a week of science school at the Telus Spark Science Centre beginning October 15th.

Staffing changes at Riverbend have finally settled down, now that September's official count (305 students) has been completed. I am very pleased to welcome Carrie Dayman to the school community as our new assistant principal. Please read Carrie's message in the newsletter and join us for a special "Coffee and Conversation" at 8:15 AM this Thursday, October 4, to meet Carrie.

I would like to thank our families for attending the first Parent Teacher Conferences in September. Not only did you have an opportunity to meet our newest staff members, Ms. Hegde (replacing Diane Dron in grade 2), Ms. Pfob (in grade 5-6 until Ms. Crone returns), and Ms. Ponech (grade 5-6), but you also had an opportunity to meet members of our School Council parent group who were on hand to promote the upcoming casino and the sale of 'school spirit' clothing. We are very fortunate at Riverbend to have such a committed and fun-loving group of parents to support our work with students around teaching and learning.

Our work with the "Start Smart Stay Safe" project has begun again. Diane Dron is now working in the position of CBE Coordinator for S4. During P-T Conferences, many parents signed the 'Consent to Share Student Work' form from Synergy Research Group Inc., the Calgary based external evaluator of the S4 Project. This allows teachers to submit student work samples to Synergy as part of the assessment process of this pilot project. As a follow-up, we will be sending home printed information explaining the process of evaluation as a reminder to parents of our school's involvement. I am pleased to announce that one of our parents, Nicki Wengyznowski, has agreed to act as liaison between our parent community and the S4 project. Please read the newsletter insert from Kristen Duke, Mount Royal University's co-ordinator of the Family Project, part of Start Smart Stay Safe project. The S4 cornerstones, or themes, are Significance, Success, Self-Awareness and Service, embedded in curriculum and taught through a strength based approach. This year, Community Core activities will focus on Start Smart Stay Safe.



#### Important Dates

October 2 – School Photos

October 4 – A special  
"Coffee and Conversation"  
at 8:15 AM to meet Carrie  
Dayman – our new  
Assistant Principal

October 8 – **NO SCHOOL**  
Thanksgiving.

October 9 – Quest Theatre  
presents "The Gardener"  
Parents are welcome to  
attend

October 16 – School  
Council Meeting 6:30 pm in  
the Staffroom.

October 19 - Celebration of  
Learning Assembly – 9:00  
am

October 25 – Coffee &  
Conversation with the  
Principal 8:15 am

October 26 – **NO SCHOOL**  
**Organizational Day**

Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events and/or holidays in October, including Thanksgiving Day (no school) on October 8, Quest Theatre performance of “The Gardener” at 9:00 AM on October 9, School Council at 6:30 PM on October 16, a celebration of learning assembly at 9:00 AM on October 19, and Organizational Day (no school for students) on October 26. Parents are welcome to attend performances and assemblies throughout the year.

Have a wonderful October,

Bonnie Spooner

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## Assistant Principal’s Message

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share my excitement about my appointment as the new Assistant Principal at Riverbend School. It is an honour for me to serve the students, staff, families and community of Riverbend. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff to provide the best possible education program for our students.

For the past three years, I served as Assistant Principal at Nellie McClung School. During that time, I completed my Masters Degree in Interpretive Studies in Education at the University of Calgary. My teaching experience includes a variety of contexts, grades one to six, in several schools. My passion lies in building strong relationships with students in order to personalize instruction and keep students engaged. My interest in special education grew as I taught both system learning, behaviour and gifted education classes. Following this, I had the opportunity to be an AISI Learning Leader in Area V, where I was able to support innovative learning in six schools, including two middle schools.

Working at Riverbend School is an opportunity to learn and grow in a warm and caring school environment. My door is open, please feel free to call or stop by and introduce yourself. I look forward to working together with each of you.

Carrie Dayman  
Assistant Principal

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## Start Smart, Stay Safe



Start Smart Stay Safe is a strengths-based educational resource utilized by police officers, teachers, and schools in building resiliency and capacity in children and their families. Using a proactive delivery model, this resource intentionally builds skills and knowledge that supports students in successfully navigating through challenging situations like bullying, cyber-safety, pressure to engage in substance abuse or any high-risk behaviours. These models are delivered through affirming messaging, engaging activities, and fostering positive relationships between police officers school communities, and families. Classroom experiences are designed to invite uniformed officers to visit classrooms to explore the question “**How do we work together to keep our community safe?**”

Parental involvement in their child(ren)’s learning, not only improves a child’s morale, attitude, and academic achievement across all subject areas, but it also promotes better

behaviour and social adjustment. In all these ways, family involvement in education helps children to grow up to be productive, responsible members of the society!

As part of the Start Smart Stay Safe (S4) Project, families are provided opportunities to become involved through family connection activities. *Family Connection* activities are offered to invite families to participate in activities that complement the police visits and support police messaging throughout. These will be sent home to families in the form of an invitation and reflection section from teachers via your child(ren). Watch for upcoming parent activities this year to support your children and family in working together to keep the community safe!!

