

###### Important Dates

Dec. 1: Outdoor Ed. GPS Excursion Fish Creek Park

Dec. 1: Basketball Sr. Boys 8:00 am, Jr. Boys 3:30 pm  
Dec. 2: Non-Instructional - no school  
Dec. 5: Basketball Jr. Girls 8:00 am, Sr. Girls 3:30 pm  
Dec. 6: Basketball Jr. Boys 8:00 am, Sr. Boys 3:30 pm  
Dec. 7: Gr. 5 & Gr. 9 Vaccinations

Dec. 7: Basketball Sr. Girls 8:00 am, Jr. Girls 3:30 pm   
Dec. 8: Basketball Sr. Boys 8:00 am, Jr. Boys 3:30 pm  
Dec. 9: Friday 3 (3B,4B,5B,6B)  
Dec. 16: Friday 1 (1A,2A,3A,4A)  
Dec. 16: Last day of classes before Winter Break

Dec. 16: School Dance  
Dec. 16 - Jan.2: Winter Break  
Jan. 3: Non-Instructional – no school  
Jan. 6: Friday 2 (5A,6A,1B,2B)

# Newsletter | December 2017

**ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE**

I would like to thank all of the families that were able to attend our recent Parent Teacher Conferences in November. It’s definitely a long week for teachers, and I would like to thank them for their passion and dedication in supporting our students’ growth and development. Furthermore, we are very fortunate to have such an involved parent community. Your input is a valuable piece of the larger learning picture; and we truly believe that we all need to work together. Understandably, 10 minutes may not be enough time to discuss your child’s learning profile, (basically, I correlate the time with the number of core spots needed; and, this year, I needed at 85 at the grade 9 level); if you have any further questions or would like to meet with your child’s teacher, I would encourage you to contact them via email or through Michelle in office at 403-777-7520.

Please help us in welcoming Ms. Sharon Remkena into the RTA family. Ms. Remkena joined R.T. Alderman last Wednesday, assuming Ms. MacKay’s role as Cluster/Resource teacher, while Ms. MacKay is away on a medical leave. Ms. Remkema is an experienced educator, with a very rich background: a *Certificate of CPD in Mentoring*; a *Post Graduate Diploma in Disabilities and Inclusive Education*; a *Bachelor of Education* with a Specialization in Special Needs and a *Bachelor of Arts*, Major in History and Minor in Classical Studies.

In the spirit of giving, RTA and DGS staffs, students and families are invited to help brighten the holidays for many struggling Calgary families.  Donations of either non-perishable food items or unwrapped toys will be collected at RTA until December 15. Furthermore, all donations will be matched by charity partners. Thank you for your support.

And finally, as December makes it quick decent upon us, the cold weather, too, can surprise us all. Please assist us in making sure that your child comes to school ready for the winter weather – winter coats, mittens/gloves, hats and boots – all make for much happier students!

Wishing all of our RTA families a wonderful winter break, in advance,

Brenda Lewis

**Me to We Club**

With a goal of creating social awareness and supporting transformational change, the *Me to We Club* hopes to raise money this year to support a water initiative, connected to education. At this point, we haven’t pinpointed a specific project, but, we are very excited in moving forward. In fact, Me to We sold cookies and drinks during Parent Teacher Conferences (1:00-400PM), raising almost $200! RTA students are leaders and they want to make a difference. Stay tuned for more information regarding the last week of school in December, as Leadership joins forces with Me to We, infusing school spirit with fundraising.

**Green Wall Project**

RTA staff and students are busy collecting green 2 Litre pop bottles in hopes of building a Green Wall in our front foyer. Living walls can act as a natural air purification system, by filtering out airborne contaminants, pumping out oxygen to revitalize the air and even regulating humidity levels, which has been shown to reduce the effects of the flu. Numerous studies have demonstrated that living walls have an overwhelmingly positive effect, increasing productivity, improving air quality, reducing stress levels, improving cognitive function and even increasing creativity (http://www.prnewswire.com/).

**Report Cards**

There are two formal report cards per year. The first report card will be sent home on January 27th, and the second June 29th, 2017. Achievement is reported using achievement indicators (1, 2, 3, and 4) against report card stems directly related to the Program of Studies.

Citizenship, Personal Development and Character are demonstrated in and through learning. While the assessment of these aspects are separate from Academic Success, the way in which they are demonstrated and experienced is always through the learning experience. In grades 5-9, the summative scale (EX, EV, EM and SR) will be used twice a year, indicating the extent to which a student's personal approach to learning has impacted their overall success.

In is important to recognize that student understanding is based on a varied body of evidence: observations, discussions, conversations, projects, assignments, texts, demonstrations, etc. Determination of student achievement does not include consideration of the supports a student accesses during learning. All students access support during learning. Teachers provide ongoing, instructional support to all students, as they develop understanding of the learner outcomes from the Programs of Study. Teachers design instruction and work with individual students and groups of students, so that each learner in the classroom has the best opportunity to learn.

## Impacted Schools Update (from CBE Website)

Throughout 2016, the CBE has been gathering feedback from staff, parents, students and communities affected by the new schools opening. Employee participation in this process is important, and the CBE has been working collaboratively with schools to ensure the voices of those affected are heard.

As a result of the overwhelming response to date, the CBE havs adjusted their original timeline, to allow more time for affected communities to learn about what the changes may mean for them.

An online survey is now available for staff, parents, students and the general public to provide feedback on the scenarios being considering for the future use of learning space. Please copy and paste the following link: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/cbe-area5/> to complete the survey. **Complete the survey by Dec. 5, 2016.**





