

# Rapid City School November Newsletter

November 2009

## Principal's Message

Hello everyone, I hope that the last month has been good to you. We have been very busy here at the school and that isn't likely to change. I would like to remind everyone that your global permission slips need to come back for your children. This was the short paper in the package that allows for your child to take part in our "in town" educational activities. Thank you to those of you that have offered to volunteer with other activities the school does, it is very much appreciated. Our parent group meeting will be this week on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm here at the school. The older students will be taking part in Volleyball practices and games all month and we have a follow up to our hearing screening this Wednesday. The students who need to go, will travel over to Minnedosa with a staff member by bus in the morning. We also have a couple of opportunities for parents and guardians of students of all ages to take part in some interesting activities. On the 10<sup>th</sup> there is a Virtual Realities session on technology in Tanner's Crossing's pit at 7 pm and on the 17<sup>th</sup> we are very pleased to have Rebecca Gray coming to talk about raising healthy, happy children at 7pm. Please come and join us if you can. There are notices on both of these sessions accompanying this newsletter. I am also looking forward to seeing all of you here at the school on the 20<sup>th</sup> for our first parent teacher day.

Take care and have a great month!

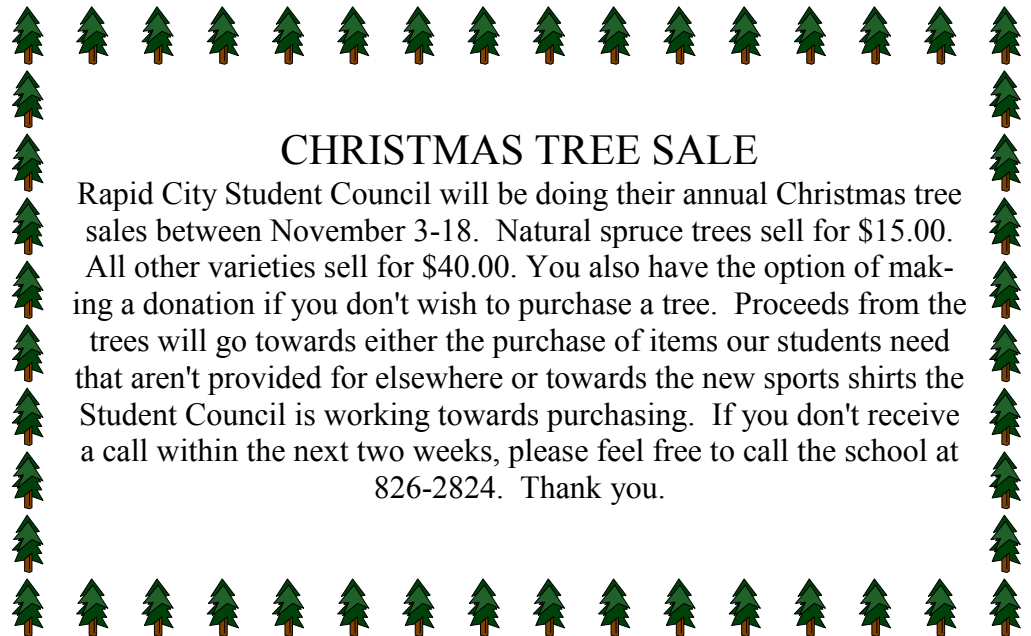
*Mr. Mike Keith*

### Sayings for the Month

Pretend that every single person you meet has a sign around his or her neck that says, 'Make me feel important.' ~ **Mary Kay Ash, founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics**

We don't see things as they are; we see things as we are."

**Anais Nin, French writer and diarist**



### CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Rapid City Student Council will be doing their annual Christmas tree sales between November 3-18. Natural spruce trees sell for \$15.00. All other varieties sell for \$40.00. You also have the option of making a donation if you don't wish to purchase a tree. Proceeds from the trees will go towards either the purchase of items our students need that aren't provided for elsewhere or towards the new sports shirts the Student Council is working towards purchasing. If you don't receive a call within the next two weeks, please feel free to call the school at 826-2824. Thank you.

### BAKE SALE

Student Council members will be selling baked goods  
Friday, November 20  
9:00-12:00 p.m.

Be sure to stop by the sale when you come for Parent Teacher Interviews.

# Classroom

## Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten class continues to enjoy participating in our routines and they especially look forward to center time. We have free choice and mandatory centers each day.

We have learned the letters B, F, G, H, M, T and P through puppets, songs, centers and stories. Please take the time to reinforce these letters and letter sounds. We have also worked on patterns, colors, shapes and are working with the numbers 1 through 6 right now. They should be able to match the number with the right amount of objects and recognize the number on a dice. Please also take the time to count aloud with your child...1 to 10 or higher. We will also need to switch to lower case when printing our names, so please take the time to practice this if your child has not made the switch. We have sharing every school day, but it is not necessary to bring something every day. If you have a special item or story, then you are always welcome to share in our class.

I am hoping to have our parent teacher interviews on Thursday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> as I have appointments with my son in Winnipeg on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. (If this will not work for you, we could meet Wed. evening on the 18<sup>th</sup>, please email me at [tgregorash@rrsd.mb.ca](mailto:tgregorash@rrsd.mb.ca) or call 867-3219 if Thursday will not work). I will send a letter home with the Thursday interview times the second week in November.

