

BCHS Newsletter Feb—March 2012



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

This is the third newsletter from Brooks Composite High School. Please take the time to read through the newsletter and note important dates and information as it pertains to you and your child. The first semester went very well. Keep in mind that the first day of the second semester is January 31, 2012.

One of the new features that will be available to all parents this semester is the opportunity to check your son or daughters marks and attendance on-line at your convenience. I will be sending out an information sheet that will contain your access code that you will need to create an account. That letter will also contain a step-by-step set of instruction about how to

use this feature. We would encourage you to set up this account so you can monitor your son or daughters marks and attendance.

If you have any questions about information in this newsletter or school in general, please call me at 362-4814.

Sincerely

Grant Jensen, Principal

STAFFING NEWS

While we are saddened that Desirae Hemming has decided to travel for a semester, we are pleased to welcome both **Meredith Easton** and **Melissa Melendy** to our staff.

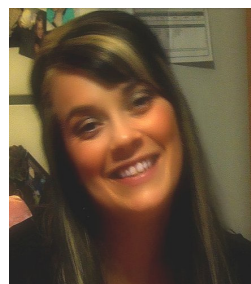


After completing high school in her home town of Lacombe, Alberta

Meredith completed a B. Sc at Augustana in Cambridge then a B. Ed at the U of A in Edmonton. Meredith thinks science is an awe inspiring subject to teach and loves to discover new things. Outside of teaching and science, her interests included figure skating, card making, and playing soccer.

Melissa Melendy is from a "small community" of about 2500 in Newfoundland. She is from a large family that was affectionately known as the "Brady Bunch".

After graduating from



high school, Melissa attended Memorial University but moved to Alberta in 2003 to be with her family. Since then, she has completed a program in Corrections and has worked at SPEC for the past 2 years.

Melissa has a beautiful four year old daughter, named Skylah.

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Special points of interest:

- Coming soon!!! All parents will receive a set of instructions on how to access student attendance and marks
- Gr. 10 Parents!!! - please take the time to complete the survey that was mailed to your home. Our school values your feedback!!!

REPORT CARDS AND INTERVIEW DATES SET

SEMESTER 1 FINAL MARKS STATEMENTS

Semester one final mark statements were made available to all students **February 1, 2012**. Students are expected to take this home to share with you. If this did not occur, please call the school and a copy will be sent home. The only reason a student may not receive their mark statement would be due to outstanding textbooks or school fees. For more information about fees please call Mrs. Beringer at the school office at 362-4814

SEMESTER 2 COURSE OUTLINES

Course outlines will be given to each student for each course they are enrolled in. Please feel free to review these with your child and make any inquiries to the teacher or school administration.

SEMESTER 2 REPORT CARDS

The **first report card** will be issued to students on **March 15, 2012**. This will be a formal report card, which will provide you with a summary of progress in all subjects to date with the exception of work experience and related programs. Please review these results with your child.



The **second report card** will be issued **between April 30 and May 4, 2012**. Each teacher will schedule their own release dates based on the completion of a unit of work in each individual course. Although there will be no formal interviews with the second report card, interviews may be initiated at any time of the semester by parents or teachers.

The **final report card** for this semester will be available for pick up in late June or early July. The date will be announced closer to the exact date. You are reminded that all Diploma Exam marks are mailed directly to the student from Alberta Learning.

I hope the process of communicating your child's progress provides you with the information you require. If you would like any further information at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact the school about your child's progress.



PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent teacher interviews will be held on **March 22 and March 27** from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. A staff list is included to assist you with your planning. You are encouraged to bring your child to parent/teacher interviews. Please be reminded there will be **no school for students February 20 - 24, 2012**.

