SEASON OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING!

This is a wonderful time of year at Aberdeen School as we get more involved in Christmas festivities. The excitement of our students is infectious and creates a wonderful atmosphere in the school. The elementary concert was great! Our Grade 6 students, who play the major roles in the play, were exemplary and our elementary classes were also very entertaining. Many staff members have had a hand in putting together the concert and we really appreciate their efforts.

We estimate that over 700 people came to the concert.

Thank-you for the amazing support.

The SRC has been very busy planning and organizing festive activities. On Thursday they will serve hot chocolate and cookies to the entire school. Our Christmas events culminate with the Grade 7 to 12 banquet at the Community Hall on December 19th. Thank you to those parents who are supervising elementary students while the banquet is on. We also wish to extend a huge thank-you to all the families who will be contributing food and to Elma Wutzke, who, once again, will lend a hand with the food preparation.

As we reflect on the past year, it is amazing to see the growth and development of the children in the school. We take joy in every student who attends Aberdeen School, for each one is a wonderful expression of intelligence, creativity and life. We are also thankful for the involvement and support of our parents, who nurture and guide our students.

It is a great experience working with you and our School Community Council. We are also thankful for the involvement of our School Board, our Senior Administration and Central Office staff, who also work to make a difference in the lives of children.

On Behalf of the Aberdeen School Staff

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Donna Duriez
Principal

Deane Martin Gray
Vice-principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17th</td>
<td>Pajama Day</td>
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<td>Hot Chocolate and Cookies provided by the SRC</td>
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<td>Dec. 19th</td>
<td>Gr. 7 to 12 SRC Christmas Banquet &amp; Last Day of</td>
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<td>school before Christmas break</td>
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<td>Jan. 5th</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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<td>Jan. 13th</td>
<td>Grad Cap n’ Gown Photos</td>
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<td>Jan. 23rd</td>
<td>Last day of Semester 1 Classes</td>
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<td>Jan. 26th</td>
<td>School Community Council</td>
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<td>Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Jan. 26th</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>Gr. 9 to 12 Exams</td>
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<td>Jan. 30th</td>
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<td>For K to 12 Students</td>
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<td>Feb. 2nd</td>
<td>Semester 2 begins</td>
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<td>Grade 12 Work Experience</td>
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<td>Feb. 16th</td>
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<td>to 20th</td>
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<td>March 11th</td>
<td>Grade 7 to 12 Ski Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13th</td>
<td>Kindergarten to Grade 5 Report Card Distribution</td>
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<td>March 18th &amp; 19th</td>
<td>Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences</td>
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Speaker’s Educational Outreach Program on Parliamentary Democracy Visit Exceptional Learning Experience

On Thursday, December 11th, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan Speaker Dan D’Autremont visited Aberdeen School. The Speaker’s Educational Outreach Program on Parliamentary Democracy aims to promote awareness and understanding of the Legislative Assembly and the democratic process through a non-partisan approach. Grade 7 to 12 students participated in a mock parliament session and learnt about the role of the Speaker and MLAs, how laws are made, a brief history of the Assembly, and much more. Mr. Herron, Miss Warnock, Mr. Vedress and Mrs. White did an excellent job of preparing the classes for the session. Our students were engaged and really enjoyed the opportunity to experience the parliamentary process.

Merry Christmas from the Aberdeen School Community Council

Lori Sopotyk (Chair) Laura Laskowski
Donna Johnston Lori Hamoline
Jill Cornish Tina Stalker Twyla Reynolds
Reece Boyenko Payton Loiselle
Donna Duriez Deane Martin Gray

FAREWELL TO OUR TEACHER INTERNS

Aberdeen School would like to send a warm THANK YOU to two interns who joined our staff this semester. Alex Baker worked with Mrs. Ether in Grade 3 and Vanessa Warnock worked with Mr. Herron in History. Both ladies were actively involved in our school and certainly made a difference.

Your time and efforts are much appreciated.

Good luck in the future as you pursue your teaching career.

