



HAVE YOU HEARD...

ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AT

Mills Haven Elementary

Read all about it in the February 2012 edition!

WELCOME

Important Dates

- Feb. 7 Concrete Theatre - Lig and Bittle 9:00
- Feb. 7 School Council 6:00 pm – Re-Imagining Sherwood Park Schools - Please attend.
- Feb. 7 GBA 7:30 pm
- Feb. 8 Annie Field Trip for 4/5, 5, 6, 5/6
- Feb. 8 ESO Field Trip for grade 4
- Feb. 9 No School – Teachers’ Convention
- Feb. 10 No School – Teachers’ Convention
- Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 14 - 16 Scholastic/Everything Deutsch Book Fair
- Feb. 15 Jeans and Jersey Day
- Feb. 15 Penguin Visit for Grade Ones
- Feb. 15 Student Led Conferences 4:30 – 7:30
- Feb. 16 Student Led Conferences 4:30 – 7:30
- Feb. 17 No School – PD Day
- Feb. 20 No School – Family Day
- Feb. 21-27 Gymnastics
- Feb. 21 DARE Grad
- Feb. 24 Hot Lunch
- Feb. 24 German Cultural Day – Fasching: A School Wide Event
- Feb. 25 Young Authors’ Conference
- Feb. 28 MHV Young Speakers’ Conference
- Feb. 28 Individual Journal Games
- Feb. 29 Popcorn Day
- March 1 Clover Bar Band for Grade Six
- March 2 No School – PD Day
- March 7 Staff Meeting – Early Dismissal
- March 8 Jeans and Jersey Day
- March 9 Newsletter Online
- March 21 Report Cards Home

Character Trait for February - Love

Love is a special feeling that fills your heart. You show love in a smile, a pleasant way of speaking, a thoughtful act or a hug. Love is treating people and things with special care and kindness because they mean so much to you. Love is treating other

people just as you would like them to treat you – with care and respect. ~ The Virtues Project

Classes 11/21, 12, and 13 will be hosting an assembly on Love on February 8. Parents are always welcome to join us as we learn about being students of good character.

Last month class 52 and 42/52 led the school assembly on Wisdom and Understanding. Class 52 presented the following poem to the students:

*Understanding is knowing when to stop
Understanding is accepting the word no
Understanding is knowing what a friend or family member is going through
Understanding is knowing why something has to happen
Understanding is what is right and what is wrong.*

Register for Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will start Kindergarten in fall 2012? Registration for the 2012-2013 school year is underway. Your child is eligible to enroll in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year if he/she will be five years old on or before March 1, 2013.

Check out Elk Island Public Schools’ division website at

www.eips.ca/kindergarten for

information about Kindergarten programs, registration details, and system information. The 2012 Kindergarten Guide will be available online starting February

21 and in free magazine racks starting March 5. Our school website,

www.millshaven.ca also provides specific details about our Kindergarten program. Register today and join us on April 11 at 6:30 for our Kindergarten Information Night to meet the staff and take a school tour. Contact us today.

Re-imagining Sherwood Park Schools:

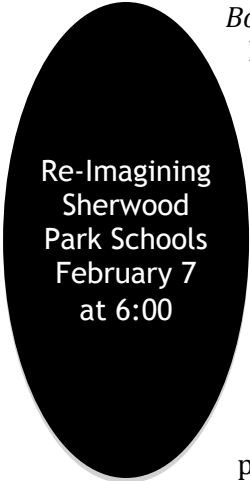
Kindergarten
Information
Night - April 11

Love - treating others
with special care



Student, Program and Boundary Planning

As part of the *Re-Imagining our Sherwood Park Schools: Student, Program, and Boundary Planning* project, Elk



Island Public Schools is conducting a series of community consultation meetings to gather input and feedback from our parents, students, and staff. This project will look at school boundaries and possible grade configurations in Sherwood Park, and how changes in either of these areas might impact programming in our schools.

Our key stakeholders will be looking at demographic and population issues and trends in Sherwood Park, and brainstorming how we can best:

- make use of our facilities,
- consider various grade configurations, and
- provide programming

for the maximum benefit of all our students, now and in the future.

The first conversations will take place throughout February and March. To facilitate the parent conversation, Mills Haven will be hosting a special School Council meeting on February 7 at 6:00 pm, and we invite all parents to join us for this meeting.

