



# ***RAPID CITY SCHOOL OCTOBER NEWSLETTER***

October 2008

## **Principal's Message**

Hello everyone, I hope this month brings us lots of sunshine and some heat. I think we are due for it. Thank you to all of you that were able to make it out to Open House last week, I know it is always a very busy time of the year. Remember this year that if you have questions you should feel free to call the teachers here at the school. We have Parent Group meeting October 1<sup>st</sup> here in the staffroom and hot lunch later this week. Next week the parent group orders forms for the fundraiser are due. We also have Walk to School Day happening on the 8<sup>th</sup> so even the bus students and staff will walk from the loop that day. Bikes are also an acceptable mode of transportation that day. On the 14<sup>th</sup> we have two student teachers joining us for a month and it is always great to have them here. That is also the day that all non perishable food goods are due for this fall's charitable donation drive. The food will be headed to Minnedosa and distributed throughout the area. Later this month we will have Halloween celebrations at the school and I am looking forward to a great month and a super year!

Thank you,  
Mr. Mike Keith



## ***SAYINGS OF THE MONTH***

**Success is a lousy teacher.  
It seduces smart people  
into thinking they can't  
lose."**

**--Bill Gates,  
Microsoft co-founder,  
philanthropist**

**Happiness is a conscious  
choice, not an automatic  
response."**

**--Mildred Barthel  
Author**

## **Campbell's Soup Labels**

We have decided to discontinue the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education Program at Rapid City School. The program has changed in as much as they seem to be continually requiring more label points to receive merchandise for the school. In a school the size of Rapid City it is difficult to collect the huge volume of labels necessary to "purchase" items from their catalogue. In June of 2008 we did submit an order and received a number of items for the gym and playground. This depleted our label balance to zero. The labels that we have collected so far this year will be given to Douglas School as they participate in the program. If you have labels that you have collected please bring them to the school and we will forward them on. I would like to thank everyone who has collected labels for us over the years and a special thanks to those who cut and counted them for us, most recently Tammy Bertrand and Karen Miller.

Jane Alex



# Classroom

## Kindergarten

We have just about finished meeting the Care Bears. We have been learning about colors and how to treat our friends with the Care Bears. Next up for October is to continue our study of the Capital Letters as well as doing some activities for Thanksgiving and Halloween. If anyone has any extra pumpkins that they would like to donate to our class we will gladly take them. Our Halloween party will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> because we have no school on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be a more detailed note that will come home closer to the date. Thank you to all the families that came to visit our room for open house. If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school or send a note in the planner.



**Mrs. Madill**

## Grade 1/2

What a great month we have had in grade 1/2. We have been learning about our school community and the importance of rules and belonging.

We have also been reading the "Franklin" series and learning many things about growing up, learning from our mistakes and the importance of friendship.



Grade twos have begun their weekly spelling tests and both grades have begun their home reading programs. Thanks to parents for taking the time to listen to their child read or discussing their books with them.

In October we will begin our sight word/letter recognition home study and also we will begin our "STUDENT OF THE WEEK." A letter will be sent home soon telling you when it is your child's turn and asking for your help to prepare items for this week.

October will be an exciting month as we will be reading and acting out the play, "Stone Soup" and we will be making stone soup for a special Thanksgiving meal. Of course we will round out the month with plenty of Halloween songs and poems and a Halloween party.

**Mrs. Nykorak**

Our classroom started the 3rd of September with 18 bright smiley faces - 9 students in grade 1 and 9 in grade 2. Now that we've come to the end of September, we're getting into a bit of a routine.

In Math, we have been working on numbers. In fact, we spent a couple of days celebrating the number 5. Each class had their own centers to go to and explored various ways of looking at the number 5. We've also been doing some sorting and patterning. We are looking forward to celebrating the number 10 fairly soon. (Celebrations are so much fun!)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Open House.

**Mrs. Armstrong**

## Grade 3/4

Wow! It's hard to believe a whole month has already gone by! Our class has had a great start to the year. We are working on a Popcorn Theme in our room and have done a few activities with books and poems about Popcorn. In Social Studies, we are studying our country of Canada this year and have been talking about the provinces and territories. Please remember to check your child's organizer each day and initial you have seen it (even if we didn't write in it that day).

