



News from the Office

Attending School is a Major Factor in School Success

The actor and director Woody Allen once said that a big part of life is "just showing up". You may or may not agree. But there is no question that showing up is a very big part of school. Your child cannot learn if they aren't there. Both you and your child have a responsibility to get them to school.

Studies show that students who attend school regularly:

- **Do better** in reading and math
- **Are less likely** to drop out. A first step to dropping out is skipping school.

Are less likely to get in trouble outside school. This includes trouble with alcohol or drugs.

Schools where students attend regularly:

- **Are more orderly.** This contributes to a safer school environment.
- **Have teachers** who are more committed to their jobs.
- **Have teachers** who set higher expectations for their students.

Source: "School Attendance," 2005 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook, Kids Count, <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/avenuecity.k12.mo.us/principal/midsep05.pdf>

Start by Being Here!

As part of our school improvement plan, we will be focusing on regular, punctual attendance for all grades for second semester. Our new attendance officer, Ms. Hollie Caron, will be in contact with students (and their parents/guardians) when we notice attendance problems beginning. We know that students who attend regularly will be more successful in classes, and of course our goal is for all our students to be successful!

Hollie will be in touch either by phone or email when students miss classes. As well, she will be in charge of sending warning letters, setting up student/parent (guardian) meetings with admin for attendance discussions, and she will be helping us put students on attendance contracts.

High school students who are not attending regularly may be withdrawn from their classes or the school, and directed to take their courses from Innisfail Career High. Grade 12 students who are not attending regularly may not be eligible to participate in IHS graduation ceremonies.

Grade 8 and 9 students who are having attendance concerns will be contacted, and if they continue to miss school, the division truancy officer will be involved and they may be referred to an attendance board, which may fine parents up to \$100/day for chronic non-attendance.

Overall, our ultimate goal is to have students in the school, participating in classes and being successful in their courses. We encourage parents/guardians, and students to work with us as we shoot towards 100% graduation rate for our school. Attendance is the

February 2012

Innisfail Junior Senior High School

Upcoming Events:

- ☺ Feb 10 No School
- ☺ Feb 14 Parent Council Meeting
- ☺ Feb 20 Family Day
- ☺ Feb 23 & 24 Teachers Convention
- ☺ Feb 28 Band Dessert Concert



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Alberta Education Surveys Are Coming!

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grade 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grade 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school. All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Japan

We have a Japan meeting on Feb 29th, at 7 pm for students and 8 pm for parents. The meeting is at Notre Dame High School, Red Deer. Last payment if not already made is due the end of



February. If you are wanting to travel to Japan this summer, a few spots

have opened up.

2011/2012 YEARBOOKS

2011/2012 Yearbooks are on sale - get yours while the getting is good! The sooner we get sales set, the sooner we can assure you that it will be a first time



ever, full color Yearbook. Be one of the first 200 lucky buyers, at the initial \$35.00 price. For details and ordering please contact Anna Allen or Janice Yeats at 403-227-3244. Limited

number of 2010/2011 yearbooks still available.

Alberta 2012 Youth Stamp Design Contest

- a \$500 scholarship in a Canada Savings Bond for each winner.
- design will be reproduced on an Alberta Local post stamp sheet. The first series of stamps were produced in 2005 and are shown at the top of each of the pages of our website.
- Alberta Local post stamps will be unveiled at the Royal 2012 International Stamp Convention in Edmonton between 9 am and 10 am on June 1, 2012, at the West Edmonton Mall Convention Centre, 3rd floor above Europa Boulevard. Winners are invited to a press conference, autograph sessions and photograph sessions.
- a souvenir package of the new stamp labels and special first-day envelopes signed by the Premier and the Lt Governor. This will include their own artwork with their stamp label affixed in the corner of the page with the proper date and cancel.

The contest is open for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students attending school and living in Alberta. For more information, please click on the following link and see the Entry Rules.

www.albertastamps.com

Senior Boys Basketball



The senior boys basketball team won the Bentley tournament winning all 3 games.

The Cyclones beat Bentley 68-60. Team is 5 and 1 in league play, and have 2 firsts, a third and a fourth in tournaments this year.

This brings the senior boys record to 14 wins and 4 losses this season.

January saw the senior girls basketball team hit the road for two games and a tournament. First up was a trip to Olds High School where the girls put in an extremely strong effort but wound up losing by one in OT! Next the team was off to Sundre High School where they returned to their winning ways in a big way. Finally, finishing off the month was a tournament at Olds High School where the team was exposed to strong competition from Lacombe and Brooks, losing both games but learning much before winning their final game against Olds Koinonia. February will be a busy month as the team plays seven league games and attends two tournaments before playoffs get started on the 29th. You can support the team at the following home games: Feb. 2nd vs. Didsbury, Feb. 15th vs. Olds, Feb. 27th vs. Sundre. Games start at 5:30 in the middle school gym .

Senior Girls Basketball



Curling

IHS has a ladies curling team entered for areas on February 17th and 18th in Ponoka and zones on February 24 and 25th. Good Luck Ladies! A huge thank you to Chris Radomske for coaching and mentoring high school curlers in Innisfail! Team Members are: Courtney Rieberger, Jade Marshall, Sam Peturson, Christen Cooper, and Shelby Leischner .



