

FEBRUARY 2011



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CALENDAR 2010

2011

- Feb. 2 (Wed) - Ground Hog Day. Assembly
- Feb. 4 (Fri) - Grade 6 students to Southport in the afternoon
- Feb. 4 (Fri) - Knights of Columbus Free Throw at 4:00pm
- Feb. 7 (Mon) - Grade 7 Internet Safety Presentations
- Feb. 9 (Wed) - Grade 8 Mental Health Presentation
- Feb. 15 (Tues) - Grade 5 students go Tubing at Roger's Hill, MacGregor
- Feb. 15 & 16—Basketball Semi-Finals
- Feb. 17 (Thurs) - Student-Led Conference. 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18 ((Fri) - Student Led Conference. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21 (Mon) - Louis Riel Day **SCHOOLS CLOSED**
- Feb. 22 (Tues) - Grade 6 classes to Festival du Voyageur.
- Feb. 23 (Wed) - CPF lunch time Activity
- Feb. 24 (Thurs) - Grade 5 - 8 French Immersion students to Festival du Voyageur
- Feb. 25 (Fri) - Division P.D.
- NO SCHOOL**
- Mar. 2 (Wed) -Grade 6 - 8 Ski and Tubing Trip

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES
*Our Student-Led Conferences will be held on
 Thursday, February 17th and Friday, February 18th.*
ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND!

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has signed up for the **PACE Program** and are displaying their window cling on their vehicle. The draw was made for the picnic and gas cards and the winners were: Debbie Steiss and Jeff Bereza. Congratulations!

The next meeting of the Home & School Association will be held on **March 8**, to plan for the annual Variety Night.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

CPF is still in the planning stages for an activity on **Wednesday, February 23** at lunch - "Fêtons Les

Voyageurs". There will be a planning meeting for this on **Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00 pm** in the EAMS Library.

FIELD TRIPS

In the event that your son/daughter's field trip is **cancelled** or **postponed**, the regular school day will continue. Though this is disappointing, students **are** expected to be at school and will not be permitted to leave the school grounds unless the office is notified by a parent/guardian with a phone call or by note. To ensure the safety of each and every child, should students be absent without either, phone calls home will be made.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We will again be holding the Student-Led Conferences. They will take place on: **Thursday, February 17th** from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., and on **Friday, February 18th** from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Letters indicating conference times will be sent home at the beginning of February. Please note that **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND** these conferences as they will be responsible for presenting their portfolio to you.

SNACK PROGRAM

Thank you to Carole Lupkowski and Lori Mackedenski for the snack last month. The cheese and crackers were a big hit!

FEBRUARY SWIMMING DATES:



Group #1 and #2 swim on: February 17th
 ++++++

Group #1 Departs at 9:10

- 5 - Guimond-Low
- 6 - Crevier
- LAC - Mr. Buchanan
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Group # 2 departs at 9:50

- 6 - Collett
- 6 - Tessier

Group #3 swims on: February 24th
 ++++++

Departing at 9:10

- 5 - Diboll
- 5 - Kelly
- LAC - Mr. Buchanan
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

NEWS FROM THE GYM!

Physical Education classes are in the midst of their Basketball Unit and the skills are definitely improving. Next after Basketball will be our second Manitoba Fitness Test.

EAMS BASKETBALL

Our 4 Basketball Teams have just reached the halfway point of the league play. All teams have shown marked improvement in their individual skills, understanding of team play and strategies. Special "thank yous" go out to our scorekeeper: Frederique Tessier. Also, a huge "thank you" to our timekeeper, Mrs. Collett.

Best of luck to our teams and their coaches:

- Boys' A Team: Mr. Citulsky
- Boys' B Team: Mr. Thorkelsson
- Girls' A Team: Mr. Houle

Thank you coaches for your time, effort, and patience.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW COMPETITION

Our students have been competing in the Knights of Columbus school free throw championship at our school. Students aged 10 - 14 as of January 1st, 2011 are eligible to enter. School Champions advance to the City Championships hosted by Ecole Arthur Meighen School on Friday, February 4th at 4:00 pm. If they advance to the District Championships, Ecole Arthur Meighen will also host that event on Thursday February 11th at 5:00 pm. District Champions then go on to compete at the Provincial level in St. Boniface on Saturday, March 12th, 2011. If you have any questions, please call Miss Smith at the school, 857-3405

JEST STIX JUGGLING WORKSHOP

Professional stick juggler and crafter, Isaac Girardin, will be a guest in our Gym in the afternoon of Wednesday, February 2 and all day Thursday, February 3 working with the Physical Education classes.