**Mrs. Hrymak**

### Grade 3/4 Math and Science

Hi everyone. We started the year with a popcorn theme and not only were the lessons fun, so was eating them. We are currently working on the Grade Three provincial assessment and number sense in Math class. The work on number sense will continue in both grades for a while yet. In Science we have been doing a variety of popcorn related work and will be moving into a light unit shortly. I am looking forward to lots of hands on work this year. Please call me if your child seems overly frustrated by what we are doing in class this year. I am usually at school early and here until a while after the students leave.

**Mr. Mike Keith**

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Mrs. Hrymak	Mrs. Hrymak	Mr. Keith	Mr. Keith	Mr. Keith	Mrs. Hrymak
Mr. Keith	Mr. Keith	Mr. Keith	Mrs. Hrymak	Mrs. Hrymak	Mrs. Hrymak

# Communication



## GRADE 5-6

Welcome to the Grade 5-6 classroom. Everyone seems to be settling into our classroom routine, with only a few reminders now and then. There is one big change happening this year, which you will notice on the first report card. Grade 5 and 6 students will only receive a percentage mark for the four core subjects: ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science. The remainder of the subjects will be progress reports with comments. Please remember that I am available most recesses for any student who needs help with their school work. Here is what we've been up to in our classroom so far:

**ELA:** The Spelling program is underway, and students have been pretty good at doing their homework and corrections. Pretests are the first school day of the week, followed by the posttest on the last school day of the week. The lesson needs to be finished for the last day of the school week. We started off the year with some "get to know you" projects. I've learned some interesting facts about the new Grade 5s as well as some things I didn't know about the Grade 6s. We hope you checked out our projects at Open House. We will start a novel study in October. TUSC (Totally Unique Speaking Club) will also start in October. We will be choosing the topics for TUSC and learning how to write speeches within the next few days.

**Math:** Both grades started out the year working with large numbers. We have been reading, writing, representing, and ordering numbers to the hundred thousands and millions. We will begin our study of decimals and fractions once we finish large numbers. Homework packages will begin in October. Students will start out practicing basic facts before moving on to problem solving.

**Social Studies:** Our class has traveled back in time to the Ice Age era. We will work our way through to Confederation by the end of June. We have been investigating glaciers, animals of the Ice Age, and the Beringia Theory. We experimented with a glacier made of Jello to see how a glacier picks up and moves debris in its path. The First Peoples is the next topic to study.

*Mrs. Hardy*

## GRADE 7/8



September is pretty much gone already!! How did that happen so fast?

Following is a summary of the areas of study that the Grade 7/8 class will be doing in October.

### Language Arts

The class will continue working on the skills of summarizing and organizing thoughts and information for both written and oral reports. This section will be concluded with the students presenting a biography. As well, both the 7's and 8's will begin their first novel study of the year. The 7's will be reading "Paddle to the Amazon" and the 8's will do "Hatchet" as their first novel study of the year.

### Mathematics

The Grade 7's will conclude their unit on equations and variables which is an introduction to algebra. They will then start their second unit which looks at the use of "Integers".

The Grade 8's will finish their unit on squares, square roots and using the Pythagorean Theorem before starting their own unit on "Integers".

### Science

The class is a month into a unit on the study of "Cells". They have spent time looking at both animal and plant cells through microscopes and are now looking at structures that make up cells. To finish the unit they will study how cells can reproduce to make exact copies of themselves and then how they join together to function as tissues and organs.

### Social Studies

The class has been studying early human prehistory. They are looking at the development of human civilization. In October they will study two specific early human civilizations – the Sumerians and the Egyptians.

### Physical Education

The class has been working on their soccer skills for the month of September. October will have them learning to play Flag Football. There will also be the first of three rounds of fitness testing for the year.

### Computer

The focus for the first two months of the year will be keyboarding – teaching students to type with all 10 fingers with a speed goal of 20 words per minute. Developing this skill will save massive amounts of time doing assignments later in the year. This will be a review for the Grade 8's and something relatively new for the Grade 7's.

*Mr. Coulson*