Upcoming Junior High Basketball Schedule

Home Games:

Feb. 7 vs. St Marguerite

Feb. 9 vs. Delburne

Feb. 21 vs. Koinonia

Games are in the IHS Gym @ 4:00 pm

Away Games:

Feb. 2 @ Mother Teresa

Feb. 28 Playoffs



Celebration Meal

The Home Economics program was proud to show off a talented line-up of chefs, who prepared and hosted the annual Celebration Meal on Thursday, January 12.

The four-course meal showcased the skills and techniques that students in the Foods Program have learned this semester.



The Next Celebration Meal will be on May 17 @ 5:30

2012 Spring/Summer Community Information & Registration Night

You're Invited:

March 6th & 7th

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Library and Learning Centre



Teacher Advisory Group

We are reconfiguring the TA classes for second semester. We would like to thank all those who assisted in developing the TA program for first semester. We have created grade specific TA groups for all students for the remainder of this school year. We only have around 10 TA classes second semester and want to see ALL students attending them!

The TA focus for second semester will be Enrichment and Curriculum support. We have assigned specialists to all grade levels to support areas of focus for our building. For example, in the junior high classes we are focusing on Literacy and Mathematics where students will get extra time for questions, to do homework in their individual area of need. The senior high classes will follow the same format; for example the grade 12's will have specialists in the areas of Chemistry, Physics, and Math to give them extra support time in these blocks along with guest speakers from trades, colleges and universities to assist them in moving to the next level. We are already booking a scholarship application speaker in February during TA time.

We will continue to make changes to TA until we have the exact program operating just the way we need it to.

How Am I Doing?

Currently, as a new principal, I am up for evaluation this year. I am requesting your help in giving me feedback on how I have been doing this year. If parents and guardians of IHS students would take time to complete the following survey, I would greatly appreciate it. Please go to the link provided below, if you would like to give feedback on how the school year is going, and your thoughts on my role in the school this year. Participation is entirely voluntary, and results will be anonymous.

Mr. Pineau's survey feedback link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22EN33PEVNA>

Band Notes

Dessert Concert - February 28th at 7 pm in the High School Gathering Area. \$10 gets you Desserts, Coffee, Juice and great music! All bands will be performing selections at this event. It is a fundraiser for the band program and is a great night out. Tickets at the door.

Gas Raffle!- This month the band will be selling raffle tickets for two \$100 gas voucher prizes from Innisfail Co-op Gas Bar. Subsequent prizes are sets of 5, 3, and 2 premium car washes also from Co-op. Concert Band students are able to sign out booklets from Mr. Bushell and Beginner Band parents may send a written request to sign out booklets. There are 25 tickets in each booklet. Draw will be held at the Dessert Concert on February 28th. Tickets are \$1.00.

Young Song Writers Intensive

Love music? Write songs?

Want to take your art to the next level?

Apply for the Young Songwriter's Intensive!

- Who:** Students in grades 10-12
- What:** **FREE** weekend-long instruction in songwriting, performance and technical production. Instruction, accommodation and meals provided.
- Where:** TransCanada Theatre at the CLC's Fine Arts & Multi Media Centre in Olds
- When:** May 4-6, 2012 (**Deadline for application is March 1, 2012**)
- Why:** Because you love music and the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts, TransCanada and Chinook's Edge want to help you take your skills to the next level! Visit www.chinooksedge.ab.ca and click on YoungSongwriter's Intensive



Career Corner

February is a great time for Grade 12 students to begin filling out scholarship applications.

Studentawards.com is a great source to sign-on to. It uses your profile to find scholarships that match your program, your needs and your special interests. Also if you are planning on attending RDC their awards application is online and the deadline is March 31st. If you are not sure how to access this application we will be having a representative from Red Deer College visiting our school in an upcoming TA block. Listen for announcements on this subject. Any other questions about scholarships can be directed to Ms. Fulton, who has a head full of ideas, a heart full of enthusiasm, and an office full of applications.

On Friday, March 2nd, during the TA block we will be hosting an Alumni Career Conference. Our high school has been a starting place for many interesting and successful careers. More than twenty unique occupations will be represented and all of them will be past I.H.S. students. Already individuals in the industries such as film, medicine, business and agriculture have confirmed that they will be attending. Every student will be able to learn about two different people and their career paths from high-school to the present. Because most of the time will be given over to question and answer periods, this is an opportunity not to be missed.



A Message from the Superintendent

Surrounded by Chinook's Edge Values

Teachers and staff in our schools work very hard to ensure quality learning and to provide opportunities for our students to develop new skills. As importantly, we work to build meaningful relationships and nurture a safe and caring culture where each student feels a sense of belonging. We recognize the uniqueness of every single child in our care and we know we don't just help students learn. We have the ability to help them change their lives for the better forever.

From their first day of Kindergarten to the time they graduate from high school, our students are surrounded by values that guide our every effort in Chinook's Edge. Our division's new Mission and Vision statements bring to life the values that we can all be proud of.

Mission

Chinook's Edge School Division will engage every student
in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging
and believing in them.

Vision

Chinook's Edge School Division will be universally recognized
as a collaborative learning community where learning is
personalized for all students to achieve success as
compassionate and innovative global citizens.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools