



Principal's Message

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Special points of interest:

- Staff list
- September events
- Volunteer forms
- Lunch Arrangements

Welcome back to school! I am excited to come to Carseland School. It is a beautiful school and I look forward to meeting and working with all of the school community to provide the best education for our students.

Besides myself we also have two other new teachers! Mrs. Nicole Armstrong will teach half time grade three. Mrs. Armstrong has taught previously at Hussar and Standard. Gillian Speers will be the new Early Literacy teacher at Carseland school. This will be Ms. Speers second year teaching the early literacy program in the school division . Ms. Speer will be working at the school for the first semester in the afternoon. We are looking forward to the expertise both

new teachers will bring to Carseland school.

While most of us were on vacation this summer Mrs. Baillargeon was taking a week long math course. Mrs. Baillargeon is the AISI math lead teacher. I would like to thank her for her dedication to the students of Carseland and look forward to learning some new teaching techniques to enhance our math program.

School fees this year for grades 1-6 are \$103.00 (includes \$8.00 for daytimer) fees for kindergarten are \$65.50 (includes \$8.00 for daytimer).

The Grade 4-6 can rent locks at the office for \$5.00. This money is returned at the end of the year when the lock is returned.



The Kindergarten program will run the same as last year. Monday through

Thursday 8:40– 12:05.

We have five events scheduled for September. The Highway

Clean-up on Saturday September 13at 8:00am(more information will be sent home soon), meet the teacher night on September 17, at 6:30-7:30 the Book Fair on Sept. 15-18, school pictures Sept. 23, and the National School Terry Fox Run on September 26 during school hours.

A special welcome to all of the new students. This is going to be a fantastic year!

Registration

Included with your child's red folder are several forms that need to be completed in order to accurately register all students. A **separate** registration form is required for **EACH STUDENT**. We appreciate how busy this time of year can be, but stress how important it

is that we have this information from the beginning of the year. Each year we have sick children, students who have not arrived at school, or emergency situations and we are unable to contact a parent because we do not have the updated information. Please keep

in mind that throughout the year it is important to update all information especially whenever there is a change . If you have new information to update your original records submitted at the beginning of the year, please send a note to the homeroom teacher or call the school (403-934-4161).

2008-2009 Carseland Staff

Kindergarten and Gr. 3 Social Studies – Mrs. Sheila Tucker

Grade 1 and ½ Fine Arts – Mrs. Carol Gordon

Grade 2 and AISI Lead Teacher – Mrs. Diane Baillargeon

Grade 3 LA and Science – Mrs. Nicole Armstrong

Grade 4 and ¾ Fine Arts and Health– Mrs. Jodi Carlson

Grade 5/6 – Ms. Kelli Christensen

Grade 6 and Gr. 3 math, PE – Mr. Jeff Grimsdale

Early Literacy- Ms. Gillian Speers

Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Lynn McConnell

Educational Assistant- Mrs. Vicky Wegener

Educational Assistant – TBA
Head Custodian- Mrs. Gwen Rogers



Book Fair 15th-18th

Book Fair and Meet the Teacher Night

The book fair will be held on September 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th during recess breaks and during the evening at Meet the Teacher night on September 17th. You can take advantage of some excellent books at

very reasonable prices and support your school at the same time. Our book fairs are excellent fundraisers for the library and many of our new books throughout the year are obtained free of charge to the

school as a result of the sales we have at the book fair.

Volunteers

Volunteers give valuable assistance to enhance our schools programs. Volunteers have a special place in the school and assist in many ways and their work is greatly appreciated.

In accordance with Golden Hills Administrative Proce-

dures #490. All volunteers are required to obtain a child welfare check and a criminal record check. Please do not let this discourage you from volunteering. These checks are to safeguard your children. The child welfare application can be

picked up at Carseland School and the criminal record is done at the RCMP station. Both are free of charge.

Volunteers are an assets to our school community and we encourage parent to help out when they can.

AISI= Alberta School Improvement Initiative

“Maximizing Mathematics Achievement” is the title of the AISI project for Carseland School. Along with several other schools in Golden Hills School division, we will be working towards improved student achievement in Mathematics.

Current pedagogy in Mathematics aims to help students construct meaning by problem solving and using visualization strategies. Students are encouraged to see many solutions to problems and to apply various methods in seeking a solution.

Ten frames in primary grades, games, and the use of manipulatives are important in mathematics instruction.



Kindergarten Parents please do not send any nut products for snacks as one of our students is allergic. This Canteen will not be selling any nut products this year.