Merry Christmas from the
Aberdeen School Community Council
CLASSROOM NEWS

Kindergarten
I can't believe how fast time flies, the kindergartens have had 33 days of school! In that time we have learned a great deal. We have learnt 13 letters and their sounds, how to sort and make patterns, and how to print our names and other words and how to be kind and patient (well we are still working on that one!) It has been a great first half of the year and I look forward to the months to come with your children. Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and all the best in 2015.

Grade 1
Merry Christmas to all! This is our last newsletter for 2014! It is hard to believe we have been at school for four months. This month we will be focusing many of our activities on Christmas. We have been making several Christmas crafts and we are working hard learning our dance and the songs for our Christmas concert. Our field trip to the WDM was great; thank you to all who came. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you from the Grade One class!

Grade 1/2
Winter is here and the Grade 1/2 students are enjoying the activities that come along with it. We have been skating with our Grade 6 care partners twice this month and we will skate once more before the break. Sledding on the hill has been popular at recess over the past two weeks and intramurals at noon hour add another option to play hard.
Mrs. White is helping us with Social studies this month. We have begun our Heritage unit where we will be covering traditions and celebrations, comparing the past with the present, and First Nations and Metis traditions. Our class is excited to go on a field trip to the WDM with the Grade 1 class on December 17th.
In math, our addition & subtraction unit will take us into the New Year. In Reader’s Workshop we have introduced connecting as a comprehension strategy. Everyone in the class is thinking while reading, finding different kinds of connections and jotting them down on a sticky note to share with the class.

Grade 2
The month of December has flown by in the Grade Two classroom. Students have been busy preparing for our Christmas Concert. We’ve made a ‘pretend stage’ in our room and have been putting a lot of effort into our song. Thanks to everyone who attended our Concert! It was a wonderful evening. We’re excited about our first field trip on Thursday, Dec. 18th! We’re heading to the Sylvia Chave concert as well as the Western Development Museum. It will be a great day for everyone! We’re making Candy Houses with our Care Partners during the last week of school! It’s sure to be a fun time!
Merry Christmas to everyone from the Grade Two class! See you in January

Grade 3
Christmas is upon us and we have been busy with crafts and lots of Christmas singing. It was great to see families out for the Christmas Concert and enjoy all of the dancing and singing. The grade threes have been working on their own versions of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Be sure to ask them to sing it for you. We also did some wonderful Christmas writing and the Clark’s Crossing Gazette will publish the student’s paragraphs. They are a great keepsake. We will be having our Christmas party on Friday the 19th to watch a movie and enjoy snacks. We sadly say goodbye to Miss Baker who has been a wonderful addition to our class and also to Zeyde who has moved to Saskatoon. Make sure to visit us soon Zeyde! From myself and the grade threes, please have a safe and happy holiday

Grade 4
The Grade Fours have been busy building 3 dimensional figures and learning all about rectangular and triangular prisms in Math. Our Christmas tree is a geometric beauty! After learning about the Willow awards and then researching the Newberry and Caldecott Awards in ELA, we decided that we could give our own awards to books we have read. If you are in the library in January please come check out the book awards given to some very deserving picture books. We have also been singing and dancing and are all looking forward to the annual Christmas Concert. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! Merry Christmas!

Grade 5
It certainly has been a busy month as always in December. Our weather unit in science is coming to a close. Students have built their own weather instruments and collected data on the weather for the last week. This hands on approach to weather has given them a better understanding of meteorology. We are wrapping up our geometry unit in math with drawing solids. Our writing skills have been tested by writing realistic fiction including what we have learned in our study of extreme weather. As well students have been writing their own weather forecasts which they will present to the class this week. I am interested to see the posters students have created about Infectious Diseases in health. It is great to see the dancing skills of this group in the Christmas Concert as well as the beautiful singing. Everyone deserves a break! Have a very Merry Christmas!
CLASSROOM NEWS

Grade 6
The culmination of many hours memorizing lines and practicing actions resulted in a very well performed Christmas Concert. Grade 6 students should be proud of all of the hard work that they put into this production. A special thank you needs to go out to Mrs. Hagele for all of the help that she provided the class. As we wind down the remaining time before Christmas break, our class is looking forward to a mini science fair styled presentation of topics relating to flight. This project, which will be shared with a few other classes (and any parents interested in coming) on Friday, was driven and created with the help and suggestions of students in the class. We are also looking forward to finishing one more unit before we break (almost as much as we are looking forward to finishing our math unit on decimals (being the Grinch that he is, Mr. Males has scheduled this test for Friday). Mr. Males hopes that the break provides time for families and relaxation, and looks forward to seeing bring and cheery faces in January!

