



## Colonel Walker School

1921 9 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0V3 t | 403-777-6780 f | 403-777-6782 | colonelwalker@cbe.ab.ca  
<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b000>



## Colonel Walker School Newsletter | April 2014

### Principal's Message:

Parents wish the best for their children. They nurture their physical and emotional health and hope, amongst other things, that they will be successful in school, develop solid friendships, and find a full measure of satisfaction and happiness in their lives. To realize these dreams, children require inner strength to deal competently and successfully day after day with challenges and demands that inevitably come their way. This capacity to cope and feel competent is often referred to as *resilience*.



### Important Dates

#### April 7 to April 10

Open Minds  
2School Gr. 3/4

#### 15 Terrific Tuesdays

Zumba  
Roots of Empathy Rm. 13

#### 16 Parent Council

meeting 6:00 pm

#### 18 Good Friday NO SCHOOL

#### 21 Professional Learning Day NO SCHOOL

#### 22 Terrific Tuesdays

Zumba  
Hep B shots – gr. 5  
Roots of Empathy Rm. 13

#### 28 Dare to Care

Student day 9:30  
Parent Workshop 7:00 pm

#### 29 Terrific Tuesdays

Zumba  
Roots of Empathy Rm. 13

In the book, *Raising Resilient Children: Fostering Strength, Hope, and Optimism in Your Child* (2002), research psychologists Robert Brooks and Sam Goldstein explain that resilient children possess qualities or ways of viewing themselves and the world that allow them to be successful in meeting challenges and pressures. Brooks and Goldstein contend that resilient children are hopeful and have high self worth. They feel special and appreciated, and because they have developed the ability to solve problems and make decisions, they are often able to view difficulties as challenges to confront rather than stressors to avoid. Resilient children employ coping strategies that are growth-oriented rather than self-defeating. They have developed effective interpersonal skills, know how to seek help and comfort from adults when it is needed, and are aware of their own strengths and vulnerabilities. Finally, resilient children are able to differentiate those things in their lives over which they have control and focus their energy and attention on them, rather than on those things over which they have little influence.

As the most significant adults in a child's life, parents have the greatest opportunity to nurture a resilient mindset. At the same time however, the school environment and the broader community must also assume a key role. Through a range of practices intended to foster social responsibility, compassion and resiliency, Colonel Walker School seeks to promote a positive climate where all students feel welcome and appreciated. To help further achieve this end, the Colonel Walker Parent Association and school staff are partnering to access two new supports: *Dare to Care* and *Start Smart Stay Safe (S4)*.

The *Dare to Care* program is designed to assist school communities in creating a common language to address and eliminate bullying and other dangerous behaviors and in turn, create an atmosphere of acceptance and respect. Through professional development, student workshops, and parent sessions, the *Dare to Care* program is intended to help rally the voice of a caring majority. Lisa Dixon Wells, founder and facilitator of Dare to Care, will lead Colonel Walker's student workshops on **Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 am. That evening, starting at 7:00 pm**, Lisa will lead the Dare to Care parent session at Colonel

Walker School. All Colonel Walker parents and their guests are urged to attend this informative and important workshop. An invitation to the parent workshop has also been made to the staff at Colonel Walker Programs (before and after school care). Gratitude is extended to the Colonel Walker School Parent Association for generously covering the fees for the *Dare to Care* program.

To complement the *Dare to Care* experience, Colonel Walker School has also recently enrolled with the Start Smart Stay Safe (S4) initiative. S4 is a collaborative venture between the Calgary Police service, Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District and Mount Royal University. It is a proactive, strengths-based model of teaching and learning where police, families, and schools partner to build positive relationships, create safe communities, and prepare children to navigate challenges. As an S4 school, teachers at Colonel Walker have access to many resources and lesson plans that are designed to provide all students with opportunities to build an awareness of their personal strengths, learn the importance of belonging, make positive choices, and develop leadership skills in order to contribute to a safe and caring school community.

Colonel Walker School is very fortunate to host the *Dare to Care* workshops and to participate in the S4 initiative. Both supports will provide touchstone experiences through which the learning community will continue to develop a common language and set of values to guide and inform daily interactions. The power of programs and curricula comes in how they are carried forward by the people who make up the community. In this regard, the Colonel Walker community is committed to persist and ensure that all students have the greatest possible opportunity at school to develop and progress with strength, confidence, and resiliency.