Isaac Girardin has been teaching juggling classes since 2008. Jest Stix juggling sticks are a unique juggling tool which originated over 5000 years ago in both ancient Egypt and China. The "stix" are quickly showing kids how they can learn to juggle with one of the world's oldest sport and art forms.

Benefits of Jest Stix Juggling Sticks:

- Psychomotor skills: timing, dexterity, gross and fine motor skills
- Cognitive skills: understanding patterns, rhythm, three dimensional conceptualization
- Affective skills: goal setting, purpose, learning through mistakes and failure
- Providing an excellent model for cooperative learning
- Involves all students, regardless of size, age, or fitness level
- Boosts self esteem and confidence
- Develops and improves concentration, rhythm, balance, and reflexes
- Gives musical, spatial, kinaesthetic and interpersonal learners a way to excel
- Development of patience, persistence, and gratification delay
- Benefits learning of Math and Science through improved sequencing skills
- Emphasizes practice through progressive and cumulative learning methods

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Thank you to the families who have donated towels, swimming suits and trunks to the swimming program. They are greatly appreciated.

However, we are still accepting donations if you have anything you would like to donate.



“GROW WITH GREAT BOOKS”

AT THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

FEBRUARY 17th 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

&

FEBRUARY 18th 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Do your **Birth**day shopping early - books make great gifts for students and teachers!

Enter to win a **Door Prize**, and enter our “Guess How Many Seeds In The Jar” contest.

COUNSELLING NEWS

ARE YOU IN DANGER BECAUSE OF USING THE INTERNET?

Computer use is a given these days and the internet is a valuable tool for so many things. Just as with other tools that we use on a daily basis, it is vital that we know how to use them safely.

On **Monday, February 7th**, Graham Milliken from Child Find Manitoba will be speaking to our Grade 7 students as to the need of using this valuable tool in a safe manner.

Please take the time that evening to find out what they learned.

IS IT A MOOD OR A MOOD DISORDER?

Tina Holland, from the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba Inc. will be here on **Wednesday, February 9th** to talk to the Grade 8 students about Mental Health. Tina is a dynamic speaker and is passionate about removing the stigma about mental illness. She speaks from experience and is a fine example of a person who knows how to live with a mental illness.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP INITIATIVES

The Student Support Group is always busy with an activity or two. For Valentines' day they will be organizing an activity where valentines will be collected by making the opposite gender talk to them. The girls will attempt to steal the hearts from the boys in the morning and the boys will attempt to steal the girls' hearts in the afternoon. The Student Support Group will then collect the stolen hearts and the people with the most stolen hearts will win a prize.

One day in February, the Student Support Group will be raising money for AIDS research. This will be done by selling a package that will contain information about AIDS, a red ribbon, and a package of gum. Students wearing the red ribbon that day will be allowed to chew gum in the classroom. Gum will cost a dollar unless the student decides to donate more.

ADOPT A MOUNTIE UPDATE

Credit card fraud is becoming more prevalent in Canada and some of us have already been victims. I found some information on the RCMP website (link below) and I encourage you to visit the site and educate yourself so that you can avoid becoming a victim. Below is a little excerpt from the website about Credit card Fraud.

Stay safe

Cst. J.B. (James) Huberts RCMP

Increased popularity in Internet, telephone and mail shopping means an increase in transactions where both the cardholder and the credit card are not present. This creates opportunities for "card not present" fraud, an old scam resurfacing in various parts of the country.

Wondering how important that three-digit number on the back of your Visa or MasterCard card is, or the four-digit number on the front of your American Express card? It's very important, both to you and to criminals. In fact, it's often the last piece of information that scammers need to make illegal purchases with your card. It's therefore extremely important to protect that number and to know how criminals may try to steal it from you.

How can you avoid becoming a victim of fraud?

