


**Battalion Park School**

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<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b144>

## Newsletter | March/April 2013

### Principal's Message

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Parents,

Your child's report card will be arriving home on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. A notice explaining conference times was sent home this week. Our kindergarten and grade one teachers prefer a scheduled conference with their parents at this time of the year. For these students parents will receive a specific time in which to attend. Kindergarten and grade one students are welcome to attend with their parents. Students in grades 2 to 6 will be conducting student-led conferences. These conferences are not scheduled. Please check the front page of your child's report card for the dates and times of all conferences. We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you. While you are here please don't hesitate to check the "Mostly Lost and Rarely Found" items in both the mini and core buildings.

On Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> fourteen Ernest Manning High School student mentors landed at Battalion Park School. Seven of our mentors attended Battalion Park as students themselves! What would motivate a high school student to return to an elementary school? Some of our mentors want to give back to their community; some are entertaining the idea of becoming a teacher; and some just love to be around young children. Monday through Thursday our high school mentors can be found in both our mini and core buildings working with both individual and small groups of children; assisting with tasks in the classroom; preparing materials; and generally being helpful to both our students and staff. They are closely supervised by their high school teacher Mr. Alvarenga and we look forward to our continued association with this valuable program.

Since our return from Family Day several activities outside the classroom have commenced. On Tuesdays (grade 4), Wednesdays (grade 5) and Thursdays (grade 6) until Spring Break Mr. Oppenheim will be running a floor hockey intramural from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. On Mondays and Fridays the City of Calgary launched an After School Program for registered students from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. This program has been adapted from the program offered before the Winter Break. On Monday, students from the ages 6 to 8 will participate and on Friday a program tailored for 9 to 12 year olds has been organized. The City program will run until May 3, 2013.

In addition, choir, under the direction of Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Visscher will begin for interested students in grade 3 to 6 on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. This year we look forward to our choir performing at our Volunteer Tea in May (TBA). And finally our Grade 6 Sports Club Leaders under the direction of Mrs. Jessiman and Mr. Oppenheim will be offering to play with our grade one students at lunch time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the West Bowl. Participation is optional however we hope our leaders will be able to model safe and fun activities for our grade ones to be involved in when playing outside.

#### Important Dates

**Friday Mar 15:**

Fun Lunch  
Report Cards go home

**Thursday March 21:**

P/T Interviews for Kgn  
NO School for Kgn  
Students

P/T Interviews Gr 1-6

4:30 – 8:00pm

**Friday March 22:**

P/T Interviews 9:00 –  
1:00pm  
NO School for all Students

**March 25 – April 1:**

Spring Break  
NO School for Students

**Tuesday April 2:**

School Resumes

**Friday April 19:**

PD Day  
No School for all Students



Another successful Fun Lunch was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. A big bouquet goes out to all our volunteers with a special thank you to our organizing committee. We look forward to our next special lunch on Friday, March 15.

We look forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Have a safe and fun-filled Spring Break. School reconvenes on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

Jane Jessiman  
Principal

## LIBRARY NEWS

Battalion Park School  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale

Wednesday, April 17, 2013  
Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Donations will be accepted starting **Monday, April 8, 2013 until Monday April 15, 2013**. Start saving your books and videos now. For each item donated you will receive a coupon to be used towards a used book exchange or purchase.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\***

Maximum of 20 coupons per household

Christine Hall  
Library Assistant



<b>MOVING?</b>
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It is that time of year when we begin the planning process for the upcoming school year. If your child will **NOT** be attending Battalion Park School for the 2013/2014 School Year, please complete the form below and return to the core or mini office as soon as possible. This will assist us greatly in our planning. Thank you.

Student Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

New School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST SCHEDULE 2013 – GRADES 3 AND 6</b>
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GRADE 3 PAT SCHEDULE-DATES AND TIMES	
Grade 3 ELA Part A	May 14
Grade 3 ELA Part B	June 11
Grade 3 Mathematics	June 13
GRADE 6 PAT SCHEDULE	
Grade 6 ELA Part A	May 15
Grade 6 Social Studies	June 20
Grade 6 ELA Part B	June 17
Grade 6 Mathematics	June 18
Grade 6 Science	June 19

Every year, students in grade 3 and 6 participate in a series of Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT). Many of the questions parents have regarding the provincial testing program are addressed in an on-line resource that may be viewed at the following link:

<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/exams.aspx>

The dates and times for these tests are established by Alberta Education and are common for the entire province. Parents are encouraged to direct inquiries to their child's classroom teacher. Please see for additional information:



## FUN LUNCH

### Did somebody say, "Pizza?"

Please note that the upcoming **Fun Lunch day** will take place on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



## SPECIAL EVENTS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Beginning in March, Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Visscher are joining forces to lead a Division II choir. These students will meet over a period of 10 weeks and will have an opportunity to perform at the end of this time.
- Our grade six students are looking forward to a day of discovery at the Telus Spark Science Center on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Our grade two students are looking forward to their trip to the Zoo to further enhance their Small Crawling and Flying Animals Inquiry in April.