References:

<http://startsmartstaysafe.ca> <http://daretocare.ca>

Brooks, S., & Goldstein, S. (2002). *Raising Resilient Children: Fostering strength, hope and optimism in your child*. United States of America: McGraw-Hill Education.

### **Staffing update:**

Larysa Hart – 0.2 FTE Learning Leader at Colonel Walker School is on leave, anticipating the arrival of a new addition to her family.

Cheryl Paradis – To accommodate Ms. Hart's leave, Cheryl Paradis has been assigned an additional 0.2 FTE at Colonel Walker School, thus boosting her time to 0.7 FTE. Cheryl will continue her work with English Language Learners and with Grades 3-6 students in areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. With her additional time, Cheryl will support students in Grades 1-6 with Physical and Health Education, as well as facilitating weekly literacy experiences in the library learning commons.

Best wishes are extended to Larysa Hart, and gratitude is extended to Cheryl Paradis for her flexibility and willingness to support learning at CWS.

## LOOKING BACK! PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONFERENCES

Thank you to those parents and students who attended the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences on March 19 and 20. Those who were unable to attend scheduled conferences are urged to make alternative arrangements with teachers.

## LOOKING AHEAD! Dare to Care!

Monday, April 28, 2014 – Student Day  
Monday, April 28, 2014 – Parent Workshop 7:00  
PM at Colonel Walker School



## SET YOUR CHILD UP FOR SUCCESS! ATTENDANCE RATE MATTERS! BE SMART!



**S** – sleep at least 10 hours **M** – make sure you eat breakfast **A** – attend school every day and on time **R** – remember to try your best **T** – think positively

The attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, research indicates that students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities. School absenteeism has broad societal implications. It is the school's legal responsibility to track attendance in order to be in compliance with section 13 of the School Act as well as Administration Regulation 6020 – Attendance of Students. The School Act states that students must attend school between the ages of 6 and 16 years of age. Administration Regulation 6020 states that students are required to attend regularly and punctually. Parents are expected to support this requirement. Our SIRS attendance program identifies students whose absentee rate is greater than 10% per month. We care about your child's educational journey, and we are here to personalize strategies to help your family get your child to school on time and regularly. Please contact the school if you require assistance.

### SCHOOL HOURS

The school office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Fridays with an answering machine available to take messages after hours.

## School Hours - continued

**Grade 1 to Grade 6**

8:40 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Lunch Hour)

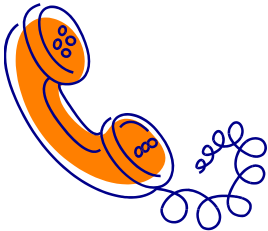
1:00 p.m. - 3:16 p.m.

**Early Dismissal** at 12:55 p.m.

Every Friday

*(Please note that the front door is locked at 1:15 p.m. to accommodate staff meetings)***Half-Day Kindergarten** (Monday-Friday)

8:40 a.m. – 11:19 a.m.

**PHONE FOR SAFETY**

If your child is going to be absent or late please contact the school office at **(403) 777-6780** to leave a message on the Absence Line. You may leave a message anytime during the school day or after hours between 4:00 pm and 8:00 am. If the school is not contacted, we will phone you as soon as possible after attendance is taken in the morning and in the afternoon to confirm the safety of your child. Children that come in late must check in at the office before going to their classroom in order to prevent a phone call being made by the office

Please make sure the school is kept informed about any changes to emergency contact names or telephone numbers. **We request that all families provide an additional emergency contact in the event we are unable to reach you.** We thank you for helping us to keep your children safe.

**SUPERVISION**

Parents are asked to send children to school between 8:25 and 8:40 A.M. and between 12:45 and 1:00 P.M. unless they are in school-organized events. Teacher supervision is provided during these time periods. In the interest of safety, all children are also reminded to leave the playground when dismissed for the day and check in at home.

**ZUMBA COMES TO COLONEL WALKER SCHOOL!**

We are very excited to be offering a Zumba program at Colonel Walker School for all students in K-6. Sublime Fitness is a local business in Inglewood who will be coming to the school once a week for five weeks to offer a “Zumbatomic” program to our students. A very special thank you to the Colonel Walker Parent Association for making this opportunity possible.

