

###### Important Dates

May 2: School Council Special Meeting AM

May 3 & 4: Band Camp
May 5: Friday 2 (5A, 6A, 1B, 2B)
May 8: Track and Field Meet
May 9: Gr. 9 LA PAT: Part A (9:00 AM)
May 11: Gr. 6 LA PAT: Part A (9:00 AM)
May 11: School Council; PS; MPA Meetings (7:00 PM)
May 12: Friday 3 (3B, 4B, 5B, 6B)

May 18: Spring Dance (PM) May 19: Non-Instructional Day (no school)
May 22: Victoria Day (no school)
May 25: Gr. 9 RTA Ceremony (5:00-5:45 PM)
May 25: Gr. 9 @ Heritage Park (6:30-10:00 PM)
May 26: Friday 1 (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A)

June 2: Friday 2 (5A, 6A, 1B, 2B)

June 2: RTA Pep Rally (AM)

June 2: Welcome New Families to RTA (1:45-2:45 PM)

# Newsletter | May 2017

**ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE**

Well, the weather has certainly led to some confusion regarding the correct season; but, I assure you that spring has come. And, given the amazing year, we have so much to celebrate.

First, I would like to thank all of the families who shared in their children’s learning during our recent Celebration of Learning. We really do have it all at RTA: from eyeballs to cookies, clubs to construction, music to theatre, literacy to art, and so much more. It’s amazing to see the difference that students and teachers can make in a singular year.

As well, we would like extend a special thanks to all of the students who volunteered their time and who showcased their work for last week’s Open House. The feedback from visitors was very positive. It’s great to know such excitement and wonder will be joining our family in September.

Due to strong commitment and support, and a bit of creativity, RTA Band students, along with DGS Band Students, are headed to an amazing and most likely exhausting two day Band Camp on May 3 & 4th. A special thanks to everyone that worked so hard to make this happen.

Staffing Updates: As we look to launch our new Science Alternative Program, I would like to introduce two new teachers coming to RTA in September: Adam Barnec and Karen Burkell. Both teachers bring a rich and passionate science background to the school, combined with experienced task design and a zest for creativity. We look forward to working with our new team in the very near future.

As always, please visit the RTA website for the latest news and updates. Our doors are always open; sometimes busy, but definitely open. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please email me at rtalderman@cbe.ab.ca.

Brenda Lewis

**Next Year’s Demographics**

While RTA’s new Science Alternative Program has reflected considerable interest, with the new schools opening and with a decline in the regular program, we are projected with only a slight increase in numbers next year. At this point, we are asking families who will be leaving RTA next year, to let the office know as soon as possible. This information will help guide our timetabling and staffing.

**Cellphones and Personal Technology**

Cellphones and personal technology can be valuable assets in the 21st century classroom. That being said, they can also be a notable disruption to classroom learning. Currently, students are allowed to use their devices during personal breaks in the day – lunch time, bus ride, and, after school. In some cases, teachers will ask students to bring their devices for various assignments and projects – music literacy, reading, researching etc. However, unless indicated, all electronics should be turned off and placed in lockers or away, as to avoid distraction.

**RTA Stories**

As a new member of the RTA family, I’ve been quite interested in our building’s history. Rarely a day passes, where I don’t hear story from someone regarding their connection to the school: a grandparent, a mother, etc.. I have learned that at one point, RTA had a Hippo as a mascot: Artie (say it out loud, it makes sense). Then in an effort to rebrand themselves, as a bit more *menacing*, RTA adopted a snake – an anaconda, in fact. There are a few different versions of the snake floating around, some with fangs, some with a snake with no fangs… Moreover, the BLUES has also been linked to RTA, more often in colour vs. musical connotations. If you have any interesting RTA stories that you would like to share (and, possibly put up on our website), please send me an email at: rtalderman@cbe.ab.ca

**Closed Campus**

Currently, RTA is a closed campus school. This means that all of our students in grades 5-9 remain on campus during lunch. Traditionally, students in grades 7-9, in many CBE Schools, are granted the privilege of leaving campus during lunch. There are definitely pros and cons to both scenarios. As of late, RTA students in grades 7-9 have been asking about going off campus during lunch. I’ve explained that this is definitely a conversation worth having – a conversation that includes parents, teachers and students. Consequently, please watch out for a future survey regarding Closed Campus at RTA.