At this meeting, parents will have the opportunity to review information about the current and projected statuses of our Sherwood Park schools and put forward some questions

and ideas about how we should move forward. The information gathered at this meeting will help inform the conversations at later stages in the process.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to share your input on student, program, and boundary planning for our Sherwood Park schools. Your involvement will help ensure we put forward the best possible recommendations for the maximum benefit of all students.

To help us anticipate attendance numbers for this School Council meeting, if possible, please RSVP to the school office at (780)467-5556 to let us know if you plan to join us for this conversation.

Student Led Conferences

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
Feb. 15 & 16

As in the fall, our interview times are scheduled 5 - 6 weeks before the Report Cards are distributed.

The rationale behind this decision is:

- Parents get feedback sooner in the school year about their child's progress.
- It allows students the opportunity to find out how they are doing and gives them the opportunity to improve before the report cards are distributed
- Parents get more frequent feedback throughout the school year

Our interviews for this term are on February 15th and 16th. Teachers will be using Student Led



Conferences as a format for interviews. This is a great opportunity for your child to demonstrate their learning.

Report Cards will be distributed on March 21st.



Of course, staff will continue to keep you informed, when necessary, by phone calls home, notes in the agendas, e-mail, e-teacher pages, and by the general school website.

Thanks for working with us to provide the best communication possible at Mills Haven School!

Book Fairs

Scholastic Book Fair and Everything Deutsch will be available during interviews for student purchases. Students will also be given the opportunity to preview and purchase books during scheduled times during these days.

Popcorn Day

February 29 is Popcorn Day. This is a fundraiser to help raise money for a new sound system in the gym. Each bag will cost \$1.50. There will be no pre-ordering. Plain popcorn (no butter) will also be available to purchase for those students with sensitivities. Thank you to Mrs.



Borle and Mr. Porter for organizing this special event!

All Poets in our School

At our Christmas Concert, our Kindergarten students recited a very delightful poem. It was written by Mrs. Holm and Audra in grade 6. Here it is again for your post Christmas enjoyment:

Christmas Toys

by Audra and Mrs. Holm

Here in Santa's workshop we
are new Christmas toys.
That elves have been making, for
all the girls and boys.
Some are pretty princesses,
dressed so you can play.

Others are superheroes,
ready to win the day.
There are pets, stuffed with fluff,
unicorns and bears.
The GI Joes, looking tough,
are marching by in pairs.
Don't forget Transformers
always changing shapes.
And coloured Power Rangers
with their flying capes.

Monkey Business Mobile Gymnastics

We are very fortunate to have Monkey Business Mobile Gymnastics come and teach the gymnastic part of the Physical Education curriculum during the week for February 21 - 27. Information and Waiver forms will be sent home next week.

Accountability Pillar Survey

I appreciated talking to many of our grade four parents when I called to remind them to fill out the Accountability Pillar Survey that was sent home.

The Accountability Pillar Survey is an annual check-up on the education system. It provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February





Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

School Council News

I hope everyone is enjoying the mild temperatures.

Our next meeting is on February 7, 2012. We hope to see you there.

Please continue to purchase items from COBS and don't forget to mention that you are with Mills Haven Elementary. A portion of each sale goes back to the school.

Our next hot lunch is on February 24, 2012. The food is coming from Bev Facey High School. We are always in need of volunteers to help serve the food to the students. The volunteers who help organize the lunch (Kim W. and Lisa L.), as well as the people who help serve the lunch, are what makes the event successful. Thank you to everyone who volunteers each month. I know the students really enjoy the treat.

Many apologies to Mills Haven families for having to put the milk program on hold temporarily. Our fridge was broken and we replaced it with a new one. Thank you to Christine M. and Yvonne O. for helping to dump the spoiled milk. As of February 1st, we will be ordering milk again and students can start using their punch cards on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Cheques need to be in by Thursday, February 2, 2012 for any new punch cards issued this month. Thank you for your support of the milk program. Also, thank you to Mr. Porter for moving the old fridge to make room for the new one.

Milk Program News

We have Milk and Cookie Day coming up on February 3rd. Thank you to Darren and Dave at Save-On Foods for helping to organize this event and serve the food. The money raised from this event (close to \$300.00) is going towards chimes for the music program.

Coming up is a zumba fundraiser in which the money raised will go towards a new sound system for the school. Details will be coming to you soon.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone at Mills Haven Elementary!

Cheryl Hill and Karen Budwill
School Council Co-Chairs

GBA News

Hello GBA Families!