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## **Reporting Lates & Absences to the Office**

### **777-6510 EXT “1” - ABSENTEE LINE**

It is very important that if your child is going to be late or absent from school that parents please phone and leave a message on the ABSENTEE LINE. Please do not leave messages regarding lates and absences on the main line. This rule also applies if your child will be absent from school for an extended period of time for a **Family Holiday or other reasons.**

Please do not leave this information with your child’s teacher only. This information must be left with the office as well.

If your child will be absent from the Lunchroom Program, please report this absence on the ABSENTEE LINE as well.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Thank you.

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## **What’s New in Grade One...**

September has been a very busy month. Everyone has adjusted to the longer day at school! We have been learning about each other with the presentations of our ‘Identity boxes’. Students shared about themselves and their families – So much fun!

We were excited to tell the school of the ways that we show courage at the Terry Fox assembly and we are looking forward to preparing for our assembly presentation October 19<sup>th</sup> about UNICEF and the gift of giving. Mr. Hall has been helping us with some songs!

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## Library Volunteers Needed!

Our media center is a very busy place, and we would really like some volunteers to help with shelving, book repairs and upcoming Book Fairs etc. If you would be interested in helping in the library please call the school at 777-6510.

Thank you,  
Karen Cooper—Librarian

## 2011-2012 Noon Supervision

All students staying should be registered in the Noon Supervision program and paying for the Program. Drop in students must be registered before you stay for lunch.

**Any outstanding fees must be paid before you may stay or register for lunch this year.**



### NOON SUPERVISION ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE!

Registered, full time lunch students need to be signed out in the office before they can leave the building at lunch.

### NO MICROWAVES! NO HOT WATER KETTLES

Students do not have access to any microwaves or hot water for instant soup.

### PLEASE DO NOT SEND GLASS CONTAINERS!

Thank you for your consideration in these matters  
Lunch Program Staff

## Parent Council News...

"Riverbend Parent Council Needs YOU!"

We are in desperate need of parents to join us on Parent Council. Some of the reasons for attending a parent council meeting include:

- staying informed about what is happening in the school
- providing feedback and input to administration
- more importantly, have a voice in how we can enhance or support our child's learning environment

Another important aspect of the Parent Council is the Riverbend Elementary Parent Society. The role of the society is to fund many of the "extras" necessary to create an atmosphere of inquiry and discovery for our children. Opportunities include:

- contributing fundraising ideas
- managing or participating in fundraising activities
- being involved in how monies are spent

A few of the items we hope to subsidize or support in the 2012-2013 school year include:

- new laptops, iPads, and document cameras to ensure our children have access to the latest technology
- Chevron Open Minds Science School
- physical education supplies

- outdoor school programs
- busses for field trips
- literacy books
- Music supplies

As a parent, you automatically belong to both organizations and we need you to help us ensure our children get the best we have to offer. No one knows your child better than you. So come on out and tell us how we can support you and your child.

Volunteer today...

Key opportunities include:

Vice Chair - Makes sure the Chairperson gets things done...

Secretary - writes stuff down, sends stuff out...

Key Communicator - Tells us what everyone else is doing...

CAPSC Representative - listens to others telling us what everyone else is doing...

Hot Lunch Committee Leader - minimizes the number of snacks and lunches you have to pack...

These are just a few of the vacant positions waiting for you!

On a serious note, if we are unable to fulfill many of these positions the parent council will not be able to raise the funds necessary to provide the support many parents and children have come to rely on.

If you are interested in volunteering or need more information regarding the roles and responsibilities of council positions contact us via e-mail at [chair@riverbendparents.com](mailto:chair@riverbendparents.com) or feel free to give me a call.

Regards,

Michael Garner | Chairperson  
Riverbend Elementary Parents Society  
(P) 403-818-0743

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## Riverbend Elementary Parents Society Fundraising...

What a fun and exciting time back to school. It was great to meet so many families at the Parent Teacher conferences this month. We are very excited to introduce some new fundraisers to Riverbend School. Ones we hope will be very successful for our fundraising efforts.

New this year is the Shopfunds. Visit the website at [shopfunds.ca](http://shopfunds.ca). This is a gift card program. You purchase gift cards from the supporter order forms. These went home on Monday September 24, 2012. You decide what works for your shopping needs as well; it is a great way to purchase some quick and easy gifts for the holidays. Forms are due back on Oct 1, 2012. Don't worry though if you can't do it this time or missed the deadline: we are sending it out again on November 5, 2012.

Our other NEW fundraiser is the Christmas/Holiday Catalogue Campaign. These catalogues have wonderful gifts, needed holiday supplies and so much more! The order forms will go out on October 9, 2012.

SUTP books are still available, so if you haven't purchased one yet, you can do so any time.

Popcorn Recesses are on the go. Our next one is Friday October 19.

You can still send in orders. Extra forms are in the office.



Thank you to everyone who supports our fundraisers. Every dollar goes to help purchase items that enhance our children's learning environment. If you have any ideas for fundraising or want to join us for discussion please come and join us at our next Parent Council meeting on October 16, 2012, 6:30 at the school.

