

###### Important Dates

Nov. 1: Senior Girls’ VBall @ Sherwood  
Nov. 2: Gr. 9: Bring Your Kids to WorkDay  
Nov. 2: Senior Boys’ VBall game@ Louis Riel   
Nov. 3: Wrestling Meet  
Nov. 4: F1 (1a,2a,3a,4a)  
Nov. 7 Conference Manager

Nov. 8: Senior Girls’ VBall game @ Sherwood   
Nov. 9: Literacy Cohort  
Nov. 9: Gr.7-9 CTF Last Day for Block 1 Classes  
Nov. 9: Senior Boys' VBall game @ Louis Riel   
Nov. 10: Remembrance Day Assembly  
Nov. 10: Wresting Meet  
Nov. 11: Remembrance Day (No School)  
Nov. 14: Gr. 7-9 CTF Beginning of Block 2  
Nov. 14: Senior Boys' VBall game @ RTA   
Nov. 15: Gr. 7 JA Workshop   
Nov. 15: Senior girls Vball game @ Sherwood  
Nov. 16: Senior boys VBall game@RTA   
Nov. 17: Senior girls VBall game @ Sherwood   
Nov. 17: RTA School Council/Association/Band Society 7:00PM  
Nov. 18: Friday 2 (4a,5a,1b,2b); DGS   
Nov. 22: Wrestling Meet   
Nov. 23: Early Dismissal 12:00PM  
Nov. 23: PT Conferences 1:00-4:00/5:00-7:30PM  
Nov. 24: Early Dismissal 12:00PM  
Nov. 24: PT Conferences 1:00-4:00/5:00-7:30PM  
Nov. 25: PT Conferences 8;30-11:30AM (No School)  
Nov. 25: Wrestling weekend tourney  
Nov. 26: Wrestling weekend tourney  
Nov. 29: Wrestling meet 9:00-12:30PM

# Newsletter | November 2017

**ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE**

If you are reading this November Newsletter, it means that we survived another Halloween at school… Interestingly enough, there seems to be a lot less energy in the older kids, than I anticipated. I am guessing that they are saving it until they get home tonight ;)

Given the never-ending exciting nature of change in schools, we have a couple of new things happening at RTA in November. Beginning this week, Michael McGhan’s is moving to a part-time status, teaching students PE in the afternoons. Despite the change in his teaching assignment, Mr. McGhan will continue to play a huge supporting role in our extra-curricular athletics. (Thank you, Mr. McGhan!). Mr. Brown will be teaching Construction, as we move to our second option block, and Mr. Rigg will continue to teach Physical Education to grades 5 & 6. We would also like to welcome Michelle Prieto, who will be joining the RTA staff in November as a Food Services Assistant, helping Kelly McDade in the Cafeteria.

RTA’s *Me to We* students enjoyed last week’s conference at the Scotiabank Saddledown. As special thanks to our parent volunteers and Mr. Schmidt for making this happen. Inspired by speakers and presenters, students will be looking at embracing a global initiative in the year to come. Stay tuned for more information.

This week is the second and last week of our *Jacket Racket Drive*. So if you’ve been holding on to those ill-fitting jackets, now is the time to purge for a good cause and to give them a new life. Remember to label each coat with the student homeroom, as well.

RTA and DGS teachers and students are organizing a Remembrance Day Assembly on Thursday, November 10th. Families and friends are welcome.

Kind regards,

Brenda Lewis

**School Lockdown**

Along with Fire Drills, School Lockdowns are practiced to support the appropriate response, should this be a necessary measure. During the month of November, we will be practicing a School Lockdown. Teachers will be instructing students of their role in this procedure, prior to the practice occurring. This procedure includes, moving everyone to a safe area. Students are asked to remain calm and silent, until the all clear signal is given by a member of the school administration. No one will be allowed to enter or leave the school until the drill is completed. If parents and students hear a constant ringing bell, indicating a Lockdown, they should not enter the school, but, head straight to Maple Ridge School (where they will be picked up after the Lockdown). Should you have any questions about the school safety plan, please feel free to contact the school at 403-777-7650.

