

"In The Web"

APRIL 2011



403-527-4541

Webster Niblock School News

School Council

Happy April to everyone! We hope everyone had a fantastic time at our 70's Family Dance and a big congratulations to our raffle winners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who were involved in making this dance such a success! A special thank you goes out to Kevin and Teresa Nugent for providing the swim passes that were used for prizes in the "spot" dances. You guys rock!

A big "thank you" goes out to the Webster Niblock Action Team for volunteering to take over the Campbell's Labels for Education Project. They will be hard at work counting those soup labels and choosing some great products to enhance our school's Phys. Ed. and intramural programs.

Our next Hotdog day will be held on Friday April 8th, 2011. All orders are due on Monday April 4th, 2011. Our theme for this Hotdog Day will be "Silly Pajamas"!

Our Webster Niblock School Council bulletin board at the front of the school will be undergoing a few changes over the next few weeks to help make this our "go-to" place for all things Council related. We will be posting the minutes from our latest meetings, any School Council happenings within the school and a Help Wanted Volunteer Job board for parents interested in helping out at various school events. If there are any parents who might be interested in helping keep our bulletin board up to date please contact Christina Schmidt @ (403)527-5495.

Our last meeting of the Webster Niblock School Council for this school year will be taking place on Thursday May 12th, 2011. This meeting is our election meeting. We have several positions opening on our Executive. There has never been a better time to join our School Council and help keep Webster Niblock the best school in Medicine Hat. The positions that are up for election will be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The individuals vacating these positions will be more than happy to help their successor learn the ropes. Each of these positions are a two year commitment and will not begin until the first Council meeting in September. If you have any questions about these positions please call Heather Street at (403) 529-1346.

That's all we have for this month. Please come join us at our next Webster Niblock School Council meeting on Thursday April 14th, 2011 at 6:30pm. As always, babysitting is provided free of charge!

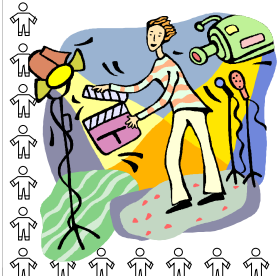


Groovy Smoothie Smurf Committee

A big thank you goes out to all who have supported our smoothie sales. We hope you have been enjoying these delicious and healthy treats! This past month, we were fortunate to have Major Murray from the Salvation Army visit our classroom where we presented our donation of \$150.00 dollars. He talked about how our support could reach many people in our community. It was so great having him speak to us. Our recent smoothie sales (in support of anti-bullying) will be donated to the SPCA. Watch for future posters and information about our next sale.

The Granny Awards

The cast of the Granny Awards performed at our MHSD Telethon on March 13. They did a great job and were excellent representatives of our school! Rehearsals continue on Tuesdays at lunch and Thursdays after school. A date for our performance will be announced once final arrangements have been discussed. Please watch for notices. If you are able to help with costumes or props, please contact Mrs. Donner, Ms. Bryan or Mrs. Reiniger. Thank you!





Parking Lot:

Everyone is reminded the parking lot is for staff and handicapped parking only. Parents dropping students off should not use the parking lot to do this as it is not safe for our students. The Medicine Hat Police will be ticketing vehicles that are parked in handicapped parking without proper stickers and will be checking school parking lots on a regular basis.

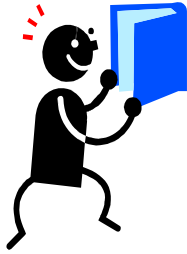


Mark this date on your calendar: Safety City will be hosting a "Bike Rodeo" at Webster Niblock School on May 26th from 4-7pm. This is hosted by Safety City and is for all children and parents in the community. Students are invited to bring their bikes and helmets. There will be more information available closer to May.



Library news

Spring is finally here and it's time to buy more books for our Library. The Library committee will be shopping again to find new books and even replace some books that have been worn out from all the many, many times these books have been checked out to our fabulous students. Our students are becoming very discerning readers! Thank you Parent Council for your continuing support of our Library! (Did you see our Flash Mob on Channel 10?? .. Great job Webster Niblock!)



Safety City Presentation: Country Caution

This is a Farm Safety Presentation on Friday, April 1:



Grade 1B & 1G @ 1:00 pm
 Grade 1L & 1/2D @ 1:30
 Grade 2B & 2K @ 2:00
 Grade 3's @ 9:00
 Grade 4's @ 9:45
 Grade 5's @ 10:45
 Grade 6's @ 11:30



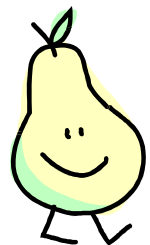
Rm.14 Garage Sale!

In addition to Education week, the Grade Sixes will be having a Garage Sale on Friday, May 6 at noon. Please support their decision to leave a legacy as they will be purchasing fidget tools and other items in relation to our Building Capacity Project even though they will be leaving for high school in the fall. More details will be sent out closer to the date.



