



Highlights

NEWSLETTER #34
March 2010

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Trustee

Mr. Edgar Schmidt
Superintendent of
Schools

Mrs. Jennifer Allen
Principal

Mr. Glen Wilcox
Assistant Principal

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL

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 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Foundation for Brighter Futures

Highlands School doubled in size on February 10th when Edmonton Public Schools officially launched the **Edmonton Public Schools Foundation**.

Representatives from the Edmonton Public School Board, elected School Trustees Dave Colburn, Bev Esslinger, Catherine Ripley, and George Rice were in attendance. They were joined by over 200 special guests, including Education Minister Dave Hancock, City Councillor Tony Caterina and Superintendent Edgar Schmidt. The Foundation's Board of Governors were introduced and students from Highlands, Virginia Park and Lillian Osborne schools performed for the guests.

"The Foundation has great potential to tap into the hearts and minds of the wider community – encouraging them to donate their time, energy and resources towards enhancing teaching and learning," says Board Chair Don Fleming. "Inviting the greater public to discover the amazing work happening in our District is a very positive step forward."

The Foundation will be overseen by a nine member, volunteer Board of Governors including Trustee Bev Esslinger, representing the Board of Trustees, and Sandra Woitas, the Foundation's Director. Ms. Woitas has extensive experience with Edmonton Public Schools as a teacher, consultant and principal. She recently returned to the District after spending five years seconded to Alberta Education and the Alberta Mental Health Board.

"It's a welcome challenge to be the Director of the Foundation," says Sandra Woitas. "I am a true believer of public education and the important role it plays in our children's lives. I look forward to working with the Board of Governors to engage the community in our work to support students."

The Edmonton Public Schools Foundation's mandate is to complement the efforts of the Board of Trustees to broaden and deepen support for public education, its goals and its values.

Principal's Message

Wow! What a month February was at Highlands. We hosted two major events that were huge successes.

The first was the *Edmonton Public Schools Foundation* launch, and the second was our annual *Highlands Young Readers' Conference*. Our basketball teams have just completed very successful seasons, cheerleading is still in full swing, and badminton tryouts have just begun. Thanks to our many students and staff members who have acted as positive ambassadors for our school and community.

As we move into the month of March, teachers are completing the second set of progress reports which will be available along with *parent – teacher – student conferences on Thursday, March 11*. We hope to see all of our families out to celebrate successes and set goals for the remainder of the year. **On March 18, we will be holding our Open House from 5:30 – 8:00**. This event is for grade 6 or other new students and their families, although we will be asking some of our students to help out for the evening. If you know of new families in the area that would like to find out more about our school, please encourage them to attend.

The final day of classes prior to spring break is Friday March 26. A group of our students, accompanied by Ms. Eliuk and Mr. Rees will be jetting off to China for the field trip of a life time. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and seeing their pictures. **Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 6, the day after Easter Monday**. Then we'll be on to the home stretch. The final three months of school are very important in setting students up for a great start to their next school year. Even if they have struggled on some units of study, if they buckle down and work hard, it is still possible to make up work and finish the year successfully. Excellent attendance is critical as the weather warms up and summer approaches.

Earlier this week I sent home a letter and a questionnaire related to the selection of the next principal for Highlands School. I hope that you received it and that you've had a chance to respond and return your comments to us. It's important to me that our Superintendent understands the needs and thoughts of our entire school community as he makes this very important decision. As I move on to my new role at the new Dr. Donald Massey School in September 2010, I will take with me, many fond memories of my time here, working with a fabulous school community.

Thank-you for your continued support of the learning of your sons and daughters. Working together, we will ensure that they all achieve success!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Allen



**Official
North East Site of
Pre-Advanced
Program**

**Highlands Junior High Open House
11509-62 Street**

**March 18, 2010
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

We invite prospective parents and students to come and take a look at our school, meet our staff and find out about the opportunities and programs we have to offer. If you know someone who has a child in Grade 6 or new to the neighbourhood, please pass along an invitation to join us for the evening.
For more information, parents may call us at 780-479-4206



The **Highlands Boys Basketball Team** thanks all of the students who supported us this season. We had a challenging and very fun 09/10 season. We will be looking for more basketball stars next season so keep practising! All basketball boys are reminded to hand in their uniforms to
Mr. Phillips. *J Phillips*

