



SEVEN STONES

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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@7Stones_School



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner

We celebrated the 100th day of school on February 9th. That means our new building is 100 days old too! We feel really good about the transition to our new space and new ways of teaching and learning! We have lots to celebrate and can't wait to send home Report Cards in March!

February was filled with all kinds of great events! Thank you to our SIAST nursing students and the University of Saskatchewan for the Teddy Bear Clinic for our Grade 1s and 2s. We also enjoyed a book launch from a Saskatchewan author on her new book about the buffalo. Thank you to all of you for attending the goal setting conferences and thank you to the SCC for treating us during Staff Appreciation Week!

March also has a number of exciting events planned! PLC 2 have both a Family Night on the 24th and Agriculture in the Classroom presentations on the 2nd. As well, the Grade 3's begin their swimming program. PLC 3 begins their Heritage Fair projects. They also get to Skype with an astronaut, and go to CRP for Practical and Applied Arts.

We are now beginning to take registrations for next year! A reminder that we are closed boundaries to our school catchment area. Please come by to give your name for registrations for 2015/16!

Sincerely,

Mr. Fladager and Mrs. Gavel



A small group literacy station with Mrs. Onieue.



Calendar of Events

For a full year calendar of school events, please check our website: <http://sevenstones.rbe.sk.ca>

Feb 27 – Belonging Assembly – 1:00 pm
March 2 – Agriculture in the Classroom – PLC 2
March 5 – PD Day, No School
March 6 – Teacher's Convention, No School
March 10 – Parent Forum at Arcola School, 7:00 pm
March 16 – 19 – Dental Clinics
March 16 – 27 – Gr 8 PAA at Campus Regina Public
March 18 – *Imagine No Bullying* presentation from SaskTel & Red Cross with Neal Hughes of the Riders
March 18 – 20 – Optimist Band Festival
March 19 – Grade 3 swimming
March 19 – Community Stories – PLC 1
March 20 – Grade 1 – 8 Report Cards
March 24 – Family Night – PLC 2
March 25 – SCC mtg, 3:00 pm
March 26 – Grade 3 swimming
March 31 – Grade 3 swimming
March 31 – Generosity Assembly, 9:30 am
April 1st – Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying



Clubs, Teams, Arts and Culture

Fiddle – Tuesday afternoon
Full Band – Day 2
Band Sectionals – Day 5
Seven Stones Steppers – Wednesday afterschool
Library Club – Wednesday at noon
HOPE – Friday at noon
Book Club - Thursdays
Niska Boys – Thursday PM
Sage Girls – Thursday AM
Rock 100 – Thursdays at noon
ACT – Tuesday after school
Girls Basketball – Wednesday Games
Boys Basketball – Tuesday Games



School Community Council

Meetings are held once per month, you do not need to be elected to become involved. **Please consider joining us for our next meeting in March on the 25th at 3:00pm!**



High School Transitions

If you have a child in Grade 8 it is now time to be making high school plans. Regina Public has new policy known as the *Family of Neighbourhood Schools*. This means that all students who reside in the Kitchener, Albert or Seven Stones catchment area will feed into Scott Collegiate as their home high school. Therefore, we will be beginning registrations very soon for Scott. Special programming options also exist for students who require them. Please talk to your child's teacher or Mrs. Gavel to explore options. Please see Mr. Fladager about questions the new policy.

The Grade 8 Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for June 24th.



Free Fluoride Varnish and Dental Sealant Program

The RQHR Dental Team will be back in your school soon. Please watch for Fluoride Varnish consent forms coming home to the Pre- K and Kindergarten and Dental Sealant consents for the Grade 1 and Grade 7 students which will include fluoride varnish as well.

A reminder to the Grade 2 and Grade 8 students who were not able to have their molars sealed last year due to the child being absent or not present, those consents are still valid this year, but please call our office to update us if there are any changes in your child's medical history, if you wish to withdraw from the program or have any questions.

To reach us please call our office at 306-766-6320
Please return these signed forms as soon as possible.

More ways to succeed in high school!

Regina Public Schools is implementing a new High School Strategy for the 2015/16 school year. The goal of this strategy is to create more equity of opportunities for all high school students in Regina Public Schools through a student's neighbourhood high school, as well as providing access to Campus Regina Public programming.

This change is important to you and to students because it will more closely align elementary schools with their neighbourhood high schools and provide much greater access to curricular and extra-curricular programming for all students, regardless of where they live in the city of Regina. It will mean a much clearer and successful transition from elementary school to high school. This change comes after consultation with parents, students, staff and the community.

The benefits to all high school students will be:

- Access to a diverse set of quality courses and extracurricular programs at all neighbourhood high schools.
- Access to more specialized programming for French Immersion, and enriched programming, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.
- Students will also benefit from programming at Martin Academy, as well as specific programs for students with intensive support needs.
- All Grades 11 and 12 students will have access to Campus Regina Public courses, regardless of which high school they attend.