**Zumba dates:**

- Tuesday, April 15
- Tuesday, April 22
- Tuesday, April 29
- Tuesday, May 13
- Tuesday, May 20

**SWIMMING LESSONS: Re-Scheduled to the week of May 5-9, 2014.**

- Due to staffing issues at Inglewood Pool, **Colonel Walker School must postpone Swimming Lessons until the week of May 5-9, 2014.**
- Times will remain the same.
- It is our hope that volunteers will be able to adjust their days to join students and teachers in May instead of March.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change might cause.

**VACCINATIONS**

The #3 Hep. B/HPV Vaccination for students in grade 5 and for students in grade one who need their booster vaccination has been scheduled for, April 22, 2014,. Please note your calendars.

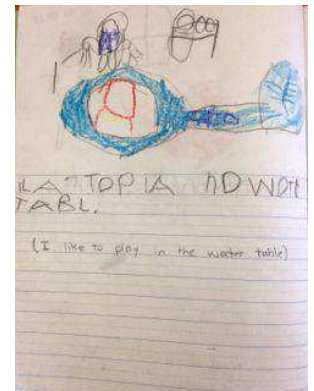
**From the Classrooms**

Kindergarten! *Ms. Stephanie Jones ~  
Kindergarten Teacher/Learning Leader*



Our Kindergarten class took a trip to The Telus Spark Science Centre in March. While we were there, we learned all about our senses and how they help us move through the world. This trip allowed us to apply what we had learned about our senses in a

hands on, problem solving way. Returning to class, we kept track of how many times in a day we use each of our senses. We pointed out "what we hear" such as, "I hear it is recess with the bell and kids in the hall" or "I used my



sight and touch to zip up my coat.”

We used our experiences from this trip to practice things we are learning about writing ~ like, sounding out words, leaving finger spaces between words and having our words and pictures match. The two images of journals show some of our favourite parts of our field trip. (How we loved working in the water table and riding the bus together!)



### *Mrs. Kim Cook – Grade 1/2 ~ Teacher*

Well I hope that spring has truly arrived. March was a busy month in room 11. Students continued with daily journal writing. Students set themselves a writing goal to focus on throughout the month. We worked on adding details to our writing through the use of descriptive words, adjectives and adverbs. Students looked at word families and created a variety of poems.

In science we continued to look at building things as students constructed a leprechaun trap. They were very creative and I saw some great uses of hinges, trap doors and inclined planes.

We also had a great time on our field trip to Ramsay School to participate in a Calgary Reads Reading Rally. Small groups of students were paired with a volunteer to read stories aloud. The teaching staff presented a reader's theatre presentation and we had a special guest reader, Dave Kelly who read from his book, Grandpa's Forest. Each student was then given a copy of the book to take home with them. I hope you have had a chance to read it with your child.

March wrapped up with student parent teacher conferences where your child had the opportunity to share with you their personal learning goals. I am very proud of how well they each presented their personal goal, strategies and evidence of learning to you.





Students in Room 12 have been very busy the past couple months with all of the learning that has been taking place. With the introduction to the Acadians, students were lucky enough to meet a special Acadian-Mi'kmaq guest, try her 200-year-old molasses cookie recipe and make their own butter. Students also planted parsley, basil, baby cucumbers and cherry tomatoes to grow in connection with the Acadian farming heritage.



Along with the Acadians, the month of March became solely dedicated to St. Patrick's day and catching a very tricky Leprechaun that came to visit us often. In order to build a trap, students researched Leprechauns and began creating mechanisms, which included latches, hinges, a lever, a pulley mechanism, etc. All of the students were so creative and inventive with their ideas, although I am disheartened to say that the Leprechaun was not caught – we will have to try again next year.



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Recently, students also took part in a Calgary Reads "Reading Rally" at Ramsay School. It was such a wonderful and valuable experience. The students were able to read in small groups of 2-3 with a volunteer reader, listen to a Calgary author read his book aloud, and to be entertained



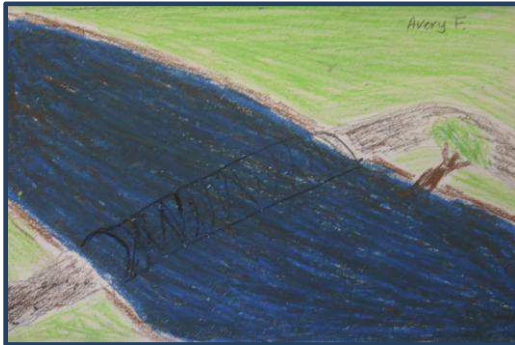
by the teacher's reader's theater performance. As well, thank you to those of you were able to make it out to literacy night this past month - it was such a great success. We will be having another night coming up later in the spring. Please stay tuned for more details!

