

###### Important Dates

Apr. 3: First day back after Spring Break  
Apr. 5: Outdoor Ed GPS Field Trip; 9:00-1:00 PM  
April 6: Gr. 5/6 Mandatory Outdoor School Parent Meeting, 6:00-7:00 PM

April 5: Mandatory Band Outdoor Camp meeting; 7:00PM; DGS  
Apr. 6: School Council; 7:00 PM  
Apr. 7: Friday 2 (5A,6A,1B,2B)  
Apr. 14: Good Friday (no school)  
Apr. 17: Non-Instruction (no school)  
Apr. 18: Senior Badminton @ Ian Baz  
Apr. 19: Intermediate Badminton @ Dr. George Stanley  
Apr. 20: Junior Badminton @ Henry Wisewood  
Apr. 20: Gr. 7 Calgary Zoo   
Apr. 21: Gr. 7-9 CTF Block 3 ends  
Apr. 21: Friday 3 (3B,4B,5B,6B)  
Apr. 24: Gr. 7-9 CTF Block 4 begins  
Apr. 26: Gr. 9 Composite Photo  
Apr. 27: Celebration of Learning; 5:00-6:30 PM  
Apr. 27: Open House; 6:30-7:30 PM  
Apr. 28: Friday 1 (1A,2A,3A,4A)

# Newsletter | April 2017

**ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE**

Modern spring break was started in the 1930s by a New York swim coach who was looking for a warm place to keep his swimmers in shape over the winter. It has since become a tradition celebrated by both students and teachers alike. And, now that everyone’s had a bit of time to relax and to recharge, we are ready to celebrate and to conquer our final months of school.

Staffing Updates

A special thank you is given to Ms. Renkema who has transitioned smoothly into the Grade 9 Humanities, Grade 5-6 French, Grade 7-9 French, and Sports’ Medicine teaching assignment. Ms. Renkema is currently working very closely with Mr. Pellatt, who is away on a Medical Leave (and, who I know is anxious to come to school!) to support the classroom learning.

With Mr. Heeg’s departure, we anxiously await news regarding a new daytime caretaker. In the meanwhile, we are fortunate to have a variety of guest caretakers in the building.

School Development Plan

As a staff, for our professional development, we continue to explore, to analyze and to study deep impact literacy strategies within each discipline:

*Close, analytic reading stresses engaging with a text of sufficient complexity directly and examining meaning thoroughly and methodically, encouraging students to read and reread deliberately. Directing student attention on the text itself empowers students to understand the central ideas and key supporting details. It also enables students to reflect on the meanings of individual words and sentences; the order in which sentences unfold; and the development of ideas over the course of the text, which ultimately leads students to arrive at an understanding of the text as a whole. (Partnership for Assessment Readiness for College and Careers, 2011, p. 7)*

And, finally, spring in Calgary means a little bit of everything – snow, sun and rain – and that’s just in a morning. Please make sure that your child dresses for the weather: lots of layering, a cap, and proper footwear.

Brenda Lewis

**Grade 5/6 Outdoor School Mandatory Parent Meeting (April 6th; 6:00-7:00 PM in the Library)**

All grade 5/6 parents are required to attend a mandatory parent meeting regarding Outdoor School. A council from Camp Chief Hector will review expectations, itinerary, food services, packing, and much, much more. Students will be attending Camp Chief Hector on June 5-9th.

**RTA Celebration of Learning (April 27th; 5:00-6:30 PM)**

Make sure to mark April 27th on your calendars! Students and teachers from RTA will be showcasing their learning throughout the building: from music, drama, construction and core, there will be a little bit of something for everyone.

**RTA Open House (April 27th; 6:30-7:30 PM)**

Following the Celebration of Learning, new RTA families are invited to spend some time touring RTA, giving parents and students an opportunity to view the amazing work, to asking question, and to familiarize them with the building.

**Grade 7-9 Options – Last Block**

Grade 7-9 students will be finishing their third block of options on Friday, April 21st. Students will then have an opportunity to choose two more classes, prior to the end of the year.

The feedback from students regarding the CTF design has been quite positive this year. We are currently looking at ways to include parent voice in the course selection as well. There have been definite pros and cons to having students select courses at the end of each block.

**Parent Teacher Conferences**

March marked the last set of Parent Teacher Conferences for the 2016-2017 school year. In an effort to foster communication, option bookings were also made available to interested families. As always, we value your input and your interest in moving the learning forward.

**The Acknowledgement of the Land**

The CBE has chosen to have all schools commence school-wide assemblies or celebrations with an acknowledgement of the land and its’ First Peoples, as our Elders have taught us it’s important to acknowledge the land where we gather and the first peoples who traditionally lived here. It shows respect for people, their contributions and their ways of knowing, which are reflected through the stories and songs that have lived on this land for thousands of years.

The exact statement that will be read across the assemblies is as follows: “We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut’ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Metis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.”

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