### **Art Club**

A team of grade 6 girls have been busy, and eagerly planning a grade 2 Art Club with myself, Ms. Sebo. Every Tuesday at lunch until the end of April, the girls and I will meet with our group of budding grade 2 "artists"! Laura, Sydney, Kaya, Cici, Ioana, Theodora, and Irene have been organizing and planning for each of the art and craft ideas for the next few weeks. What a great group of grade 6 leaders we have in the school! Thank you for all of your hard work and time girls!



### Swimming Lessons in the Spring! April – June 2013

All Kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 students will have the opportunity to participate in a series of swimming lessons with their classmates beginning in April. Our destination is Killarney Pool where City of Calgary instructional staff will provide students with swimming competencies correlated with the Alberta Lifesaving Society's Swim-to-Learn program.

Once again, we will be transporting students by charter bus. The success of this off-campus activity depends heavily on the support of parent volunteers. Volunteers are required, and deeply appreciated, to assist the teachers with the transitions between the school, the bus ride, and the swimming pool. While parents in these grades will be receiving additional off-campus information, for now, please make note of the following dates:

AM Kindergarten: April 3, 5, 22, 24, 26

PM Kindergarten: May 8, 10, 15, 22, 24

Grade 1: May 7, 8, 14, 16, 23 (AM)

Grade 2: April 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 (AM)



## NEWS FROM THE GYM

### FLOOR HOCKEY

Grade 4, 5 and 6 students play floor hockey after school between Feb 26 and March 21.

Grade 4 – Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, March 19 (Tuesdays)

Grade 5 – Feb. 27, March 6, March 13, March 20 (Wednesdays)

Grade 6 – Feb. 28, March 7, March 31 (Thursdays)



**LOST AND FOUND (AKA The Lament of the Abandoned Hoodie)**

Our bins Located in the core school and mini school runneth over. We regularly encourage students to swing by and check for missing items. Parents are also encouraged to take a quick look when visiting the school for volunteering or at Parent/Teacher Conferences this month.





## update | new schools depend on provincial funding

Alberta needs more schools for our students. We need many more schools and we need them now. The need is going to get worse before it gets better. This is especially true for the Calgary Board of Education.

What makes the CBE situation more serious and more urgent? The simple answer has three factors: growth, capacity and expectations.

Calgary is growing rapidly. The CBE has more than 107,000 students today. Working with the city, we estimate the CBE will have 10,000 additional students by 2016. In less time than it takes to build a single new high school, we will welcome enough new students to fill the equivalent of more than six high schools.

**“The CBE depends on the province for 100 per cent of funding for new schools.”**

### explain | capital planning

- The Board of Trustees approves a new capital plan and submits it to Alberta Education every spring.
- After 10 years, the CBE is amending the ranking formula for capital priorities, which will guide the next capital plan. This new capital plan for 2014-2017 will be reviewed in public by the Board of Trustees this spring.
- We hope that the province will make an announcement regarding new capital projects soon. Any announced capital projects would be based on the existing three-year school capital plan.

The growth puts pressure on our existing 225 schools. We use the number of students and the school’s capacity to calculate school “utilization.” Our goal is for the overall system average utilization to be about 80 per cent. At this level, schools can use space flexibly for learning.

Some CBE schools are overcrowded with utilization above 100 per cent; a small number of inner-city schools are closer to 60 per cent. The overall average is just above our target of 80 per cent—well above the provincial average, which is about 70 per cent.

In the coming years, our schools are going to become more crowded. Before we can open another new school, our utilization will reach almost 87 per cent. The only solution is more capacity.

The third factor relates to the high expectations Calgarians have for their students and their education. The CBE is one of the best public education systems in the world. Still, expectations for improvement, choice, career pathways and learning continue to rise. Students want more. Parents want more. Employers want more. As a system with high aspirations, we want more for our students too.

So if there is huge growth and shrinking capacity, what does it take to get new schools? New schools depend entirely on provincial funding.

The CBE depends on the province for 100 per cent of funding for new schools. As a board, when we meet with parents, this sometimes comes as a surprise. Parents say, “Why doesn’t the CBE build more schools?”

The truth is that Alberta school districts cannot build schools without provincial funding. The government has promised Albertans 50 new schools and 70 major modernizations for the entire province. It may seem like a lot of construction but it isn’t nearly enough given the need.

The CBE has one-sixth of the students in Alberta and our three-year capital plan requests 16 new schools and 20 major modernizations. The total estimated cost of these priority projects is \$667 million.

As a system, we do hope that the province will keep its promises to build the capacity students need. It has been more than five years since the last new school was announced in Calgary and it will take at least three years from a decision for a single new school to open.

Although our province faces a challenging budget, we remain hopeful that the government will keep its commitment to fund new schools for our students in Calgary.

### **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

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