TEACHER

Room

Mr. Jensen - Principal	Office
Mr. Scholz - VP	Office
Mrs. Gausman - VP	Office
Mr. Angell	1530
Mrs. Baumgartner	2019
Mr. Bernhard	1530
Mr. Cashato	2015
Mr. Connor - Off- Campus	1125
Mr. Cowan	counselors office
Ms. Easton	1518
Ms. Fedor	1509
Mr. Fehr	2016
Mr. Friesen (Shop)	1302
Mrs. Gilborn	2017
Ms. Hess	1115
Ms. Laverty	1620
Ms. Macdonald	1517
Mrs. Morris	2035
Mr. Muir	1118
Mr. Nelson	1501
Mrs. O'Farrell	2018
Mrs. Olsen	2014
Ms. Perkins	1106
Ms. Rousson	2014
Mrs. Stroeder	1106
Mrs. Skriver	1532
Mr. Stone (Music)	1617
Ms. Thompson	2021
Mr. Vaage	2020
Mr. Vanderveelde	1519
Mr. Watson (Shop)	1308
Mrs. Wiens	1528

GRAD NEWS UPDATES

Within the past month you should have received an events bulletin with information about fund raising events, grad photos, and Commencement.

With the arrival of the second semester, many of our Grade 12's thoughts are turning to **Commencement Ceremonies on May 26th, 2012**. We thought it would be of interest to review the requirements/criteria that must be met to allow a student to participate in commencement 2012.

Participation in the **Commencement Program** in May will be based on the following criteria:

- a. The student is registered in a program leading to one of the following:
 - An Alberta High School Diploma
 - An Alberta High School Certificate of Achievement
 - A three-year non-credit Certificate program in Special Education leading to a local school-leaving certificate
- b. The student must be eligible to complete all of the requirements of **one of the above programs by June 30 of the current school year**.
- c. Students using Distance Learning courses as part of their program requirements **must have 2/3 of their lessons completed and graded satisfactorily prior to inclusion on the final commencement list**.
- d. Judgement for inclusion on the **first draft** of the commencement list will be made on the basis of Final Semester 1 marks, and 1st Report Card marks for second semester subjects.

Students who are failing Second Semester courses which are necessary for the criteria described in a) above, or who have not completed 2/3 of their required distance learning lessons satisfactorily, will receive a written warning (with a copy sent to parents) following the first report card marks indicating that they may not be included in the commencement program. If these courses are not improved to a passing level by the 2nd report card, the student will not be included on the final commencement list.

- e. Judgement for inclusion on the **final** commencement list will be made on the basis of the Final Semester 1 marks and the **2nd report card marks** for the second semester subjects.

Students who are failing second semester courses which are necessary for the criteria described in a) above, or who have not completed 2/3 of their required distance learning satisfactorily will not be included in the final commencement list.

(NOTE: Distance Learning lessons needed to fulfil this requirement must be submitted for grading no later than April 20, 2012.)

Students who were passing subjects required to meet the criteria listed in a) above at the time of the first report card but are failing those subjects at the time of the 2nd report card will not be included in the final commencement list.

- f. **Students must be in good standing with the school.** Students who are under suspension from school, or who are

not extending reasonable efforts on their academic progress will not be permitted to participate.

Any student not on the **first** Draft of the commencement list, and feels that there are some extenuating circumstances which should be considered, may appeal in writing prior to **April 4, 2012** to the principal. **Students who have no extenuating circumstances are unlikely to have a successful appeal.** The Commencement Appeal Committee will hand down a binding decision by **May 1, 2012**.

Appeals will not be accepted following the determination of the final commencement list in the program.

Fundraising & Grad Fees

Besides meeting the criteria for commencement, grade 12 students still have the opportunity to earn grad hours (to lower grad fees). There are plans for a second bottle drive in March. **No other activities are being sponsored by the school and grad council.** Also, the program and decorating committees will begin meeting in the next couple of weeks as planning for commencement 2012 continues.

Notification of Participation

The grads will receive a commencement letter on March 14, 2012. This letter will contain important information about the week preceding Commencement as well as the day of Commencement. Watch for this letter and if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, or your son or daughter fails to bring home the March 12th letter, please call the grad advisor, Ms S. Laverty.