In numeracy, students have been working on math word problems daily, along with adding and subtracting past 100. We have extended our math number line currently to 61, and will continue to build on it until we reach 100. Recently, students have been very interested in the concept of multiplication, and have been using these skills in their calendar morning math. This week, students will be learning how to regroup as they subtract one digit numbers from two digit numbers.

## Mrs. Catherine Ranger Grade 3/4 ~ Teacher

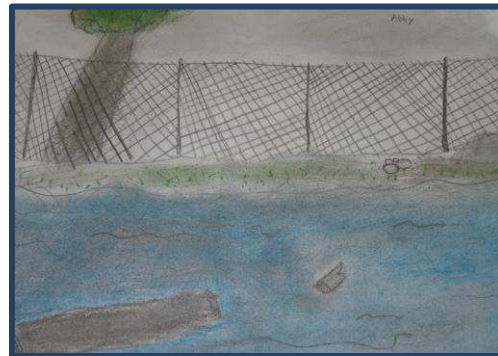
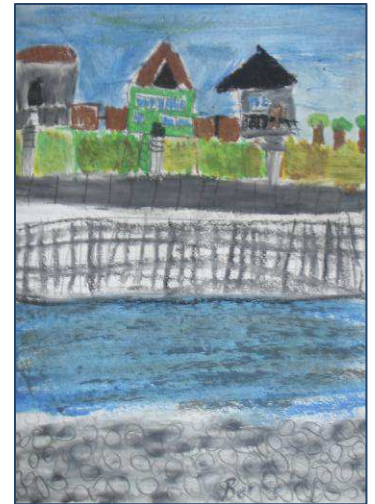
### Flood Stories by Grade 3 and 4 students

Last June, our city was hit with the worst natural disaster in our modern history. The flood had a lot of negative impacts; but out of a disaster, Calgarians came together and rose above the water with a tremendous community spirit.



The City of Calgary has organized a "Kids Art Call" for children under the age of 12 to submit a piece of art that acknowledges the flood and our strong community character. Students in room 13 created drawings that showed what they remember most about the flood and the people who helped in the clean up.

Here are a few examples of those art pieces and memories of the flood. The students who created the flood drawings are: Avery F. Abby, Berkley and Aspen



I remember when we needed to leave and we went to our friend's house. On one of the days we were there, we went for a walk. I saw a bridge with water flowing over it so I decided to draw that. I also saw other really sad things too. I am glad that the flood is over and I know that the city is trying very hard to fix Calgary and the other places where the flood happened.

- Avery F, age 8

I remember seeing the flood alert on the T.V. At midnight we got evacuated and we stayed for a whole week at my aunt's. All of our stuff in the basement got wet and had to be thrown out. Avery T's dad helped us clean up the mess.

~ Aspen



I ran into my room and grabbed some important things and plopped them into my laundry basket. My mom didn't know where we would go but we got invited to a friend's house. I saw the water on the street.

~ Kia

"Get your bags, pack your stuff, we need to go!" my mom shouted. We were being evacuated!

~Georgia

When I was helping clean up in Leo's Antique shop the water was up to my knees. I was able to haul stuff up from the basement and put it in the backyard.

~ Gabriel

A policeman came to the door and my mom was hauling up my dad's music gear and we had to pack our bags and go.

~ RubyJune

### Mr. Jordan Neiger Grade 5/6 ~ *Teacher*

During the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup>, students in Mr. Neiger's grade 5/6 class had an exciting opportunity to attend Calgary Open Mind's 2School. For the week, students traveled to the Education Center in downtown Calgary to learn about the history of education in Calgary, the way the city has changed over the past 100 years, and were able to see democracy in action.

During their time at 2School students had the opportunity to participate in community walks around the city. They investigated the ways that businesses in the area, like Mountain Equipment Co-op, are working to improve sustainability in Calgary. They also got to walk down to the Lougheed House and learn a little bit about one of the oldest houses in Calgary. From there students went to Central Memorial Park and visited the library to look at the architecture and history of the first Western Canadian library.