If you didn't make the call, never give out any personal information or data over the phone.

If you're concerned that you may already have been victimized by fraud, hang up and call your financial institution or credit card company.

Similarly, never give out any personal data in response to an e-mail – that's how "phishing" works. If you get an urgent and official looking e-mail from your bank or credit card company or some other well-known business requesting "additional" information or account verification information, **DO NOT RESPOND!**

Always report fraud. Criminal operations only get shut down when authorities have enough information to stop them.

For more information on payment card fraud prevention:

1) Consult the websites of your credit card company, your financial institution or the Canadian Bankers Association

2) Visit the RCMP's "Scams and Fraud" webpage: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/index-eng.htm

3) Visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: <http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca>

CANSPELL NATIONAL SPELLING BEE**STUDENT COUNCIL**

Congratulations to the following for participating in the EAMS Spelling Bee program:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Kennedy Barrault | Kailee-Rae Delmage |
| Jordyn Dillabough | Cassie Emberly |
| Kenzie Glover | Louise Munoz |
| Tessa Lupkowski | Camilla Rose Kinnear |
| Yasi Shahidian | Marisa Green |
| Gabrielle Wishart | Robyn Vien |

The winner of the school Spelling Bee was Tessa Lupkowski. Tessa will be writing the written Spelling Bee Regional Qualifier Test to try to qualify as one of the top 50 students to advance to compete in the Winnipeg Free Press Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

Good Luck Tessa!

Student Council is pleased to be holding a Spring Dance on **Thursday, March 10 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.** Cost is \$5.00. *Dress Code in effect.*

At this time, council members are starting to plan our **Spirit Days** to be held during the week of March 21 - 25.

YEARBOOK

Thank you to all those students who have pre-ordered a Yearbook! Order forms are still available in the office - cash or cheque welcomed. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Ecole Arthur Meighen School or (EAMS).

I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

You are key to improving your child's reading ability
by placing a high priority on reading in your home.

Encourage family literacy in your home with these activities during "I Love to Read Month"

Book family time to read every day. "Stop, drop and read!"

Set a reading goal for the month with your whole family.

Create a special reading place in your home, with your child's favourite books within reach.

Encourage reading everywhere: TV, street signs, recipes, schedules, grocery stores, menus, billboards, etc.

Find a new story every week to read with your child - vary the length and subject matter.

Keep teens reading. Give them books, newspaper articles, and magazines that interest them.

Make everyday a learning day. Ask your children to write shopping lists, thank-you notes, or make schedules of weekly activities.

Babies benefit from reading too!

Visit the local library - it's open in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Have a written conversation for a few minutes each day with your child or as a family.

It's a Fact!

Literacy is the basis for the well-being of individuals, families, and the whole province. The ability to read, write and perform basic math has an impact well beyond those skills. Low literacy is, on the surface, an invisible handicap. Its effects, however, are not. Investing in literacy makes economic, social and political sense / cents.

School Activities: The school has a number of activities planned for the students, such as Poster Contest, Reading Challenge, D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read), Famous Lines, Bedtime Campfire Story, Vocabulary Week, dress like a story book character day, and decorating classroom doors.

Attached to this Newsletter is a February calendar giving some more suggestions for daily activities at home regarding "I Love To Read Month!" Enjoy!

BAND NEWS

FEES: Just a reminder that Band Instrument Fees of \$120.00 and Guitar Fees of \$40.00 were due by the end of January. Please contact Mr. Goertzen if you would like to make alternate arrangements for payment.

BAND TRIP: Our Grade 8 Band Trip will take place from March 16 - 18 at Camp Arnes. **We are in need of some parent chaperones who are ready for an adventure. Contact Mr. Goertzen if you are interested. Stay tuned for more details.**

Please stay tuned for more information on these upcoming events.

DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club is currently looking for any costumes and / or props for our 1950s March Musical. If you have anything that you are willing to lend us, please contact Angela Mills or the office at 857-3405. These items will be returned to you after the performances.

Thank you for your help!