Thank you for your support!

GRAD 2012 PARENT COMMITTEE

The Grad Parents have met a few times and work on various committees is well underway. If you are not yet on a committee and wish to help out, please contact any of the people below.

- **Chair: Shirley Moen**
(H)-501-9421
shirleymoan@hotmail.com
- **Co-chair: Bev Neigum**
(H)-362-7368
sbneigum@eidnet.org
- **Treasurer: Loren Mitchell**
(H) 362-3597
loren54@shaw.ca
- **Secretary: Jeannette Baine**
(H) 793-8124
jeannette.baine@bmo.com
- **Prize Committee: Christina Spencer**
(H)-362-5341
donspencer420@hotmail.com
- **Entertainment /Decorating: Kristine Tancowny**
(H) 793-2360
hosanna1@telus.net
- **Ron Redelback**
(H) 362-3797
Brooksmedic@hotmail.com
- **Food: Candace Bloor**
(H)-362-7284
bloors@telus.net
- **Security: Wanda Leavins**
(H)-362-8123
glevins@telusplanet.net
- **Coat Check: Cheryl Munro**
(H)-362-6147
raymunro@telusplanet.net
- **Publicity: Christine Mitchell**
(H)-362-8077
graygraphics@canopy.net
- **Grand March: Carol Tinis**
(H) 362-5455
tinis@telusplanet.net
- **Kelly Wallace**
(H)362-8439
kelly.wallace@mrcmidfield.com
- **Tickets: Carrie Ives**
(H)-793-0047
carrieives@ymail.com

Our next meeting is set for Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the BCHS cafeteria.

Volunteers are still needed for security for the night of grad.

RUTHERFORD SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

There are two levels of Rutherford Scholarships available, one for students with averages between 75.0% and 79.9%, and another for students with an average over 80%. The Department of Education uses the following requirements for determining eligibility for Rutherford Scholarships:

GRADE 10

Average of 75.0% to 79.9% in 5 subjects—\$300

Average of 80.0% or higher in 5 subjects —\$500

One of English 10-1 or 10-2, Français 10, 13 or 10-2 and at least two of the following:

- Math 10 C
- Science 10

- Social 10-1 or 10-2
- a second language other than the one used above at the Grade 10 level
- Any two other courses with a minimum three credit value at the Grade 10 level (1000 or 4000 series) including those listed above and combined introductory CTS courses.

GRADE 11

Average of 75.0% to 79.9% in 5 subjects —\$500

Average of 80.0% or higher in 5 subjects —\$800

One of English 20-1 or 20-2, Français 20, 23 or 20-2 and At least two of the following:

- Math 20-1 or Math 20-2

- Science 20
- Biology 20
- Chemistry 20
- Physics 20
- Social 20-1 or 20-2
- a second language other than the one used above at the Grade 11 level
- Any two other courses with a minimum three credit value at the Grade 11 level (2000 or 5000 series) including those listed

above and combined intermediate CTS courses.



SCHOLARSHIPS

RUTHERFORD SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (continued)

GRADE 12

Average of 75.0% to 79.9% in 5 subjects—\$700

Average of 80.0% or higher in 5 subjects—\$1300

One of English 30-1 or 30-2, Français 30, 30-2 and at least two of the following:

- Math 30 Pure
- Math 20 Applied
- Math 31
- Science 30
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 30
- Physics 30
- Social 30-1 or 30-2

•a second language other than the one used above at the Grade 11 level

•Any two other courses with a minimum five credit value at the Grade 12 level (3000 or 6000 series) including those listed above and combined advanced CTS courses.

NOTE: *Averages are not rounded up for Scholarship purposes.

C.T.S. COURSES:

Three one credit modules can be combined and used as an option at the Grade 10 and/or Grade 11 level.

Five one credit modules can be combined and used as an option at the Grade 12 level.