At 2School students got to work in the Historical Classroom. This classroom was set up much like a classroom would have been 100 years ago. While in the room, students got to investigate artifacts from the past century, including things like old student report cards, yearbooks, classroom readers and records. Within the building

they looked at how Calgary is changing, comparing the old sandstone school building, now the Dr. Carl Safran Center, to the new downtown skyscrapers.

Students also had an opportunity to meet with a wide variety of guest speakers to further enhance their learning. They met with one of the board of trustee members and got a chance to sit in the meeting room where they hold their board meetings. They asked her questions about her role in government, how she got elected and what the most meaningful parts of her job are. Students also met with a representative from Car2Go to talk about the changing needs of a city that is expanding vertically, and the need to have alternate modes of transportation other than just owning their own car. They talked with the Lead Architect of CBE, who showed them the history of schools in Calgary and gave them ideas about what schools may look like in the future. They even had an opportunity to get class picture taken with Chief Superintendent Naomi Johnson.

The whole time students were at 2School they had opportunities to document their learning in the journals. Students had time to travel to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the education center and sketch the east and west views of the city, making comparisons about how the city is changing and predicting what may happen in the future. Students made notes and sketched in their journals about art pieces they found around the building, quotes on the walls, and ideas shared by the guest speakers. They also compiled questions to ask. In the end, the students were given a unique opportunity to get a hands-on look at how Calgary is changing and the kinds of things they can do to enact change within the government. It was an excellent opportunity and a great time!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### BIKE SKATEBOARD, SCOOTER SAFETY

Children may ride Bikes Skateboards, and Scooters to school. **Students are expected to walk their bikes and scooters, carry their skateboards when entering school grounds.** For safety and liability reasons, we are not able to permit the riding of bikes, skateboards, scooters, heellies, or in-line skates on the school grounds during the school day.



- Wear a helmet at all times
- Bring a lock to safely secure the bike
- Follow all bike skateboard, and scooter safety rule
- Store bike in bike rack area and store skateboards and scooters in the office (May not be brought to the classroom)
- (The school cannot take responsibility for the safety of bicycles.)

As we take the streets and pathways it is always important to keep safety in mind. Please review tips offered by the City of Calgary:

<http://www.calgary.ca/Transportation/TP/Pages/Cycling/Cycling-Education-and-Safety/Cycling-tips-for-safe-kids.aspx>

## OUT OF AREA REGISTRATIONS: QUESTIONS

Parents often ask for clarification about the regulations around school choice and enrolment- we hope this information will provide clarification around any questions you may have.

Each school has a designated attendance area. A student may be admitted to attend a school or program other than the designated school or program if, in the opinion of the principal, there are sufficient resources and facilities to accommodate the student and the student's educational needs at the school and the admission is in accordance with CBE admission priorities. The priorities for admission to that school or program are as follows:

- First priority is given to Calgary Board of Education resident students within the attendance area;
- Second priority will be given to the younger siblings of Calgary Board of Education resident students who are enrolled at the school,
- Third priority will be given to other Calgary Board of Education resident students who are outside the attendance area of that school,
- Fourth priority will be given to non-resident students in the following sequence:
  - students resident in another Calgary school district,
  - other Alberta students,
  - other Canadian students, and then
  - international students.

The school will advise out of area families about the status of their application by Mid-May. If there are not sufficient resources and facilities to accommodate the student at the receiving school or program, the principal may place the name of the student on a waiting list for admission to the school or program and the student's application will be considered according to the admission priorities.

We do realize that many factors contribute to the decision of school choice. There are many different programs that are offered in the CBE and each family has unique needs. We always recommend speaking to the principal of your designated community school first.

Parents should also keep in mind that acceptance of out of area students is conditional and once you have been accepted it may be for that division only; e.g.: kindergarten, grade 1-3, and grade 4-6. Attendance will have to be revisited at the end of each division.

Families are welcome to contact the school's principal, Mrs. Buhler if they have any further questions.

## **EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

The majority of our school notices and reminders will be coming home via email? This is not only a great way to support our efforts to be environmentally friendly, but it also ensures that everyone receives communication in a consistent and timely fashion. If the email address that we have at the school is not up to date, please be sure to contact the school to update your email information.