September 2008

Schedule of Events

- Sept. 1 Labour Day No School
- Sept. 13 Highway Cleanup 8:00-10:00am
- Sept. 15- 18 Book Fair
- Sept 17 Meet the Teacher Night 6:30-7:30
- Sept. 19 Flex Friday No school
- Sept. 22 Parent (School) Council 7:00pm Library
- Sept. 26 National Terry Fox Run

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13*
14	15*	16*	17**	18*	19*	20
21	22*	23	24	25	26*	27
28	29	30				



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Early Literacy

It's important to read to your child, but equally important to listen to them read to you. Children thrive on having someone appreciate their developing skills. Listening to your child read aloud provides opportunities for you to express

appreciation of his or her new skills and for them to practice their reading. Most im-



portantly, this is another way to enjoy reading together.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER

Who decides if the buses will run?

Each bus driver decides for his/her route and/or the bus company decides in consultation with drivers. The decision is based on a risk assessment. The driver or company is responsible to notify the Director of Transportation services, the school principals affected by the route closure, and all affected families on the route.

If one bus doesn't run, are all buses cancelled?

No. The decision is route - by - route. The Division is over 3000 square miles and conditions vary throughout. Usually the buses in a general area are all affected. For example, if there is a storm in Three Hills those buses may not run while the buses in Strathmore area may run.

What conditions result in a bus route closure for the day?

If the conditions appear to pose a significant risk to students, then the route will be cancelled. Risks include conditions like fog, snow-blocked roads, extreme cold, icy conditions, and impassable roads due to wash-outs. In Alberta winter driving conditions occur from September - May so the buses are equipped for normal winter driving. Cancellations occur only in extreme circumstances. Often the first inclement weather of the season causes the most difficulty.

How many times do bus route closures occur?

This depends entirely on weather conditions. Based on past experience, on average, a bus route might close 2-3 times per year.

Are schools open when buses aren't running?

Yes. Schools are open to receive children who are able to get to school. Remember that one or two route closures may impact only a few students. Many times a bus route or two is closed but school carries on in the normal way because the vast majority of students are able to attend.

When and why are schools closed due to bad weather?

Schools are closed only when it is apparent that all or nearly all the buses can't run. If the buses can't run, then our staff usually can't make the drive to work either. If there are too few students and/or too few teachers to make school a safe and worthwhile instructional experience, the school will be closed. The principal, in consultation with the superintendent, decides when a school will close. School closures could occur for more reasons than inclement weather, but that is the usual reason. School closures are generally rare events - once or twice a year at most and some years not at all.

If the school is officially closed, will someone be in the building to receive students who may not know about the closure?

Yes. Someone, usually the principal, will be in the school at the regular time to open doors and ensure that children have a safe, supervised place to stay until their parents or another caregiver can arrive and take them from the school.

How will I know if the bus route is cancelled or the school is closed?

If your bus driver calls to inform you, or you receive a call from another parent who is part of a "fan out" for phone calls, you will know that the bus is not running. Route closures are also announced on several local radio stations. If the school is closed, buses won't be running. Announcements about school closures are also on the local radio stations.

Why don't the schools close every time the bus routes are cancelled?

Because bus route closures may not affect even the majority of the students and because parents count on schools to provide child care services, the schools don't automatically close because of bus route closures. The school closes only when the route closures are pervasive and staff, too, cannot safely drive to work.

If the school is open but the bus isn't running, should I drive my child to school?



After School Sports will be starting soon. Stay tuned for more information



Inclement Weather Continued

Use your best judgment. If you live a short distance from town, believe your vehicle is well equipped to handle road conditions that buses cannot safely drive, and you are confident that you can pick up your child if conditions worsen or at the end of the day, you may choose to transport your child. If you choose not to drive, that will also be supported. You are the parent so you can decide what risks you wish to take.

What if the school is open, the buses aren't running, and I feel compelled to have my child at school?

Please don't take unnecessary risks. If your child attends school regularly, then missing a day or two over the course of the year, due to travel conditions will not affect his/her achievement. Missed assignments due to weather can be rescheduled to accommodate your child.

How soon will I know about bus route closures or a school closure?

The people who make the decisions about route closures consult as early as 6:00 a.m. Sometimes the conditions are forecast to improve so the decision may not be finalized until closer to 6:30 or 6:45. If the decision is made to close your route, you will receive a phone call from the driver or a parent who participates in the fan out. If the decision is made to close all bus routes you may not receive a personal call, rather you will hear a public service announcement on several radio stations. If the school is closed, you will hear a public service announcement. It is a good idea to keep the radio on in the mornings when you suspect that a route closure or school closure could occur. If travel advisories have been issued, or the conditions for travel appear dangerous, there is potential for a closure of a route and/or a school. The Division serves over 6000 students so we rely, too, on the efforts of parents to keep themselves reasonably informed by listening to the radio. The Division does not have the people-power to call 6000 students before 8:00 a.m. so your efforts to listen for announcements is much appreciated.

