



The Phoenix Messenger

Southwest Campus 898 Sylvester Cres. SW Calgary, AB T2W 0R7 P: 403.259.3527 F: 403 258.1109

Matter of Principal

Matter of Principal: Active Partnerships

For those who are new to our school, we would like to offer a hearty welcome to our fantastic campus; which is a great place for students to learn and parents to be a part of something special. For those who are returning, welcome back! We are looking forward to building an even stronger school community this year, which we know helps to provide a supportive educational environment for our students.

Over the summer we had a chance to think about what makes this a great place to be a part of. During this reflection the word "Partnerships" came to mind, and this is one that we would like to focus on at this time. We are so fortunate to have such a great bunch of caring and supportive people who surround the campus. An example of this is the actions taken by one parent to aid us in a paving dilemma that we were having. One magical day, a crew of pavers showed up to fix a portion of our back sidewalk that had been causing difficulties for our students over the past year. This just speaks to the support that we receive on a daily basis from our parents. It does not need to be something as large as paving a sidewalk that speaks to the commitment that people have, it is also the little things that people do regularly. From coming in to read with students, joining us for a special event, aiding teachers in the work that they do, working with your child on homework, and many other ways; these are just some examples of the partnerships that we get to be a part of here at SWE.

Much research has been done in this area in terms of the positive impact that parental involvement has on a child education. Below are just of the key findings:

Stegelin (2003), Wirtz & Schumacher (2003), and Hertz-Lazarowitz & Horowitz (2002) focused on early childhood education and literacy, noting a link between families who engage in literacy activities at home and their children's success with reading and writing. Strategies such as reading with the child, discussing stories, and creating a book-friendly environment contribute to the development of children's literacy skills and positive attitudes toward reading.

West (2000) discusses an elementary teacher's efforts to increase parent-teacher communication, and its effect on students' success in reading. Findings from this study show that parent-teacher communication can motivate students to complete reading homework.

Van Voorhis (2001) and Simon (2001) found that regardless of students' background or prior school achievement, involving parents in various ways had a positive impact on achievement, attendance, and behavior.

Greene, Tichener, and Mercedes (2003) offer specific strategies for parents to participate in schools. Suggestions include individual activities with children, setting up homework space and routine, discussing needed resources for home supervision with teachers, or reflecting on one's own assumptions about school. Volunteering in the school and the community are other positive ways that parents can become involved.

The research on this topic seems to make it clear that the times that we can bring together parents, students and teachers to discuss and improve our schools, our children benefit. We look forward to being able to partner with each of our families, in some form or another, during this school year and cannot wait to see what we will create together.

Yours in Learning

Justin Kool
Principal Educator

Joan Burke
Associate Principal

Sept

2011

What's Inside

Physical Education News	1
Alberta Art Days	2
Bus Parents and Students	2
Emergency Procedures	2
Library Corner	3
Youth Development Counselor	4
From the office	5

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 23 - Casual Day (Favourite Color)
Hot Lunch Day
- Sept. 27 - Parent Info Night - 6:30 pm
- Sept. 29 - Terry Fox Run (2:20)
Dress in Active Wear
- Sept. 30 - PD Day - NO CLASSES



REACH FOR THE STARS

Physical Education News

Wellness Week...September 26 – 29



Our FFCA system wide Wellness Week will be taking place from Monday September 26 to Thursday September 29. This is an opportunity to focus on being physically active, engaging in good hygiene habits, and eating healthy foods. Please join us for our Kick off to Wellness with our Family Zumba on Monday September 26 from 3:10-4:10, immediately following the school day. Please have your child return the Zumba form to Mrs. Sheehan prior to the event. Our Terry Fox Walk/Run will also be taking place during Wellness Week on Thursday September 29 from 2:25-2:55pm. Students are invited to dress in active wear for this day. We encourage parents to join us for this event in the school field. With our links to character, we will be collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies on specific days for the Terry Fox Foundation. This is a great opportunity to give to a good cause. Our Wellness Week will wrap up with our Running Club race after school on Thursday September 29 from 3:20-4:00pm. Our running club members will be racing FFCA – SEE students during this time. Please join us on the field to cheer on our student runners. Throughout the Wellness Week, teachers will be highlighting healthy habits in their classrooms.

Physical Education Important Dates to Remember:

Monday September 26 Family Zumba 3:10-4:10pm

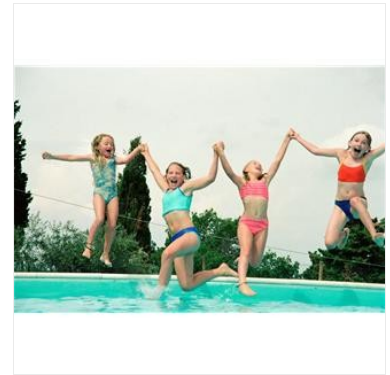
September 27, 28, 29 Collecting money for Terry Fox Foundation

Thursday September 29 Terry Fox Run 2:25-2:55pm

Thursday September 29 Running Club Race with SEE Campus 3:20 – 4:00pm

October 4, 5, 6 swimming program at Southland Leisure Centre for Grade 4 Students

October 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 Swimming program at Southland Leisure Centre for Grade 1, 2, 3



Please contact Mrs. Sheehan at Sonia.sheehan@ffca-calgary.com if you have any questions regarding



Alberta Art Days

Each year, communities across Alberta take a few days to feature and celebrate the cultural and artistic talent of its citizens.