The children go to the library on day 2. Please make sure to bring back by their books by the following day 2. We have reading buddies with the grade 5/6 class right after we go to the library. We also have computer buddies with the grade 3/4 class. We have enjoyed and look forward to our special times with the older students of our school.

Thank you for sending the day planners regularly, they are useful to keep in touch and help the children understand the importance of calendars and organization. Please keep the day planner with the Ziploc bag, this makes it easier to send the children's work and notes home safely. Please feel free to call me anytime with concerns that may arise. Your children continue to be a joy to teach!

***Mrs. Gregorash***

## Grade 1/2

October is behind us now - thank you to parents who supplied us with all of the goodies for our Halloween party!

In Math, we are learning to count money - primarily pennies, nickels and dimes. Any additional practise you can give your child will be helpful. We have been learning to count by 2's, and now we are practising counting backwards from a given number. Grade 1's are beginning to learn about adding 1 or 2 to a number without using their fingers, so this would also be something to practise at home. Grade 2's are practising adding 10 to a number up to 100.

We are looking forward to meeting with all parents at interview time! It is so wonderful to see the progress the students have made in only 2 1/2 months!

***Mrs. Armstrong***

In Science students have been enjoying their work with Miss Birch on Daily and Seasonal Changes.

In Language Arts we will be beginning our Guided Reading groups this month. As well grade 1 students will continue to bring home new sight words to practice. Please help your child by making sure their reading bags come back to school each day. Even if you did not have time to read books at home please return them anyway. We use these bags on a daily basis.

As always if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please call us at school or home.

***Mrs. Nykorak***

## Grade 3/4

Our class is enjoying reading the novel Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang. We have designed a Monster Manual and hope parents will enjoy reading them when they come in for Parent Teacher Interviews this month. Our Guided Reading is going well and students are getting used to the routine for our Guided Reading sessions. Our study of maps has taken us from the cardinal directions to symbols on maps. There will be a test on mapping this soon. Please look for a note in your child's organizer. Have a great month.

***Mrs. Hrymak***

We are going to be working on place value and fractions along with some other math concepts this month. We have been enjoying moving around the curriculum and not staying in one area too long. The students have been active and involved in the learning they have been doing and will continue to do this month.

We are moving on to the Materials and Structures unit this month and our new stool should arrive any day now. We will be building and breaking things all month. Please remember to call if you have any questions.

***Mr. Keith***

# Communication

## Grade 5/6

My goodness, before we know it, it will be Parent-Teacher Interview time! We have a lot to do in the next three weeks. Our class really enjoyed making music with Len Udow during his week with us. I think you will be impressed with the songs the classes have written. Look forward to hearing them at the Christmas concert. Thank you to the families who sent snacks for our Halloween party. Everyone enjoyed them. Our swamp water was a ghastly shade of green, but it was quite tasty!

Language Arts We are wrapping up our Monster unit this week. Students wrote a story together about a monster they created. Each group added to the story after they read what the previous group had written. Each student created a Monstrous Menu, a Wanted Poster, did a reading activity, and researched a monster. The research projects will be made into a classroom book. The first TUSC meeting was a practice run, so no marks were given. The meetings since then have gone well. We will be starting our first novel study early in November.

Math We have finished with multiples and factors for now. We will be spending some time on multiplication and division before moving on to large and small numbers. Please encourage your child to practice the multiplication facts. Math is so much easier if the facts are automatic for them.

Social Studies We are about half way through the unit about Manitoba entering Confederation. It will soon be time to enter the gold rush era.

Students, please remember that I am available most recesses to help with any school work you are having problems with.

**Mrs. Hardy**

Grade 5/6 Science - The class is concluding a study of "Human Organ Systems" and "Nutrition". They will soon be starting a unit on chemistry called "Properties of and Changes in Substances".

**Mr. Coulson**

## Grade 7/8

The Grade 7/8 classroom welcomes Mrs. Jolie Bootsman to their classroom for the next few weeks. Mrs. Bootsman will be at our school until November 20 as a student teacher from the Brandon University Faculty of Education.

ELA - The Grade 7's and 8's have each started their first novel study of the year. The Grade 7's are doing "Paddle to the Amazon" and the 8's are doing "Tuck Everlasting". The class has also been having a story called "The Boy Who Dared" read to them in library classes. The story is about a young boy growing up in Germany just prior to and during World War II.

Mathematics - Both grades are working on a unit on Fractions. When this unit is completed they will start one on Decimals and Percents.

Social Studies - The class will be looking at the differences between 1st and 3rd world countries and in what ways that "development" is helping poorer countries.

Science - The class is studying some of the "Natural Cycles Found in Nature" as they conclude their first unit. By mid-November they should be starting their second unit - "The Particle Theory of Matter" which is a chemistry unit.

Physical Education - We have finished up our first round of fitness testing and have done a unit on "Flag Football". There have been a couple intense games played during a few noon hours. Most of the month of November will be dedicated to developing volleyball skills.

**Mr. Coulson**