To be combined:

- all courses must be from the same level i.e. Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced,
- courses can be from different streams or subject area, i.e. computer courses with welding courses, and
- marks will be averaged

Note: Applications are due May 1st, and are available through the counseling department.

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

GRASSLANDS POLICY DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we continue into the cold winter months, it might be helpful to try clear up any confusion there might be about whether or not the school would continue to operate.

In general terms, the school will always be considered open under all weather circumstances. We do this because not everyone will hear the announcement on the local radio station and may arrive at the school. For this reason the school is to be open.

Bus drivers from the county will determine whether it is safe to run busses to the school and will endeavor to phone the riders on their busses to inform them.

If you ride a bus in town, the bus drivers operate in conjunction with the Superintendent to decide whether or not the in-town busses will run.

Ultimately, the decision on whether or not your child should attend school during inclement weather rests with the parents. If you decide that traveling to school



poses a risk then you should keep your child at home. However, if you decide to send your child to school, the school will be open to accommodate your child and we are able to spend some quality time with the students reviewing and providing individual assistance.

STUDENT DRESS

The staff would like to remind parents and students to remain mindful of the way students dress to come to school. Please remember that the school is a public place and as such the dress should conform to that standard. Clothing that advertises alcohol and other drugs or uses profanity is not appropriate. Female students are asked to dress in a manner that covers the majority of their body parts. Bare shoulders, cleavage, midsections and back-sides should be covered during school hours. For our male students, we would ask that you wear clothing in such a way that it sufficiently covers your undergarments. If you have questions about appropriate dress, please call the school.



NEWS FROM THE COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

CAREER COUNSELLING NEWS

It's time to apply for post-secondary! Most Alberta Colleges and Universities began accepting applications October 1st and now that students have their 1st semester report cards it is important to submit their applications.

Apply for College or University TODAY!

This year there is a new way to apply to Alberta's Post Secondary institutions. **ApplyAlberta** is a secure online application system that students will use to apply to one or more post-secondary institutions, and send their Alberta high school transcripts directly to different participating institutions.

Students will start by creating a secure logon account that is password protected. To do this, a student will need to know their Alberta Student Number, if they do not know their number, they can come to the Guidance Department or the School Office and it will be provided. Students will authorize transcript transfer requests and fill out a profile with their personal and academic history. This is sent automatically to each institution the student selects. Once the students select their institution(s) of choice, they will complete the institution-specific part of the application (program/term).

Finally, students will pay the institutions application fee and submit the application (a credit card will be needed). The institution will then process the application and deal directly with the student. To start visit www.applyalberta.ca

Should you have additional questions, or concerns just drop by the Career Counsellor's office, my door is open and I'm happy to help.

ATTENTION GRADE 11 STUDENTS:

Now is the time for you to be making some decisions, being sure that you are taking the right courses for your designated career, exploring your options at different universities and colleges and looking at what scholarships you may want to apply for.

Here are some upcoming events happening in the Guidance Department that you might want to mark in your calendar:

SAIT POLYTECHNIC OPEN-HOUSE: FEB 3rd

Thank you to Youth and Career Development for allowing us to participate on a trip to SAIT Polytechnic open house on February 3rd. Youth Career Development is sponsoring the transportation to and from Calgary this year. BCHS is very appreciative of the opportunity for our students to take part in these ventures.

The students will receive specific information regarding their program of interest and participate in campus tours, hands on demonstrations and program exhibits. With over 70 applied degree, diploma and certificate programs, there are many options to choose from. Several of our students have indicated their desire to attend SAIT.

Students interested in attending must contact Ms Ferris and have permission slips returned by February 1st.

RCMP YOUTH CAMP: Thirty-two students from all over the prairie provinces and the territories will be selected to attend the youth camp held at Regina's Training Academy (Depot) for one week, **August 12 to 18, 2012.** Deadline for applications is **March 15th, 2012.** Interested

students need to contact Ms. Ferris as soon as possible.

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP: Feb 13th, 2012 @ 7:00 PM at BCHS in room 1501. This is a great opportunity for students and parents to come out and see what scholarships are available and get tips on how to make your scholarship stand out above the rest.