This year, Alberta Arts Days are being held September 30 through October 2. A variety of events are taking place across Calgary and nearby communities. You can find these events by going to the Alberta Culture Calendar: <http://culture.alberta.ca/events/default.aspx>.

To find out more about Alberta Arts Days, please visit <http://culture.alberta.ca/artsdays/>



Bus Parents and Students

FFCA strongly encourages you to sign up for the Bus Communication System

Go to <https://www.ffca-calgary.com/myhome/familydefault.asp>

And login with your family user name and password

Once you are logged in you can click on Bus Subscriptions in the Family Zone Menu and choose the bus route(s) you want delay notifications for. Campuses will also receive the delay messages in the same manner as you – please do not call them to ask about delays as they will have the same information as is available to you.

The campuses will not be calling you in the event of a delay.



Emergency Procedures Practice

As we start a new school year, there is the need for us to practice our emergency procedures in the case of a fire or a need to quickly secure the building. This is something that we wish that we did not have to think about, but it is important that we practice these items for the safety of our students. Over the past month we have engaged in Fire Drill practices which helps us make our way out of the building in a safe and efficient manner. Coming up shortly, we will be practicing our Lockdown procedures. This procedure is in place as a method of keep our students safe in the case that we need to secure the building in a rapid fashion. We are asking your support with this in two ways. First, when you are in the building during these times, please follow along with the drill as well. Second, please be aware that students might come home willing to discuss these drill, please help us to reinforce the fact that these drills are practice and they are there to help keep them safe. This will go a long way in easing any anxiety that your child might have.

The following are the dates that the student notified drills will be occurring. There are also some drills that we will be practicing that students will not be notified ahead of time. The teachers will be aware of the drill and for your information we have also provided the weeks that these drills will be occurring.



<p>Fire Drills Week of September 19th Week of March 19th</p>	<p>Lockdowns October 13th Week of October 17th Week of January 25th</p>
---	--



Library Corner

LIBRARY CORNER – September

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” – Jacqueline Kennedy



Smiling faces and laughter again fill our hallways; it was missed! I am looking forward to another stellar year of connecting your child with a reading treasure. Often I am asked how a parent can maneuver through the huge literacy highway facing them at bookstores and local libraries to help them select the best resources for their child. I would love to have a conversation with parents asking themselves that question on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1:50 to 2:25 (Period 8) in the library.

NEW library hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 3:00. Please feel free to come to the library with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child’s library book or library book selection.

It is wonderful to see the love of literacy flow in students as they hug their library books back to class, anxious to expand their knowledge of their world. Unfortunately circumstances often present themselves that can take away from that experience; namely, water damage, book damage and misplaced books. Following are some suggestions for a successful travel plan of all library books:

Ensure your child’s library book is protected by a plastic, zipper bag and that the zipper is done up.

If a book does come in contact with liquid, please let me know immediately and I will try to rescue it.

Books and water, pets and younger siblings just don’t play well together. Find a convenient spot to keep your child’s library book so they know where to put it when they are done reading it for the day and they can find it to return on their library day.

If a book is misplaced please contact me for further information.

Thank you for your support and respect!

Unfortunately a number of books went missing or were damaged last school year (a list is available if you’re planning on a book cleanout soon!). As always gently used and new books are always welcome!

Until next time, I leave you with this fun *Mind Trap*

How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?

[See below my name for the answer]

Mrs. De

(Once. After the first calculation, you will be subtracting 5 from 20, then 5 from 15, and so on.)



Youth Development Counselor

Welcome back SWE!!! I am excited to announce that I am SWE 5 days a week this year!!

As many of you are already aware SWE was selected by the City of Calgary Community and Recreation Department to run an After School Program for a 12 week period. This will give students who are registered an opportunity to take part in structured physical activities as well as a variety of other pre-planned activities during the programs scheduled time. If you are interested in finding out more please contact me via email.

In the South end of the library you will find the YDC CORNER bulletin board which will have posted a variety of information that is available to you and your family. Please take the opportunity to check it out, if you have any questions or if there is information that I can assist in finding for you please come and see me. I will update the board as new information is available.

Ms. Eagle Bear
Youth Development Counselor
Kelli.eaglebear@ffca-calgary.com



REACH FOR THE STARS

From The Office

Just a few reminders from the office to keep all our FFCA families safe and secure:



ALL parents in the school need to sign in and have a volunteer tag on. This identifies you to staff and students as an authorized individual on campus. In the case of a fire drill we also check the volunteer sign in book to ensure we have evacuated all guests from the building.

Parents please remember to sign your students in and out if they are arriving or leaving the school after the morning bell at 8:30 am or before the evening dismissal bell at 3:00 pm.

It is **CRITICAL** that you sign your child off the bus or advise the office if they are not going home in the usual manner (such as not going to day care). If you are going to be late picking up your child, please let us know so we can keep these students at the office in a safe environment until your arrival.

All students (arriving by bus or driven) should be using their proper grade entrance and exit doors. At the end of day bus students should go directly to their busses and all other students should have a meeting spot. If a parent has not arrived at the meeting spot by 3:15 these students should come to the office and wait in a secure area.

We appreciate your help in keeping all our students safe and secure.

After School Homework

The south end of the library is available for OCCASSIONAL use as a homework area if that your child needs to complete homework before going to an after school activity. We appreciate if this area can be kept quiet so that students can focus and get their work done quickly. Younger siblings need to be supervised so they do not cause a distraction. Thank you for your support of student learning.



REACH FOR THE STARS