Health & Wellness Committee

Green Day was a huge success! Students looked great decked out in their green clothing and many got to try a great assortment of green fruits and veggies. It seemed just as popular on the next day when every classroom got to eat what was left! February had the Healthy Heart, Healthy Eating Campaign. Winning classes of the trophy included Mrs. Aldous (2 weeks) and Mrs. Lunge's classes. Students in the top classes: (Aldous, Lunge, Ethier, Haynes, Weidemann) enjoyed food awards of fruit kebobs, frozen yogurt tubes, and meat and crackers. The district Healthy Habits Challenge took place in March. Adults and students participated and were tracked. Top scoring students were announced weekly and large prizes were drawn. Winners will be announced in a future newsletter. Thank-you very much to the following action team members that helped serve food for Green Day, calculate points, do announcements, etc. and the teachers that pitched in to help, and the parents that helped cut fruit and veggies, or lent us equipment.



Education Week 2011



Education Week
2011, May 2 – May 6

The Heart of our Communities

Engaged, Ethical,
Entrepreneurial.

We will be the "Heart of our Community."
Through our educational experiences, we will
"show case" the vast amount of learning
opportunities our school and extended community
has to offer for student learning.

Weekly Events @ WEBSTER NIBLOCK

- * **Monday** - Assembly to show students video of "flash-mob" of "Gotta Keep Reading" to exemplify SYNERGY.
- * **Tuesday** - "Be Fit For Life" will be visiting to do the following workshops: yoga, resistance bands, minute to move, and mini robotics. These workshops focus on the body, mind, and spirit.
 - "Gently used" book sale - bring in children's books for sale by Monday, May 2. Books will cost \$0.25 for 1 or \$0.50 for 3.
- * **Wednesday** - Student Convention - students will participate in three individually chosen learning sessions, similar to a "teacher's convention."
- * **Thursday** - "Be Fit For Life" returns.
 - "Gently used" book sale at lunch hour returns.
- * **Friday** - Community Group Picnic. Bring your picnic blanket.
 - Garage Sale - the 6R class will be holding a sale. Bring your money.



Medicine Hat School District No. 76

601 – 1st Avenue S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 4Y7 Fax: (403) 529-5339 Phone: (403) 528-6701

March 17, 2011

Dear Parents:

Re: A Message to Parents Concerning Education Budget Announcements

The trustees of Medicine Hat School District No. 76 want to keep you informed about how the recent budget announcements from the Government of Alberta have presented a challenge to us in our efforts to continue to provide a top quality education to your children. In order to do this a little background information is useful.

Firstly, you should know that local school jurisdictions have only the revenue provided by the provincial government. Four years ago the government made a deal with the Alberta Teachers' Association that guaranteed salaries would increase according to a set formula. Previously, local school boards would negotiate with their own teachers to set wage increases. The provincial government believed at the time that this agreement would bring "labour peace" for five years. Local school boards across the province, including Medicine Hat School District No. 76, agreed to work with the government and the ATA to implement this agreement if the government guaranteed they would increase funding to the boards to cover the costs of these higher salaries. The government gave such a guarantee in writing. In the next year (school year 2011-12) that formula requires that teachers receive a salary increase of 4.4%.

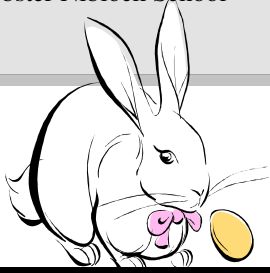
Secondly, you need to know that the government provides money to school boards in a wide variety of grants. There is the "basic grant" and then there are a whole series of other grants. It is true that the government increased the "basic grant" by 4.4%. In the case of M.H.S.D. #76 this grant increase amounts to \$1,863,000. Thus the government claims that they have fulfilled their commitment to fund the salary increases. It is also true that the government has cut, and even eliminated, other grants. In our case these budget cuts amount to \$1,739,000 by the end of the 2012-13 school year. In effect, the provincial government has put money in one pocket while immediately removing it from our other pocket. Consequently, the government has put us in a position of being required to increase our salary expenses by far more than the dollars they provide to cover those required expenses. Unless some adjustments are made, our board will have a huge annual deficit of almost \$1.7 MILLION. Clearly this is unsustainable and some adjustments will have to be made.

Over the next two months we will work to put together a proposed budget with a view to do all we can to minimize the impact on children in the classroom. As has been our practice, we will release that proposed budget to the public in advance of any final approval by the Board of Trustees. We ask your patience with this process, and we will continue to keep you informed as updated information becomes available.

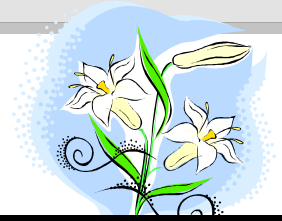
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Riley".

Terry Riley
Chair, Medicine Hat School District No. 76



April 2011



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					<p><i>1</i> <i>April Fool's Day</i></p> <p><i>Safety City Presentation</i></p> <p><i>NO School for Kindergarten Students</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i> <i>Money due for Hot Dog Day</i></p> 	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i> <i>Hot Dog Day – Theme: "Silly P.J.'s"</i></p> 	<p><i>9</i></p>
<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i> <i>School Council Meeting 6:30pm</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p>
<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> <i>Good Friday</i> <i>No School</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>
<p><i>24</i></p> 	<p>Easter Holidays</p>					
	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>