Grade 7
Students are converting decimals to fractions and fractions to decimals in math. In science, they are about to start the unit on different types of mixtures. In Language arts the grade sevens’ are reading “The Giver”. Industrial arts has the students making cutting boards. In social science students are learning about democratic principles. First aid is very important as many of the students are involved in sports so in health, they are learning about first aid. In home ec. students are making monkeys from socks-lots of fun.

Grade 8
As students are getting excited for a nice break ahead, they are working hard to wrap up units of study. After reading various novels about "Survival" they are writing essays to share their ideas about the big idea unit questions. In math, students have been learning about multiplying and dividing fractions and putting these skills to work within problem solving questions. Density of fluids has been the topic studied in science and creating SMART goals has been keeping the students on their toes in Health. Students are also wrapping up a unit on immigration by creating timelines of when, where and why people from overseas immigrated to Canada.

Outside of the classroom many students are participating in extra-curricular activities such as SADD, GEM, basketball and curling. We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful holiday season break and has a very happy and healthy New Year!

Grade 9
Grade 9 continues to be a busy place! It is hard to believe that we are already half way through December! We are working hard and are ready for the fast approaching Christmas Break! In math we are working on solving word problems and in English we are busy reading The Book of Three. In social studies we are researching ancient civilization and learning lots of neat facts. In our PAA classes we continue to work on projects and are spending some time on the ice in phys. ed. We are looking forward to what the New Year brings!! Happy Holidays from all of us in grade 9!

Grade 10
With the Christmas break coming up the grade 10 class has been working hard on their studies. In home ec. we are finishing up our cultural food projects. In our accounting we are learning how to fill out T-accounts. Also in phys. Ed. We are taking a break from basketball by going skating and bowling. In math we are coming to an end of our unit in graphing slopes. In science we are on our chemistry unit and are learning more about the periodic table. With social we are beginning our government unit on laws. In ELA we have finished reading the play Macbeth by William Shakespeare and our essays on Macbeth.

Grade 11
Merry Christmas from the Grade 11 class. In English Language Arts we completed our study of To Kill a Mockingbird, handed in our essays, and have been engaged in a brief exploration of the roots of fairy tales. In math, particularly Foundations 20, we’ve been working with quadratic functions. We’ve finished studying Kingdom Animalia and have begun looking at Kingdom Plantae in Biology. We continue observing the behaviours of light, lenses, and colour in physics. In physical education, our basketball skills are being developed. On the Industrial Arts side of PAA, small motors and welding are keeping us busy and involved, while the home economics side of things has us exploring food-borne illnesses. We’re busy in Grade 11, but not too busy to offer you a sincere wish for a happy holiday and a delightful new year. See you in 2015.

Grade 12
The seniors are pushing through the December grind as they move towards their break and the end of Semester 1 in January. In classes, ELA and history are combining their efforts with their Canadian Voices assignment while in LAW we are looking into civil law. MATH groups are working on either Transformation or Summation of Ideas and Application depending on which math is being taken. Chemistry students are working on understanding energy and it’s impact on society - specifically looking at the energy industry of fossil fuels. The shop group has been planning their individual projects and are beginning work shortly! The senior phys ed class is learning about Resistance Training and planning a personalized fitness routine for January! Everyone is looking forward to some much needed R & R during the break. Enjoy the festive season and have a happy new year!
COUNSELLOR’S CORNER—DEDE KOSCIELSKI

Tis The Season

December has arrived - the month that contains the snowiest weather, the longest nights, the holiday with the highest expectations and the greatest potential for family connection, celebration, and developing family traditions.