Why should I send my child to school when some bus routes are cancelled, because many students are away, and the class seems to be a waste of time? Do kids spend all day watching movies and playing games?

No. The truth is that under very rare circumstances do kids watch movies. The video materials available for school use are almost exclusively chosen because they support outcomes in the Program of Studies, so a video watching at school is not like video watching at home. It is not entertainment. If you have concerns about the appropriateness or inappropriateness of activities on inclement weather days, please don't hesitate to raise these concerns with your school administrator.

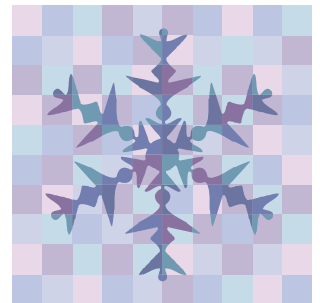
On "snow days," students have a rare opportunity to work one-on-one with their teachers to review, work on essays and other projects, and / or study in preparation for exams. Students can engage in interesting conversations with staff and other students and the small group environment is often more conducive to hearing from students who are reluctant to speak in large groups. Snow days are great days to have your kids at school!

Most of the bus information applies to bus routes for students who live out of town. What about students who live in town?

Bus drivers in town can often drive their routes when closures are necessary for out-of-town routes. If the town buses won't be running, you will hear an announcement on the radio. Town buses usually run in all weather conditions UNLESS the school is closed. If the school is closed, please do not send or transport your child to the school. If you are unaware of the closure, please remember that staff will be at school to ensure your child's safety. Please do not expect a personal phone call. Thank you for listening to the local radio stations whenever you suspect a school closure or bus route closure due to weather conditions.

If a bus route is cancelled in the morning, will the bus run at the end of the school day to take students home who were able to find other transportation to school?

No. If a bus route is cancelled in the morning due to weather or school closure the route is cancelled for both pick up and drop off or return service.



**Grade Six
leadership
elections will be
held soon.**



Carseland School

200 Langdon Ave.
Carseland, AB.
T0J 0M0

Phone: 403-934-4161

Fax: 403-934-4986

E-mail: jgrimsdale@ghsd75.ca

www.carselandschool.ca

The Small School with the Very Big Heart



LUNCH AT SCHOOL

Students who are bussed to school will eat in their classrooms. If you are unable to make alternate arrangements for your child, a parent may send a note regarding lunch arrangements for the entire year, or a note for a particular day. Please complete the student lunch arrangement note on the last page of this newsletter and return it to the school. Our concern is that parents always know where their children are. Students are given 20 minutes for eating their lunch.

There will be no microwaves in the classroom. Any students who buy hot lunch items at the canteen will have their food warmed up at the canteen by a grade six leadership student.

Appeals Procedure

From time to time parent concerns may arise in regard to programming for their child. When there are concerns, parents are encouraged to contact their schools and participate in some collaborative problem-solving. On occasion it may be helpful to bring in a consultant to assist in the problem-solving process. Very rarely concerns are raised to the superintendent and even more infrequently to the Board. If parents are not satisfied with the decision made by the Board parents may request that the Minister of Education may review their decision. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or principal of the school if concerns arise that they have need to discuss.

Golden Hills Fair Notice Letter



Dear Parents:

The Golden Hills School Division #75 is anxious to continue to ensure a safe and caring environment in each of its schools. This letter is intended to serve as a fair notice that we, as a school community, will not accept 'no response' to incidents that intend to do harm against someone or something.

The Student Services Team has developed a protocol to deal with immediate risk, high-risk and worrisome incidents.

These are incidents that may involve weapons, threats to harm (spoken, written or symbolic) or assaults. When a potentially high-risk incident oc-

curs, the Principal contacts the School Consultant who assesses the level of concern and determines what level of intervention is warranted. The Assessment may include a data collection process through structured interviews with staff, students and parents; consultation with other community partners (Mental Health, RCMP, Family School Resource Worker, etc); possible use of a behavior checklist, such as the BASC; and an intervention plan. Findings are reviewed with the student and parents by the Consultant or Assessment Team.

The Division wants to respond in an appropriate and timely

manner that ensures the safety of students and staff, while at the same time respects the rights of those involved in the incident. (Should you wish to review Administrative Procedure #350A, 'Action Guidelines for Response to Use of Abusive Behavior by a Student', please check out our website at www.ghsd75.com.)

Please review this Administrative Procedure with your child early in the school year and discuss any concerns with your school administration.

STUDENT LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

_____ Each school day my child will eat lunch at school.

_____ My child will come home for lunch each day and I will send a note on the days I wish my child to eat lunch at school.

NAME OF STUDENT

GRADE

I have read the September newsletter.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