A NOTE FROM OUR PERSONAL COUNSELLORS

"Welcome Back" to another fun and exciting semester! So what does 'second semester' really mean to those at BCHS? Well, for some it's simple, it brings a sigh of relief as exam week has come and gone, leaving relatively few scars. For other's, it marks the end of the first half of the year with only one semester remaining until school is let out for 2011-2012. There are 93 days of school in the second semester. And for some it is equated with the earliest signs of spring - warming weather, the opportunity to spend more time outside and obviously, more holidays such as Reading Week, Easter Break, and the famous May Long Weekend. And for our graduates of 2012, it signifies both an end and a beginning. The realization that a journey is coming to a close, but what lies ahead of that is the anticipation of a lifetime...their future. So, however you look upon 'second semester', the countdown continues and we wish you luck and great success!!

Allyson's office is located in Room 1418 (by the Career Pit) and can be reached Monday, Wednesday, Thursday morning & Friday.

Tara's office is in Room 1508 (beside the Computer lab) and is available Tuesday - Thursday.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

PI DAY COMING SOON

what is pi?

Pi, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. It is approximately 3.14. With the use of computers, Pi has been calculated to over 51 billion decimal places. Pi is an irrational number meaning it will continue infinitely without repeating.

The symbol for pi, π , was first used in 1737 by William Jones, but was popular after it was adopted by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler in 1737.

The Mission of Pi Day March 14

Pi Day openly promotes the celebration of *mathematics education*; the collective enjoyment of mathematics; and the ageless, multicultural interest in pi. Educators, students, and parents are encouraged to join together in a variety of activities, expressing in imaginative ways, their passion for the long-standing creative nature of mathematics.

Stay tuned for coming events at BCHS that could include contests, poetry, songs, visual arts, and maybe even pie eating.

BCHS TO HOST CHEERLEADING PROVINCIALS!!!

Brooks Composite High School will be hosting the ASAA Cheerleading Provincial Championships for 2011-2012. 450 student athletes with their coaches and parents will be in Brooks for March 2 & 3, 2012. The BCHS Cheerleaders

have been working very hard at fundraising as well as developing new skills and routines. We are very excited about the honour and challenge of hosting such a large competition and look forward to showcasing our sport to the community.



IEP NEWS

Hello everybody! We have been really busy in the Levels program and we are looking forward to another great semester. In December we made and delivered 165 cards to the Lake Newell Lodge, walked dogs at BAPS, had the grade 3's come over to our school for some activities, went to the Junior high School to make cookies, put on a Science Fair, and made lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year.

We have a handful of students graduating from our program this year, so we are encouraging parents to start planning for their child's future. We have a lot of information left over from our parent information night that we can share. Please feel free to come in with any questions or concerns. We

look forward to another great semester!

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Our cafeteria is open most of the day beginning at 8:10 AM. We have a policy to not sell candy or chips prior to the morning classes but will have on hand a breakfast bun which is a tasty combination of bacon, egg and cheese on a toasted bun. This is sold for only \$2.00. There are also varieties of muffins, milk, juice, and fruit to start the day. We prepare a different lunch special each day, assorted sandwiches, fresh vegetable and fruit baskets, cookies, and other sweet items. In consideration of healthier eating, we use non-hydrogenated margarine in our baking. A variety of beverages are also available. Menus and prices are posted in the cafeteria. Every lunch special costs \$4.00.

A lunch card is available if you wish to purchase one. The value of the card is \$32.00 but it is sold for \$30.00. As you purchase items, their value is crossed off the card. This eliminates the need to keep cash on hand but you are responsible for keeping your card in a safe place. If you wish to purchase a lunch card, please make cheques payable to B.C.H.S.