Each holiday season many people vow that they will not allow the busyness and pressure interfere with their ability to enjoy the fun activities and events that make this time special. Unfortunately, despite their good intentions they are often overwhelmed and swept along with the frantic pace and lose focus on the qualities that make the season special. As a result, many people report feeling somewhat unsatisfied by their experience and possibly more exhausted by the end of the ‘holiday’ than they did at the beginning. One way that some people combat the exhaustion of the season is to participate in family traditions.

Some things to think about when creating family traditions are:

1) Make it Personal. Ask yourself these questions: What’s the purpose of the activity? What am I hoping my family will get out of it? Your answers will help ensure that you will develop traditions that are meaningful for you and your family.

2) Incorporate traditions from your childhood, but focus on creating your own traditions with your own family. Compromise on competing childhood traditions and have fun exploring traditions that can be unique to your own family.

3) Create and eliminate traditions when needed. Families have seasons. Traditions that worked when your children were toddlers might not have resonance when they are teenagers. Feel free to change or eliminate traditions as your family matures.

4) Don’t go overboard and take it slow. There may be the temptation to create so many traditions that trying to do them all leads to exhaustion, stress, and an inability to enjoy the experience. Start slow and pick a few. Quality beats quantity.


Fun Family Activities:

Make or purchase an advent calendar
Decorate the tree together
Make ornaments together
Bake cookies together
Volunteer together
Find items to donate for families in need
Give an annual ornament--create a collection for your children to take to their own home when they are ready to leave the nest
Sing songs

SRC News

The holidays will soon be here and the SRC is ready for the holiday season. Again this year the SRC has supported Aberdeen Christmas Miracles by collecting food items and toys, as well as presenting a cash donation. Thank you to all the families who have contributed to this special project.

The last week before the holidays finds everyone in a festive mood and is always full of Christmas activities. The students and staff from Kindergarten to Grade Six have been practicing for weeks for their two performances of the elementary Christmas concert that was held on Tuesday. Wednesday was ‘dress Christmasy’ day with classrooms brimming with Santa hats, reindeer antlers as well as many staff and students donning red and green sweaters. Thursday is pyjama/hot chocolate/cookie day for the entire school. It has become an SRC tradition to bake cookies and deliver them, along with a cup of hot chocolate, to all the staff and students. With everyone being comfy in their pyjamas it’s always a welcome treat. Friday is the annual Christmas banquet. This tradition that dates back many, many years is one that the students and staff look forward to every year. The SRC would like to thank Mrs. Printz and Miss Smith for all their help in the preparation of the banquet. Once again we send a huge thank you to Elma Wutzke, who has been assisting with the banquet for many years.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
from
ABERDEEN COMPOSITE SCHOOL SRC
DRESS FOR THE WEATHER
Please be sure your child is dressed for the weather each day. Students have recess in the morning at lunch and in the afternoon. Students need boots and snow pants in order to play in the snow. Also, please be sure your child is prepared for the cold days of winter and is wearing mittens and a toque. Thank you to the community members who have donated warm clothing to the school. We really appreciate your kindness!

REMININDER
Skates transported on the school bus must be in a cloth bag.

CRUSADER EXTRA CURRICULAR NEWS

CURLING
The curling season is off to a fantastic start with the largest number of teams in quite a few years. We are proud to have 2 junior teams and 2 senior teams this year. Plans are underway for a home at home versus Colonsay after the Christmas holidays. We are also fortunate to have Mr. Males and Ethan Rawn on board this year to help with instruction and technique. All of the extra help is greatly appreciated. We look forward to a great season and we wish everyone a very restful holiday.

Mrs. Lang and Mr. Males
Coaches

JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL
This year we have two boys basketball teams. We have played in one tournament and had a few games. Each time the boys step on the court we see great improvement. The season will have us working on our skill development but at the same time having fun. We will be hosting our home tournament on January 17th. Looking forward to a great rest of the season.

Mr. Olnhoff and Mrs. Lalonde
Coaches

Congratulations to the Senior Girls’ Basketball team and their coach Mr. Vedress who placed second in their home tournament last weekend.

Great Job Girls!

YEARBOOK
The Yearbook team is in the process of creating a fantastic yearbook! Students are in the lab organizing pictures and creating new exciting layouts. Students can pre-order yearbooks for $30.00 each; they can be paid for by cash or cheque at the office. We appreciate your support and hope you purchase a 2014-2015 yearbook.