The cold snap kept a few people away from our January meeting but that didn't stop the GBA from being productive.



On February 24, the school will be celebrating German Cultural Day. The theme is Fasching and Carnivale, a celebration throughout German-speaking Europe that has ties to the more widely known Carnivale in Brazil, and Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It promises to be a fun-filled day, and we'd like to thank Tracy Augustin for getting supplies for the special activity that all students will take part in that day.

On March 10, the GBA will have a booth at the Sherwood Park Mall, offering families of preschool-aged children information about our program. Please send me an email at busybean@telus.net or call me at 780.410.0738 if you are able to volunteer at this booth for a couple of hours on that day.

The last thing I'd like to mention is the Summer Sizzler, which is set to take place on June 8. June is a long ways off yet, but we're working on a couple of special things for that evening, so save the date!

EIPS News

Inclement Weather Reminder

Although the temperatures have warmed up in the past week, we do live in Alberta and the weather can change in a matter of minutes. Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) reminds parents to please dress children appropriately for the weather when getting them ready for school or the bus.



In the event of inclement weather conditions, your best source of information regarding bus route cancellations is the division website. The *Bus Status* section (www.eips.ca/bus-status) is updated in real time whenever bus cancellations or delays occur. Please make note of your children's bus number(s) so you can quickly and easily check the

bus status using this valuable tool. When all bus routes within a large geographic region of EIPS are cancelled, we also post this information in the home page article. It is interesting to note that EIPS' website traffic spiked more than 500 per cent when the cold weather hit on January 17, so it appears many of you are already using this tool.

For more information or to determine your children's bus number(s), contact EIPS' Student Transportation department at 780-417-8151.

AHS News

February: Love your Body!

Body image is the mental picture we have of our bodies. It is affected by how one feels and values themselves. Those who feel really good about themselves, usually have a healthy body image.

As children's bodies grow and change it is important to promote a positive body image. Eating healthy, being physically active and getting enough sleep are some ways to help them learn to love their body!

Promote a positive body image:

- Enjoy a variety of healthy foods at regular meal times
- Be physically active
- Encourage your child's unique interests
- Be a positive role model (don't criticize yourself or others for size or shape)
- Get enough sleep
- Discuss unrealistic media images

For more information for ages 6-12, please visit: http://www.healthyalberta.ca/Documents/HEAL_6_to_12_2008.pdf

For more information for ages 13-18, please visit: http://www.healthyalberta.ca/Documents/HEAL_Brochure_13to18.pdf



Student/Parent Classes

Ultimate Kids (for parents)

Instructor: Bonnie Ragan Feb 22 (W) 6:30-9 pm \$35 + gst

This workshop highlights the types of relationships and tools children need to succeed.

I.M. S.M.A.R.T

Instructor: Jeannie Lundgard Feb 21, 23 (T/Th) 4:30-6:30 pm \$69 + \$20 materials + gst

Does your elementary age child have trouble with spelling, math facts or sight words? Then this course is for you. Details can be found on our website.

I. P.A.S.S.

Instructor: Jeannie Lundgard Feb 28, Mar 1, 6 (T/Th) 4:30-6:30 pm \$85 + gst

Evaluate and increase awareness of your child's study strategies and learn new strategies to improve student learning. Geared for students in grades 4-9.

Tech Savvy for Parents

Instructor: Edna Dach/Donna Griffin Mar 5 (M) 6:30-9 pm \$35 + gst

This course is for all parents who want to learn the social networking technologies that are popular with students. A discussion about internet safety will be provided.

Protecting Your Identity: What You Should Know

Mar 21 (W) 7-9 pm \$20 + gst

In this course for parents, learn guidelines for protecting your identity and the secure use of social media, email, bank cards and other personal information

Register online, in person, via telephone, fax or email.

Classes are held at Next Step Continuing Education, 20 Festival Way, Sherwood Park
(located in Salisbury Composite High School).



be a part of the village

that raises your child

Are you a **parent** or **community member** who cares about the development of young children and wants to make a difference?

You're invited!

Strathcona County Community Information Night

Thursday, February 02, 2012
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

light meal served
limited child care available

Questions or RSVP

Sheila
780-464-8209
sheila.ewanchuk@strathcona.ca

To find out more about EMap and the Government of Alberta's Early Child Development Mapping Initiative, go to www.ecmap.ca

Are your children and the children in your community getting the best start in life?

