



Contact
Bassano School
Phone: 403-641-3577

Email
daryl.sametz@grasslands.ab.ca
lynn.mclellan@grasslands.ab.ca

Webpage: <http://www.bassanoschool.ab.ca>



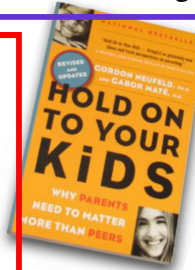
**March
2010**

Thank You Molly Douglass and Mr. Doerksen

Our grade 6 class, which is learning about the role and operation of government, had both special guests in to share their levels of government. The grade 6 class had great questions for our guests. Thanks again!

Relationships Matter: Harnessing the Power of Attachments
Saturday, March 27th 9:00-12:00 p.m.
A Great Free Workshop

Dr. Neufeld is an internationally acclaimed speaker and author of several books. He will speak via video conference with a live follow up by Lorraine Beaudry. Seating is limited book you free spot today by contacting Kelly Christman at 403-6413788 or email: bassfcss@telus.net.



**Music Festival
March 15 to 19**

Once again we are sending our 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 choirs to music festival. In addition, several of our students will be competing individually as well. Good Luck to all and thank you to Mrs. Medeiros, Mrs. Follis, Mrs. Holt and Miss Harshenin.

Elementary SRC

St. Patrick's Day

We will be having a dance from 2:00 to 3:00 and the students are encouraged to wear green.

April 1

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon

Badminton

We are now starting badminton for boys and girls in grades 7-12. See Mr. Hodgson for sign up and Mr. Sametz (Gr. 7/8) and Mr. Singular (Gr. 9-12) will be the coaches again this year.

Thank You to the Bassano Arts Council

Mrs. Jan Armstrong presented 3 of our Missoula performers with a cheque for \$2300.00 to help cover the costs associated with bringing in Missoula Theatre to our school. The Arts Council has been and continues to support Arts Education at our school! Thank you for your support and interest in our students.



Lieu Day March 12

There will be no school for students/staff, as teachers have completed further professional development through after-school workshops.

Canteen Specials

Mar. 10 Pizza Slices
Mar. 17 Irish Stew
Mar. 24 Bronco Burgers
Mar. 31 Indian Tacos

Take your Newsletters home. Congratulations to **Daniel Baek** for winning our monthly newsletter draw and thank you to **Harry's** for providing the generous donation.



BOARD BITS for MARCH

In January, there was news about an arbitration settlement that affected teacher's wages for this school year. Some are unclear as to why this happened and so we would like to present the facts.

In 2007, the Government of Alberta and the provincial Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) negotiated a salary increase tied to a formula: Alberta's Average Weekly Earnings (AAWE) index. In 2008, Statistics Canada AAWE documents demonstrated the increase to be in the range of 4.8% and so Alberta Education based their budget on this calculation resulting in school boards receiving a 4.8% increase to instructional allocations. Then, at the end of March 2009, Statistics Canada revised their calculations on AAWE and the new calculation was 5.99%.

A dispute about the AAWE index formula emerged over the old calculation of 4.82% and the new calculation of 5.99%. The ATA and the government agreed to take the dispute to arbitration in January, 2010. Arbitrator Andy Sims decided the wage increase would be 5.99%.

School boards across the province will honor their contracts with their teachers. This increase from 4.82% to 5.99% will cost Grasslands School Division just under \$200 000 for this school year. The Minister of Education, Dave Hancock, has committed to going to Treasury Board with a request for this funding. In the meantime, this will not affect our students or staff this year as we are able to cover this amount out of our reserves. When facing these kinds of situations, we are thankful that we have reserves which are a result of prudent fiscal management.

The Government of Alberta also recently announced that school boards will have no grant increase for the 2010/2011 school year. Although we appreciate that Education did not receive any cuts in these very difficult fiscal times, there will be challenges in covering increased operating costs and salary increases without a corresponding funding increase. We have yet to calculate the overall impact on Grasslands, but we will keep stakeholders informed as we move forward. As we face these challenges, our focus will continue to be on our students' learning, achievement and success.

GRASSLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS - LEARNING...ACHIEVING...SUCCEEDING

Jr./Sr. SRC

Will be holding a dance on Friday, March 5.

Hush Day for St. Patrick's Day

Grad/Scholarship Meeting

Parents/graduates are encouraged to attend a meeting on March 24.

Wet and Muddy Weather and Shoes

Please have a change of shoes for our school the wet and muddy weather has made it extra difficult to keep our school clean. Shoes with dirt will not be permitted in the gym.

Armando's RESTAURANT

Return this slip signed by your parent/guardian, and you may be the lucky winner of a \$20.00 gift certificate graciously donated by Armando's, a proud business partner of Bassano School and our February Sponsor of our monthly newsletter.

Parent/Guardian Newsletter Please Print

Student Name