

## January 2012

## Principals Message

### Upcoming Dates:

- **Parent Council Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month.**
- **January 12 Celebration Meal @ 5:30**
- **January 13 Student Union presents: Gnarly Neon Dance from 7-11**
- **January 30 Ski and Snowboard Trip. Please see Miss Little.**
- **January 31 School Planning Day. No Classes**
- **February 1 Report Cards**
- **February 10 Non Instructional Day**

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### Looking for Feedback

As we move into February, we always start looking for stakeholder input into how we are doing. Please be prepared for a number of surveys in the coming months. Students in select grades will complete both Schollie and Alberta Education surveys (it should be grades 8, and 10 for Schollie and 8, 10, and 12 for AB Ed surveys). As well, parents will be invited to participate in both the Schollie and Alberta Education surveys. We STRONGLY encourage you to take part in this survey, so we can get a feel on how you think things are going as we make changes around the school.

Please feel free to join us at our next Parent Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, so we can brag about all the wonderful things that are going on in École Innisfail Junior/Senior High School.

### School Successes!

IHS staff has been working very hard this year to identify those areas in our schools that aren't working as well as they could be. We have located some key targets, and are focusing on making some dramatic changes towards school improvement.

While we are doing that, IHS has many areas to be proud of. Over the past 3 years, 5-6% more of our grade 12 students have received Alexander Rutherford Scholarships compared to provincial average. This translates to more of our students earning college or university scholarship money, which is a great thing for students and parents.

As well, all of our grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test results for 2010-2011 were at or above the provincial average in the Acceptable category. This means that our grade 9's last year scored 4% above what students across the province did. (And that was a 7% increase from the year before.)

Finally, our drop-out rate and 6 year transition to post-secondary school rate received a high score on the Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Summary. This shows that fewer of our students are quitting school and lots of our kids are going on to higher education.

While we are very pleased with these areas of our school, we will continue to push forward to raise those numbers even more. We want to provide the very best education possible for our students, and will continue to strive toward improvement every year.

The students and staff in École Innisfail Junior/Senior High School have been working very hard to make school improvements this year. Please take some time to recognize our hard work, and to give us an idea of what we should be doing next. Complete the Alberta Education and Schollie surveys and let us know what we are doing right, and where we need to focus more attention.

### Video Game Addiction: A real and growing concern

A recent study out of the US and overseas reported 9% of elementary and middle school students were considered addicted to computer and console video games. Boys were more likely to become addicted, and that "pathological" gamers suffered mental health concerns and depression at a higher level than children who did not play excessive amounts of games. When students stopped the excessive gaming, their depression, anxiety and social phobias decreased.

"The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) recommends that elementary school age children engage in no more than one hour of screen time a day, and high schoolers no more than two."

To read the full article, please check out this link:

<http://pagingdr Gupta.blogs.cnn.com/2011/01/17/excess-gaming-linked-to-depression-bad-grades/>

### Thought of the Week

*There's always going to be bad stuff out there. But here's the amazing thing -- light trumps darkness, every time. You stick a candle in the dark, but you can't stick the dark into the light.*

*Jodi Picoult*

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Classes Resume	6	7
8	9 Legend: Diploma 20 Level Course 10 Level Course Gr. 9 PAT Gr. 9 In School	10	11 Part A English 30-1, 30-2 9-11:30	12 Part A Social 30-1, 30-2 9-11:30	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Part B English 30-1, Eng. 30-2 9-11:30  Gr. 9 PAT English Part A 9-11 AM	20 Part B Social 30-1, 30-2 9-11:00  English 20-1 Part A 9-11  Gr. 9 School Finals: Science 8:40-11:00 AM Math 8:40-11:00 AM	21
22	23 Gr. 9 PAT Social 9-10:20 AM  <b>Last Day of Classes Grade 9-12</b>	24 Biology 30 9-11 Gr.9 PAT Science 9-10:15 Physics 20 9-11 Biology 20 9-11 Math 10C 1-3 Math 10-3 1-3	25 Pure Math 30 9-11 App Math 30 9-11 PAT Gr.9 Math 9-10:15 Chemistry 20 9-11 Social 20-1 1-3 Social 20-2 1-3 Science 10 1-3 Science 14 1-3	26 Chemistry 30 9-11 Gr. 9 PAT Part B English 9-10:15 English 20-1 Part B 9-11 Social 10-1 1-3	27 Math 20-1 9-11 Math 20-2 9-11 English 10-1 9-11 English 10-2 9-11	28
29	30 Last day to make up exams.  Last Day for Grade 8 Classes	31 School Planning Day  No Classes	<b>Report Cards</b>	Students writing Diploma Exams will be granted an extra 1/2 hour if required.	<b>Please see Page 5 for the Grade 8 Mid Term Schedule. Please note Grade 8's will attend regular classes until January 30.</b>	

## Senior Boys Basketball

The Senior High Boys Basketball team has had a great start to the basketball season. A 2 win 1 loss showing at the Beaumont tournament, losing to Austin O'Brian from Edmonton, and beating Spruce Grove and Strathmore. A third place showing was a great start to the season.