Happy Shopping!

REPS Volunteers for Fundraising

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## URGENT - Casino Volunteers Required

The paperwork for our upcoming Casino has to be submitted by the end of the month but we are still short a few key volunteers. If you are available to help on either November 24th or 25th and you haven't already sent in your information please do so ASAP. If you have any friends or relatives that might be able to help then please ask them too!

Here are the specific positions that are still open:

Alternate General Manager - Saturday Night Shift - November 24  
 Alternate General Manager - Sunday Morning Shift - November 25  
 Alternate General Manager - Sunday Night Shift - November 25  
 Chip Runner - Sunday Night Shift - November 25

Download Link: [Casino Volunteer Information Sheet](#)

Download Link: [AGLC - Casino Volunteer Requirements and Positions](#)

If you have any questions or if you are ready to volunteer then please contact Tammy Johnston at [\(403\) 257-6354](tel:403-257-6354) or [tammyjohnston@thefinancialguides.com](mailto:tammyjohnston@thefinancialguides.com)

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### Why is this Important??

Riverbend Elementary has been very fortunate over the years to have been able to participate in the Casino Fundraising Opportunities available to approved charities around Alberta. By providing volunteers for two days every two years we are able to raise a significant amount of money that is used to enhance the educational experience of our children.

The money raised by parents has been used to pay for technology, field trips, classroom programs, artistic residencies, author visits, library books, musical instruments, gym equipment... the list goes on and on.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE AREAS OF ENRICHMENT ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF your child's education, please join us in making sure that Riverbend School continues to give our children the opportunities they have received both in the past and this year.

**If we do not sign up the required number of casino volunteers before the end of the month, we will not be able to run the casino, and our funding for the next 2 years of school activities will be gone. Please help!**

# School Spirit Merchandise



## Why Buy ?

- \* Our school has spirit days throughout the year. The students are encouraged to wear our school colour.
- \* It is a wonderful way to support the school.
- \* It is a great keepsake for your child.

We at Riverbend School believe in our school community! In the spirit of energy and community Riverbend Parent Council are promoting School Spirit items at the school.

We have chosen green as our signature colour to support our environmentally friendly school. Our main item is our **Green Spirit Shirt!** This year we have also added **Hoodies** and **Baseball hats** to our spirit items for sale. These may be purchased from Parent Council while supplies last.

Questions? Contact the School Spirit Committee:

[schoolspirit@riverbendparents.com](mailto:schoolspirit@riverbendparents.com)

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

### Green Riverbend Raccoon T-Shirts:

Kids: Small / Med / Large / X-Large \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12

### Green Riverbend Raccoon Baseball Hats:

Kids / Youth / Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$13

Youth Sizes	
Small:	sizes 6-8
Med:	sizes 10-12
Large:	sizes 14-16
X-Large:	sizes 18-20

### Kids Green Riverbend Raccoon Pullover Cotton Hoodies

Kids: Small / Med / Large / X-Large \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20

### Adult Green Riverbend Raccoon Full-Zip Cotton Hoodies

Adult: Small / Med / Large / X-Large / 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30

### Adult Black Riverbend Raccoon Full-Zip Ptech Fleece Hoodies

Ladies: x-small/small/med/large/x-large/2XL/3XL/4XL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45

Mens: x-small/small/med/large/x-large/2XL/3XL/4XL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45

Total \$ Included: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash / Cheque

*Please make cheques payable to: REPS*

<http://www.RiverbendParents.com>



## connect | listening to parents and community members

The Board of Trustees is committed to creating strong and vibrant school communities throughout our system. During this school year, we plan to engage in more direct and meaningful conversations with the people who help make this vision a reality.

School councils play a vital and active role in our school communities. That is why we are taking steps to develop a more direct connection with school councils this year. By creating a “council of school councils,” we will strengthen connections amongst all partners in public education.

We have also provided school councils with tools and resources that we hope will help them do their work. The 2012-13 School Council Handbook, available online at [www.cbe.ab.ca/schoolcouncils](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schoolcouncils), is one of those resources.

The Board of Trustees will also be meeting with business and community leaders throughout the year. At these meetings trustees gain a better understanding of the knowledge and skills our students need to thrive in life, work and continued learning beyond high school. These important conversations will help us improve one of the best public education systems in the world.

There are many Calgarians who help our students succeed each and every day. We are committed to ensuring they all have a voice. Together, we can continue to achieve amazing results for students.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to get involved in our conversations with the community.

### contact | Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees wants to hear your ideas or concerns about public education in Calgary. You can also visit [cbe.ab.ca](http://cbe.ab.ca) to learn more about the Board of Trustees and upcoming public board meetings. By ward, here are your trustees:

1 & 2	Joy Bowen-Eyre
3 & 4	Lynn Ferguson
5 & 10	Pamela King
6 & 7	George Lane
8 & 9	Pat Cochrane
11 & 13	Sheila Taylor
12 & 14	Carol Bazinet

e | [BoardofTrustees@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:BoardofTrustees@cbe.ab.ca)  
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