Candy Cane Candy-Grams!
The senior girls soccer team is putting on a Candy Cane Candy-gram fundraiser the week of Dec. 15-18th. Students pay $1.00 and receive 2 candy-grams they fill out to send to a friend or staff member. The girls soccer team will then deliver the candy-grams on Friday, Dec. 18th. Candy-grams will be on sale Monday – Thursday next week at lunch hour in the commons area.
SCHOOL BUS NON-OPERATION

The following is information regarding the non-operation of school buses in inclement weather:

Winter weather conditions which result in a combination of factors such as severely limited visibility, dangerously high wind chill values, or icy roads, may be seen as reasons for non-operation of the school buses. Specific conditions which meet or exceed the following criteria can be seen as reasons for non-operation of the school buses to schools in the division.

A) Combined temperature and wind-chill factor of -40°C at 6:00 am.*
B) Severely drifted or extremely icy roads.
C) Limited visibility because of fog or blowing snow.

*These environmental conditions as announced by Environment Canada.

The decision not to run a bus would be made by the bus driver, who would immediately inform the school principal of the decision. The bus driver will also contact all families on his/her route to inform them that the bus will not be running. Buses that do not run at the regular time in the morning are not to run at all on that same day.

There is to be no early dismissal due to deteriorating weather conditions. If it is determined that the buses will not run at the regular dismissal time, previously arranged in-town billeting is to be used for bus students and families are to be notified of those arrangements.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL BUS STUDENTS HAVE AN IN-TOWN BILLET. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BILLET!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A HUGE SUCCESS!

A special thank you to all the families who visited our Book Fair. We were able to raise enough money to receive over $1800.00 worth of new books for our school library! It wouldn’t have been possible without your support. Thank you to the families who also supported our Classroom Wish List Program. The teachers were very excited to receive the new books for their classrooms!

Congratulations to Jacey Lutze, in Ms. Fafard’s and Mrs. Rapley’s Gr. 1 classroom, for winning our draw. Jacey and Mrs. Rapley were able to pick $25.00 worth of books each from our Book Fair. Thank you again for supporting our Book Fair.

Tammy Wruck

Library News

Come and check out the display of nominated books for the Willow Awards! There are categories for every grade level. Once you have read a few of the books in a category, you will be eligible to vote for your favorite, helping crown the Willow Award.
EAT BETTER, EAT TOGETHER

How often does your family eat together. Busy schedules can make it hard to sit down and eat as a family.

On the other hand, there can be many benefits in sharing meals together as often as possible. For example, family meals may help to promote:

- Communication, sharing of family values
- A sense of family tradition, feelings of security and stability
- Healthy eating habits
- Better manners
- Better use of time by preparing only one meal and having only one mess to clean up

Children who enjoy regular family meals have been found to eat more vegetable and fruit and less fried food and soft drinks. They get more of the nutrients and fibre they need and less saturated and trans fats. Some studies have also found that children who eat regular family meals do better in school. Get family members involved in planning, preparation and clean-up. This takes the pressure off of one person, provides a learning experience for children, and extends your time together as a family. These days, we tend to have more choices than ever before for family activities. When scheduling these activities, consider the benefits of regular family meals as well.

TaeKwon-Do

Mondays and Thursdays at 7pm in the Aberdeen High School gymnasium
Parents are welcome and encouraged to join with your children.

Please call (306) 253-4226 for more information on the AberdeenDynamic TaeKwon Do Club

Beginner Special - $150
Includes uniform and 1 term of classes

MARTENSVILLE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

MASA has another exciting year of girls softball coming up this summer.
REGISTRATION for the 2015 Softball Season will be TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 AND THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015
TIME: 7:00pm-8:30pm
LOCATION: Mezzanine of the Sports Centre, Martensville, SK.
For Division Ages and Fees for 2015, Registration forms & Information, and Coaching Applications, visit www.martasa.ca in early January.

Wishing each and every one of you a safe and joyful holiday season.

From the staff and students of the Aberdeen School,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year