Inside Story Headline

BCHS BAND TRIP TO ANAHEIM

The BCBS Concert Band is travelling to Anaheim California for the Heritage International Band Festival at Fullerton College. This trip takes place May 16-22. This international festival is recognized as one of the world's best and will expose our students to some amazing music and education. They will visit Disneyland, Universal Studios, and have dinner with medieval royalty. They will attend a Broadway-style musical, watch bands from around the world and enjoy some downtime at a California beach. Students are reminded to make sure their pas

port is valid and that any letters of permission from parents are in to Mr. Stone. Next deposit date: Feb. 9th.

BAND TRIP FUND-RAISER

The BCBS and BJHS band departments, in partnership with the Newell County Band Association presents it's 6th annual "Beef, Bids and Bands". This event will take place at the Evangelical Free Church on Saturday March 3rd at 5:30. This event includes a roast beef supper, silent auction and music from our bands. This is a great

opportunity for our community to support our band students as they travel and act as our school/ community ambassadors. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the school office. Parents and businesses: we are looking for donations of new items or services to include in our auction so if you are interested in supporting the programs and appreciate some advertising in exchange, please contact Mr. Stone.

Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the school office and from any band student. You will enjoy the fun filled evening, so we hope to see you there.

SPIRIT COUNCIL NEWS and CHARACTER CORNER

The Christmas season was a busy one for the BCBS Spirit Council. In addition to our ever-popular "Reindeer Games," Spirit Council sponsored a number of fun events including "Ugly Sweater Day" and a Christmas Food Drive. As well, Students of BCBS helped Spirit Council to Raise over



\$200 for the Salvation Army by sponsoring an event called "Fly on the Wall". For this event, Mr. Bernhard allowed himself to be duct-taped to the wall for \$1.00 per strip of tape. Once he was securely fastened to the wall, students had an opportunity to throw Jell-O and Whipped Cream at him, again for a donation to the Salvation Army. Thanks to Mr. Bernhard for being such a good sport!



Be on the look out for the annual Match-maker activity to be held around Valentine's Day. Stu-

dents have already filled out questionnaires and printouts will be sold that list compatibility matches with other students in our school.

VISIT TO HIROO, JAPAN INVITES APPLICATIONS

Students are invited to submit application for the opportunity to travel to our Sister School in Hiroo, Japan over the Easter Break. Interested students are invited to pick up an information and application sheet at the office and submit it by the Feb 3 deadline.

BCBS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD...AGAIN!




The Sr. Girls Volleyball team, coached by Desirae Hemsing and Al Bellamy, was recently named the most sportsmanlike team at the recent 3A Provincial Competition in St. Paul.

Congratulations to all of you for your fine display of sportsmanship and thank you for representing BCBS and the community with such class.

February Calendar of Events

- Feb 1—Deadline for SAIT Open House
- Feb 3- SAIT Open House
- Feb 3 & 4—JV Girls Home B- Ball Tournament
- Feb 8—Pre-employment Electrical Program information session at Brooks Campus 6:00 pm
- Feb 10 & 11—JV Boys Home B- Ball Tournament
- Feb 13—Scholarship workshop for parents and students 7:00 pm in room 1501
- Feb 15—SAC meeting 7:00 pm
- Feb 20-24—Family week holiday—no school

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Deadline for SAIT Trip Permission forms	2	3 JV Girls Home B- Ball Tournament - SAIT Trip	4 JV Girls Home Tournament
5	6	7 Open Badminton 7-10	8 Pre-employment Electrical apprenticeship session	9	10 JV Boys Home B- Ball Tournament	11 JV Boys Home Tournament
12	13 Scholarship Workshop 7:00 pm	14 Valentine's Day 	15 SAC meeting 7:00 pm	16	17	18
19	20 Family Day Holiday	21	22	23 Teacher Convention	24	25
Family Week Holiday—No School						
26	27	28 Open Badminton 7-10	29			