All Grade 8 students received a brochure detailing the changes and will also have had the opportunity to learn more at their neighbourhood high school open houses in February and March. We invite you to find out more. To find out more, Please contact your school principal and for more detailed information, please visit:

<http://www.rbe.sk.ca/our-schools/high-schools/high-school-strategy>.



Character Education

We are a Circle of Courage school. We teach and values of Generosity, Belonging, Mastery and Independence. Each month we will focus on one of these four areas and recognize students for their achievements at a monthly assembly.

Upcoming Date: March 31, 9:30 am



SAFETY UPDATES

For the safety of your children, our front doors will soon have a lock on the inside of the front door vestibule. This will mean that when you arrive, we will ‘buzz’ you in to the school. If we don’t happen to see you right away, there will be an intercom to call for assistance. We understand that this may be somewhat inconvenient; however, we must put the safety and security of your children FIRST!

You will also now see new parking signage on both Princess and McTavish Streets from the City of Regina. This is intended to create safe spaces for children to enter and leave the school. Please mind the signage when parking to pick up or drop off your child.



Teddy Bear Clinic for PLC 1 put on by the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine and our SIAST nursing students.



Nutrition

Morning snack is provided to all students at 8:53 am every morning. There is no charge for this program.

New this year to our Nutrition Program is the addition of a Student Lunch Program which will run Monday – Thursday weekly. A different lunch item will be offered daily some being hot and some being cold. The menu for lunches will be posted monthly. Lunches will only be offered thru a purchased lunch card, which must be purchased by noon a day in advance of the student needing the lunch. To allow for adequate numbers required for lunch preparation.

Cost of lunch cards is as follows:

\$30.00 Lunch Card -11 lunches which include lunch, a drink (milk, water or juice) and dessert of the day. \$20.00 Lunch Card- 11 lunches which is lunch of the day only

Lunch Cards can be purchased thru our school online system or by cash to Ms. Shukin, Nutrition Coordinator.

When cards are purchased, a notice will go home with your child when they have only 2 remaining lunches left. This will allow another card to be purchased with a day in advance of the student needing lunch.



Pink Shirt Day, April 1st

On April 1st Seven Stones will be participating in the Red Cross Pink Shirt Day along with many other schools around the province. This is a day where students and staff can participate by wearing pink in order to create awareness to bullying behaviours.

We recognize that campaigns against bullying can only be successful when a year around approach is taken; this day is only meant to increase awareness and serve as a reminder for students to treat everyone with respect.



PLC 2 shoveling volunteers – Generosity to our Community. Great job!!



Adjusted School Day for 2015 / 2016 School Year

In order to maximize instructional time and time on task at Seven Stones Community School, we have been approved to adjust the school day as follows for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you to the SCC, RPSTA, CUPE, LINC and Regina Public School Division for their support in creating this plan that we believe provides the *Best Experience for Students*. This plan puts us in alignment with Albert, Kitchener and Sacred Heart Schools in our area.

Please be assured that this plan does not change any of our high quality programming options nor any extra-curricular options. Transportation times will be adjusted to accommodate this structure.

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|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 9:08 AM to 9:23 AM | Supervised AM Recess | 15 minutes |
| 9:23 AM – 12:00 noon | Instructional time AM | 157 minutes |
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| 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM | Lunch Break | 30 minutes |
| 12:30 PM – 12:45 PM | Supervised PM Recess | 15 minutes |
| | | |
| 12:45 PM to 3:22 PM | Instructional time PM | 157 minutes |

The Adjusted School Day - Planning for the *Best Experience for Students*:

1. *Before School Programming*: Students would be supervised from 9:08 to 9:23 AM.
2. *Recess Breaks*: Instead of the current 10:30-10:45 and 2:15-2:30 15 minute recess breaks, students will be provided with physical education and classroom breaks (such as brain-breaks) in a regulated setting. Students will have positive interaction time with other students during the planned breaks with their classes and familiar supervisors/teachers, thus eliminating most peer to peer conflict time and the time away from instruction spent on daily problem solving and intervention. We hope to see a significant reduction in bullying and conflict management which currently take hundreds of minutes each week to resolve. In addition, up to 30 minutes a day are currently spent on transitioning students in and out of the building for recess. This time can be reclaimed for teaching and learning.
3. *Lunch Break* - The forty-five minute break allows for students to go home for lunch if they chose to do so. Those who stay for lunch will have 30 minutes in their designated lunchroom and will be supervised after lunch for a recess break from 12:30 to 12:45 PM.
4. *After School Programming*: Extra-curricular sports programs, Dream Broker programs, ACT, Jigging, Library club, GSA, safety courses etc. would begin earlier (3:22 pm) and increase time for much needed programs.

This adjusted schedule will run for the 2015-2016 school year at Seven Stones. It will require a new proposal and vote to continue beyond next year. Therefore, we will be soliciting your feedback on the new structure between September and December next year before resubmitting our intentions.

We truly believe that offering your children a slightly shorter, less interrupted and more supervised day, we will be able to increase student time-on-task and improve learning outcomes!

Yours in education,

Mr. J. Fladager
Principal