NEWSLETTERS

Commencing in March 2011, Ecole Arthur Meighen School is proposing to e-mail out our monthly Newsletter to every family who submits their e-mail address to us. Forms were sent out last month requesting e-mail addresses, but if you did not receive one please contact the school. Of course, you will still be able to access the Newsletter on the school's website at: www.plpsd.mb.ca/eams or you can still receive a paper copy sent home with your child.

CALENDAR 2011

March. 28 - April 1 -

SPRING BREAK

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Apr. 15 (Fri) - School P.D.

NO SCHOOL

Apr. 22 (Fri) - GOOD FRIDAY

SCHOOLS CLOSED

May 23 (Mon) - VICTORIA DAY

SCHOOLS CLOSED

June 24 (Fri) - Admin. Day

NO SCHOOL

June 29 (Wed) -

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS

June 30 (Thurs) - Admin. Day

NO SCHOOL

**STUDENTS WHO ARE
ABSENT FROM SCHOOL**

In view of the current flu season, we ask that parents or guardians please notify the school if your child(ren) are going to be absent from school for any reason, but, in particular, if they are sick. Your cooperation is appreciated.

CELL PHONE POLICY

It is expected that students bringing cell phones to school use them in a responsible manner, i.e. they must remain in the student's locker, turned off. Students found with, or using cell phones in the classrooms or hallways during classes or breaks will have their phone confiscated until home time on the 1st offence. Subsequent and / or continued violations will result in a phone call to the parent / guardian to come and pick it up and may also result in suspension. For legal and privacy reasons students are prohibited from taking pictures of, or voice recording, or videotaping classroom activity or student and staff members without permission. **NOTE:** Any students found sharing pictures electronically, (internet, Facebook, etc.) without knowledge and consent from all participants will be subject to suspension or possible expulsion. The RCMP may also be involved. **Please note that this applies to all school functions (field trips, dances, etc.).**

ECOLE ARTHUR
MEIGHEN SCHOOL

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Portage la Prairie, MB
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Phone: 204-857-3405
Fax: 204-239-5943

Our Website is:
www.plpsd.mb.ca/eams



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Portage Library: For "I Love to Read" month the Portage Library are having Tours of the Library. Take a tour, enter the draw to win! You will be eligible to win a movie afternoon with fresh popcorn and drink! For more information, please phone 857-4271.

RHA-Central Manitoba is holding a "Healthy Thinking for Healthy Living course for people who suffer from Depression, Anxiety and / or Poor Self-Esteem. This is a 10 week course running once a week on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Portage General Hospital. Courses start in March and early registration is recommended. For more information please phone Community Mental Health Intake at 239-3000 during 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

SCHOOL POLICY OF THE MONTH

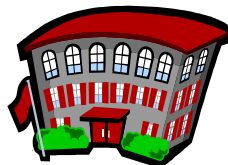
TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as the absence from school for reasons not covered by the Public School's Attendance Act - (260.1(2)).

This Act states, "that for short periods of time, children may be legally absent from school because of sickness or other unavoidable cause...e.g., school sponsored activities; court appearances; death in the family; or because of a religious holiday." All other reasons for absenteeism could be considered as truancy.

Truancy shall be dealt with in the following manner:

1. Student may be required to make up missed time - morning, at noon, or after school. (Maximum detention time shall not exceed one hour per day unless special arrangements have been made with the parent / guardian).



2. For frequent or chronic truancy, the student will be placed on a special monitoring list and shall be reported to the School Division's Attendance Officer. Parents can be prosecuted for not ensuring their child attends school on a regular basis. In School or Out of School Suspensions may result from chronic truancy. In all cases of tardiness or truancy, the student is responsible for missed work. The assignments missed must be made up before the beginning of the next class.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is of paramount importance to all students. This is not only basic to satisfactory achievement but

It is an important factor in June for determining exemptions. All student absenteeism must be covered by an explanation from the parent / guardian. This can be done either through a telephone call from the parent or guardian or a written explanation sent to the school. For lengthy absences, it is expected the home will contact the school prior to the start of the absence, whenever possible.

PERSONAL PHONE CALLS

A student phone is available to students for personal phone calls, to be used only at breaks. School policy is that we will not call students from class to the office phone, unless it is an emergency. Only calls from immediate family will be forwarded.

The school secretaries will take phone messages for students and have them return a call at break or noon hour if necessary.