## **BATTERY RECYCLING**

CBE is still recycling batteries and schools have been issued with collection containers. Our container is located in the main office. Students are welcome to bring any used batteries from home and deposit them into the container.

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

The Colonel Walker Programs before and after school program is a privately run program held at the Inglewood Community Centre. The program offers before and after school care, care on professional learning days and an optional hot lunch programs for registered students. For more information about the program, please contact Sandy at (403) 263-2151. Registration forms are also available in the main office.





## Looking back and looking forward during time of transition

### Learning is our central purpose

It has been a privilege to be a teacher and leader in the Calgary Board of Education for the last 33 years. It has been especially gratifying and challenging in my role as Chief Superintendent over the past five years. The work of this organization is admired nationally and globally and it has been an honour to serve in a system that champions public education, success for *each* student, and continuing excellence. There are ongoing challenges. Our diverse stakeholder groups expect the best education for Calgary's youth and the views of what is "best" are also diverse. We face unprecedented growth in our city and in our school district. We struggle to maintain our facilities and build new schools to respond to this growth. We transport growing numbers of students to school while service providers have difficulty finding bus drivers. We have been required to meet continually higher expectations of our many stakeholders at the same time that we've received continually diminishing resources to meet those expectations.

### Many reasons to be proud

Despite these challenges, there are many reasons to be proud. The Calgary Board of Education focuses on keeping students first; making each decision with students at the centre. Through a model of personalized learning, strong and evolving assessment and reporting practices, and an amazingly professional and resilient staff and an involved community, student results have improved over each of the last five years, and in most subjects, exceeded the provincial standards.

### Many reasons to be hopeful

There are many reasons to be hopeful. We are in an exciting time in education in Alberta and the ideas and principles expressed in Inspiring

education show great promise. The goal is to prepare our students, for a future economy, society, and world.

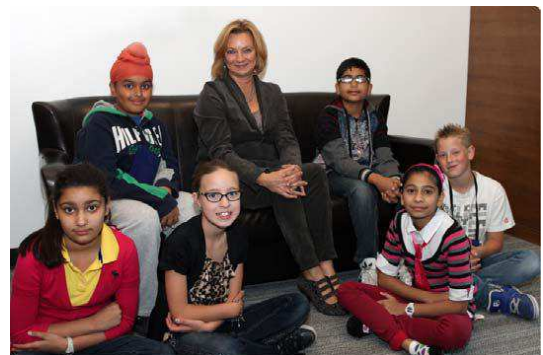
I announced last fall that I would be leaving the CBE, effective April 8. I have full confidence that I leave the organization in good hands. David Stevenson, who has been the Deputy Chief Superintendent throughout the last five years, will be the Chief Superintendent on an interim basis while a search is conducted nationally for my replacement.

### Respect for staff, thanks to parents

I have deep respect for the staff of the Calgary Board of Education because I know that their practice is outstanding and that each one continues to learn and grow. Together, they will ensure that the CBE continues to be a public school system to watch and learn from as our students continue to succeed and excel. Through listening and learning in response to our students, our staff, and our communities and to current research, the Calgary Board of Education will continue to achieve excellence and increase student success. Thank you parents for all you do to support your children, the CBE system as a whole and public education.

Naomi E. Johnson

**Chief Sup**



# April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	March 31 Open Minds Room 16	1 Open Minds Room 16 Roots of Empathy Rm 13	2 Open Minds Room 16	3 Open Minds Room 16	4 Dismiss 12:55	5
6	7 Open Minds Room 13	8 Open Minds Room 13	9 Open Minds Room 13	10 Open Minds Room 13	11 Dismiss 12:55	12
13	14	15 Terrific Tuesdays Zumba Roots of Empathy Rm 13	16 Parent Council Meeting Colonel Walker School 6:00 pm	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 Easter Monday Professional Learning Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	22 Terrific Tuesdays Zumba Hep B Gr 5 Round #3 Roots of Empathy Rm 13	23	24 Debra Giebelhaus Maloney working with all students	25 Dismiss 12:55	26
27.	28. Dare to Care Student Day 9:30 Parent Workshop 7:00 pm	29. Terrific Tuesdays Zumba  Roots of Empathy Rm. 13	30.			