The season is winding down for the **Highlands Girls Basketball Team** and despite a few injuries, the girls have learned a lot and had fun. The experience of playing and the knowledge gained will help the team next year, especially as Highlands has not had a team for two years. Congratulations on the season! *A. Boulet*



Congratulations to the **Highlands Hurricanes Cheer Team** on their 2nd place finish at their first competition in Athabasca. Way to go ladies!! Be sure to cheer them on Saturday March 13th at West Edmonton Mall. *K. Eliuk*



Parents are reminded that if you have purchased an Edmonton transit pass in September to December, **you can claim a non-refundable tax credit on your income tax return.**

Since the district sells Edmonton transit passes at a subsidized rate, you require a receipt to confirm the amount that was paid. You are also required to retain the actual transit passes.

Receipts will be issued twice a year to Schoolzone:

- ◆ September to December will go to Schoolzone mid December
- ◆ January to June will go to Schoolzone by the end of June

You will need to print these receipts by the end of June as the all entries disappear when the new school year begins in August.

It is also important for you to note that **DUPLICATE COPIES WILL NOT BE ISSUED.**



Stand up and cheer for the following students in Mr. Grundy's class whose poetry was featured in the Winter 2009 edition of **TAG**, the on-line magazine showcasing student creativity:

Brianna, Helene, Mathew,
Paige, Twila

Check their work out at



Dear Ms Allen:

It was good to see you at the school's foundation launch. I am writing this to let you know that I was extremely impressed with Highlands' students who performed many roles—greeters, MC, authors of rap, cheerleaders, ambassadors Your students showed tremendous pride in the honour of hosting this event.

This result is not produced by accident. Teachers and other members of the school staff team have obviously instilled this pride and the motivation to do well. What I saw yesterday speaks highly of your team. Your school is full of great ambassadors for Public Education!

Ed Butler
President
Edmonton Public Teachers

**Lawton School in association with Alberta Health Services
presents a**

Drug Awareness and Prevention Program for Parents

When: March 9, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where: Lawton Junior High School
11602 – 40 Street**

**Please RSVP to Mary @ 780.471.1052 by March 2nd.
Refreshments will be provided.**

Keeping Kids Addiction Free

There is no single reason why young people use alcohol and other drugs, and there is no simple way to prevent use and abuse of alcohol, other drugs or gambling activities. We know from international research, as well as our own research, that there are both risk factors and protective factors that play a role in determining whether young people will experience harmful effects from substance use or gambling.

We also know that family factors such as effective parenting practices are among the strongest predictors and protective influences for alcohol and drug use among youth. That's why we've gotten together with the RCMP to develop a new prevention program just for parents.

Kids and Drugs – a Parent's Guide to Prevention.

The **Kids and Drugs program** helps parents learn strategies to prevent their school age children (aged 8-15 yrs) from abusing alcohol and other drugs. It goes beyond providing parents with basic 'drug education' to address some of the important protective influences that parents can have.

The evening is broken into four different topics:

The power of parents

Looks at risk and protective factors for substance abuse and the importance of parental role modeling;

Talking with your kids

Looks at communication skills such as opening a discussion about drugs and effective listening and responding skills.

Helping your child make good decisions

Addresses the areas of critical thinking skills and setting clear boundaries and expectations for children's behaviour.

What parents need to know about drugs

Information is provided on commonly used drugs and the risks related, as well as reasons kids use drugs and the signs and symptoms of a developing problem.

PARENT TO PARENT



A weekly drop-in group
for parents

A place to connect with
other parents

Share ideas and discuss
parenting issues

Access community
resources

- Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30
- Early Childhood Programming for 0-6 year olds
- Refreshments
- Free!

KARA Family Resource Centre
6717-132 Avenue
780-478-5396
For more information call Jolynn



KARA receives support from the following funders:

parentLINKcentre



United Way
Member Agency



Government of Alberta ■

What's Up In East



A monthly newsletter to keep members and general readership informed on the events and promotional services provided by The City of Richmond Community Services.

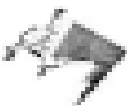
March 2010

Board Leadership 2010—All on Board!