Schedule of Events

- Mar 2—Cheerleading Provincials at BCHS—No School for Students
- Mar 3- Cheerleading Provincials continue
- Mar 3—Beef Bands and Bids—Band fundraiser 7:00 pm at the E-Free Church
- Mar 14—SAC Meeting 7:00 pm
- Mar 15—First Report Cards are released to students
- Mar 15—Application to RCMP Summer Camp is due
- Mar 16—Lieu Day—No School
- Mar 17—Home Badminton Tournament
- Mar 22—Parent-Teacher interviews 5:00—9:00
- Mar 27—Parent Teacher interviews 5:00—9:00

MARCH 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Provincial Cheerleading at BCHS—no School	3 Provincial Cheerleading Band Fundraiser
4	5	6 Open Badminton 7-10	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Open Badminton 7-10	14 SAC meeting 7:00 pm	15 First Report Card Released - Applications for RCMP Camp due	16 Lieu Day no School	17 Badminton Tournament
18	19	20 Open Badminton 7-10	21	22 Parent — Teacher interviews	23	24
25	26	27 Parent — Teacher interviews	28	29	30	31

Grasslands Public Schools

745 - 2nd Ave East
Brooks, AB
T1R 1L2

Phone: 403-793-6700
Fax: 403-362-8225

LEARNING...
ACHIEVING...
SUCCEEDING

We're on the Web
<http://www.grasslands.ab.ca/>



BOARD BITS FOR FEBRUARY

Thousands of Albertans shared their ideas in recent consultations about education. Ideas raised in those sessions, as well as conversations with parent councils and education stakeholders, will form the basis for future legislation and prompted the development of a 10-point plan for Alberta's education system.

All thoughts and suggestions Albertans provided will be considered during the drafting of new legislation to govern Alberta's education system, which will be introduced in the Legislature in spring 2012.

The 10 new initiatives will be rolled out in the months ahead. Others will require formal policy consideration by government.

The 10-point plan for education includes:

- Reducing travel time for students who spend more than one hour on a bus and enabling students to better use technology when they travel.
 - Creating more opportunities for students to earn credits in high school and post-secondary at the same time.
 - Updating school design specifications to better support communities.
 - Coordinating building playgrounds and new schools.
 - Reducing the administrative burden for charter schools.
 - Supporting First Nations students by working closely with the federal government.
 - Creating a stronger voice for parents in the education system.
 - Providing better information to increase the transparency, clarity and accountability of the education system.
 - Reviewing provincial achievement tests.
- Examining the operational requirements of full-day kindergarten. With the Government's commitment to revised legislation and the 10-point plan, this will give Alberta's students the best possible learning opportunities and experiences.

ITEMS FOR THE COMMUNITY

REMINDER TO USE THE WEB PAGE

Please remember to make use of the BCHS website. This site includes some additional interactive features that students and parents should appreciate. Many parents who have used these interactive features are extremely pleased with the ability to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Some features will include:

- A place to check for homework
- A new and improved calendar
- An easy way to contact teachers

Access to more school information than was previously possible
Keep checking our website at <http://bchs.grasslands.ab.ca/> to see the changes

WALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The BCHS courtyard area is home to a respected part of our school called the Wall of Fame. This wall is adorned with 18 former graduates from BCHS that have gone above and beyond what would be classified as normal careers and have succeeded in areas such as music, athletics, literature and others.

Our last addition to the Wall of Fame was in 2007 when Shelly Russell – Mayhew was inducted for her work on health promotion and illness prevention programs for teenagers.

If you are aware of an individual that has special qualities and deserves to be added to our collection, or if you have any questions about the Wall of Fame, **please contact Bert Scholz @** the school.

WANTED: Businesses to employ possible apprentices

The Off-Campus Education Program is currently seeking employers for the Work Experience Program and the Registered Apprenticeship Program for the second semester and the summer of 2011. If you have a desire to work with young people to assist them with their job skills development and have a business or trade contact Patrick Connor, Off-Campus Education Coordinator at patrick.connor@grasslands.ab.ca or call (403) 427-0319 or (403) 362-4814. You could make a difference in a young person's life!