**Assessment & Reporting**

*Assessment is on The Alberta Programs of Study are changing, and like many other school divisions in the province, the CBE is redesigning assessment and reporting practices to reflect these changes. We are developing resources to help teachers, students and parents see and understand student progress and achievement. This process of redesign will continue to evolve over a number of years as we work with our schools and parents to develop a rich and varied approach to assessment across all grades and a common report card for  
K-9.  
  
Assessment is not just about report cards. They are one of the ways schools communicate with parents about their child’s progress and achievement at certain times of the year. Assessment happens every day, in every classroom, throughout the school year. Assessing a student’s progress is one of the most important ways we support the continued learning of our students. - CBE Website*

As assessment is ongoing, it can live quite differently for each student, each teacher, and each subject. In applying a multitude of diverse lenses and processes, learning can present in conversations, in tests, in assignments, in group work, in projects, in actions, in connections, etc. Teachers work very hard at ensuring that they are providing students with ongoing feedback to help guide and to help foster individual growth. Should you have any questions regarding your child’s assessment, I would encourage you to contact your child’s teacher, as we want to work together with families in supporting each and every student.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

RTA parents and students will have an opportunity and to meet with their child(ren’s) core teachers on November 23, 24 and 25. Wednesday and Thursday are both early dismissal days, ending at 12:00PM. Conference Manager will open on Monday, November 7th, allowing families to book their interviews online.

Interview Schedule:

Wednesday, November 23: 1:00 – 4:00PM; 5:00-7:30PM

Thursday, November 24: 1:00 – 4:00PM; 5:00-7:30PM

Friday, November 25: 8:30 – 11:30AM

Interviews are scheduled at 10 minutes each. If you need more time to discuss your child’s learning profile and/or learning plan, please contact either the office or your child’s teacher to schedule additional time. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can also contact your child’s teacher to set up a meeting outside of interview times.

**Cafeteria**

With Ms. Peito joining our Lunchroom Staff in mid-November, students and parents will begin to notice some changes in the Cafeteria Menu. As we recognize the importance of healthy food choices, we are striving to better align our food selection with the CBE Nutritional Regulations. For more information regarding CBE Health and Wellness in school, please refer to the link: http://www.cbe.ab.ca/about-us/school-culture-and-environment/health-and-wellness-in-school/Pages/Healthy-Eating.aspx.



Earlier this fall we shared the results of our 2015-16 provincial achievement test and diploma exam results. Overall, our students demonstrated strong academic achievement and we are proud of what they have accomplished. We also know there are areas that we need to focus on, and we are committed to doing that.

In fact, we use these provincial results as tools to help us celebrate and build on our successes, and to target areas for growth and improvement. To that end, I am very encouraged to see that areas we had previously targeted for growth have seen marked improvement in this year’s results.  I am confident that this will continue in the areas we target in the future.

Provincial achievement testing is one of several ways the CBE measures student success. Other measures include report card data, student survey data and the province’s Accountability Pillar. When reviewing our academic results, it’s easy to focus on the charts and numbers. However, we know that behind every number is a student. And behind every student is a team of people, helping them reach their goals.

Thank you to everyone who is part of these teams – our parents, community members and our CBE staff – for all do to help students succeed. These results demonstrate that the resources, both human and financial, we are directing to students in the classroom are positively impacting student success.

**Highlights**

CBE students in Grades 6 and 9 outperformed the province at the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence on 18 out of 20 measures. Students’ results on diploma exams are also impressive. In 10 of 11 exams, CBE students outperformed the province at the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence.

More than 40 per cent of CBE students writing the Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 diploma exams have achieved the standard of excellence for four years in a row.

In Physics 30, more than 40 per cent of CBE students have achieved the standard of excellence for five straight years. This year they reached a new high with 47.9 per cent achieving the standard of excellence.

In Science 30, a subject that had been previously identified as an area for growth, results have increased at the acceptable standard and standard of excellence.

We have noted some improvements in math, and we want to support further improvement over time. Overall improvement in our Knowledge and Employability courses is also identified as an area for continued attention.

I invite you to review our CBE student results by visiting the [Provincial Assessment & Reports](http://cbe.ab.ca/about-us/provincial-tests-and-reports/Pages/default.aspx)  page on our website.

David Stevenson

Chief Superintendent of Schools