A day-long program of engaging and informative workshops focused on board members of voluntary and non-for-profit organizations. This event will provide a variety of sessions and networking opportunities addressing non-for-profit board fundamentals and new trends.

When: Saturday, March 20, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Great MacQueen University – Robbins Health Learning Centre
 6000 - 104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta



Registration Fee: \$40 (includes lunch and GST)

To register:

visit the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues website at www.efcl.ca or if you have any problems with registration by computer contact Shelley at 780-637-1894

- In this issue:
- 1 RFL Board Workshop
 - 2 City of Edmonton
 - 3 Business Jobs
 - 4 Economy League Day
 - 5 Top 10
 - 6 Curious Not-For-Profit News
 - 7 How To Turn Pro
 - 8 Come Prepare
 - 9 How to Finance It

2010 is the 40th annual PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK!

The campaign's theme is: **OPERATION: Clean Streets**

The program is the largest Environmental Improvement Campaign in Canada. It is a partnership between governments, the media, industry and the public.

Volunteer "Partners" participate in a wide range of PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK activities. How can your group get?

Paint a project, restore a local natural habitat, plant trees, set up a composting & recycling program, clean up in your area.

How to register?

Go to www.pitchin.ca

Registration deadline is March 15th



Caribbean Bazaar - June 2010



A great opportunity to meet of Caribbean. Like a flood, the neighborhoods of Caribbean are strong, vibrant and full of life!

Community groups and organizations will come together at Heritage Park to showcase all the opportunities and engage you in activities. In order to create such a fantastic event they need YOUR help.

If you are interested in helping out the planning committee, please email the Caribbean Area Council President for more details at comprp@caribbean.ca

"Men and Relationships"

April 29-30, 2010

Concentrated Weekend Workshop for Men

To register or for more information, call:

Dean Mackenzie 944-5547

Tony Alford 944-5547



BOSS BUNDS

The City of Edmonton is being a summer recreation staff now. It's don't miss out!



- 3 and 4 month seasonal positions
- 20 - 40 hour work weeks
- competitive wages
- possibility to work in your own community
- skill development

Postings Opened in February 2010

Visit our website for more information: www.edmonton.ca/jobs

CAPITAL CITY CLEAN UP

Capital City Clean Up (CCCU) is the City of Edmonton's new program to recruit labor on streets, parks and public places.

A clean city is a better place to live, work, and visit.

A clean city attracts shoppers, visitors and new business.

A clean city is healthier for everyone.

For more information visit www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup

or Call 311



September 18, 2009

Community League Day - a festival of neighborhoods

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) has set aside the date of September 18th to celebrate and create a city wide community league festival. The main leagues that participate the larger the event' hour' will be. Your community league event can be large or small. League and create an informal event that just lets everyone know what their community league is about, share all the great opportunities you offer, and encourage volunteers to join.



For further information and to get registered to be part of the promotion, advertising and communications please contact: metical.jacob@edmonton.ca

DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR AN EASY REFERENCE

March	11	Progress Report #2 Parent/Teacher Interviews
March	18	Open House
Mar. 29-Apr. 5		Spring Break/Easter Break (no school)
April	6	Classes Resume
April	19-23	Spirit Week
April	26-30	HLAT Writing Exam
April	30	Student Interim Report
May	3-7	HLAT Reading Exam
May	12	Grade 9 Language Arts Final, Part A
May	21	Day In Lieu (no school)
May	24	Victoria Day (no school)
June	16	Grade 9 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test
June	21	Aboriginal Day
June	23	Grade 9 Language Arts Part B Final Exam
June	24	Grade 9 Science Provincial Achievement Test
June	25	Grade 9 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Test
June	29	Awards Ceremony and final day for students, 1:00 p.m. Grade 9 Celebration, 6:00 p.m.
June	30	Final Progress Report handed out – 9 – 10 a.m.



Coffee & Conversation

Highlands next *Coffee and Conversation for Caregivers of Teenagers* is

Thursday, March 4 @ 10:00 a.m.

With speaker Cam Buchanan, Behaviour Consultant

For more information, please call
Noelle Dufort at 780-479-4206.