The boys first league game was a win against Carstairs.

On Dec 8th and 9th the boys played in the Chinooks Edge Tournament. The team went undefeated going 4 and 0. The team won the Chinooks Edge Tournament defeating Olds Koinonia 74- 36 in the final.



## Senior Girls Basketball

The Senior Girls Basketball team started off the season in December with a great deal of success in three home games. After an initial setback in the home opener to Hugh Sutherland High School, they rebounded with two straight victories against Olds Koinonia and W.G. Murdoch High to close out 2011. The team has been practicing hard in preparation for league games on the road in January against Olds High (Jan. 9) and Sundre High (Jan. 16) before heading to Olds for a tournament Jan. 27 – 28.

## Hosting Opportunity

We are looking for people to host some Japanese students if they are able. We have a few pairs of male and female students who need to find a place to stay from April 13th to April 27th. There is financial incentive of \$200 for those who host. Your son or daughter does not need to be going to Japan in order to host. Please contact Mr. Andrews @ IHS 403-227-3244 or email him at: [rodandrews@chinooksedge.ab.ca](mailto:rodandrews@chinooksedge.ab.ca)

## Celebration Meal

Once again our students are hosting their Celebration Meal on January 12 @ 5:30.



Tickets are \$15.00 and includes a 4 course meal.

## Report Card Marks A Surprise ?

If you are anxiously waiting for February 1 to see your child's mark...wait no more. Sign up with PowerSchool and have instant access to their marks, assignments, and attendance. If your child is missing school you can e-mail their teachers for missing assignments. There is a Daily Bulletin feature which lists our Cafeteria specials and please make sure to check if you owe any fees. Please contact Val at [ybradshaw@chinooksedge.ab.ca](mailto:ybradshaw@chinooksedge.ab.ca) to get started.

## PE Ski/Snowboarding Trip

Students in PE 10/20/30 enjoyed a wonderful day of skiing at Canyon Ski Hill on Tuesday. The weather was great for a super day of skiing and snowboarding.



## Market Day Projects

On December 21, 2011 our 9-3 Social Studies class participated in a Market Day project. The students designed, marketed and made their own products to sell during our market in which other classes came to "buy" their product. They had been studying consumerism and different economic systems and this project allowed them to have a first hand experience with the concepts/ideas we had discussed in class. The students had a ton of fun and I am so proud of them for all of their hard work!

Mrs. Eystone



## Students vs. Teachers Hockey Game



Students' Union went out with a bang in 2011. We wrapped up our year with a Teacher/Parent vs. Student hockey game. Our entire student body went down to the arena to watch our students compete against IHS, and IMS teachers, parents and community volunteers. We had a blast! The teachers stole the game in the end but the battle to victory was entertaining and eventful. We hope to put this event on again next year! Thank you to everyone who was involved and made this event such a success.



## Wake A Thon

Students' Union, CSAL and the grade 9 girls Leadership class organized a Wake-A-Thon for the school, in order to raise money for the local food bank. The evening was filled with gingerbread house building, organized games, tobogganing, dancing and movies to entertain us into the wee hours of the morning. The kids enjoyed their event-filled evening and were proud of the amount of food donations they received.



### For A Great Cause



Jenetta Rutherford recently shaved her head and raised almost \$500 for Cancer Research.

### Grade 9 Math Review

Grade 9 Math PAT will be written on Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. All students received a Math Review Duotang booklet prior to Christmas Holidays which contained condensed notes, practice worksheets and practice exams on all of this year's curriculum. Please encourage your child to complete extra practice each night, from the booklet in preparation for the Provincial Achievement Exam. Mrs. Baird will also offer extra help sessions to students on Wednesday's after school from 3:30 - 4:30 in preparation for the PAT. If you should have questions or concerns regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Baird at IHS.

### Grade 8 Midterm Schedule

Class	Math	Science	Language Arts	Social Studies
8 - 1	Wednesday, January 25 Friday, January 27	Thursday, January 12	Monday, January 23	Tuesday, January 24
8 - 2	Tuesday, January 24 Thursday, January 26	Friday, January 13	Monday, January 23	Wednesday, January 25
8 - 3	Tuesday, January 25 Friday, January 27	Thursday, January 12	Monday, January 23	Wednesday, January 18
8 - 4	Friday, January 27	Friday, January 13	Monday, January 23	Tuesday, January 10

**Regular Classes for Grade 8 Students until January 30.**

## Career Corner

**Now that the new year is here, all grade 10 students will begin coach approach interviews that will examine their hopes and dreams for the future and discuss the potential steps necessary for achieving what they want for their lives. If parents have any questions or input on this process feel free to contact Mrs. Clark.**

**Before Christmas every Grade 11 student had a brief check-in with Mrs. Clark that reviewed and built upon their coach approach interview from last year. Each discussion included reviewing the number of credits and required courses left to complete for that student and thinking ahead to next year while reflecting on the approaching actions and decisions of grade 12. Grade 12 students have been preparing for graduation through individual interviews with Ms. Fulton. This interview is a requirement of graduation and is very helpful as Ms. Fulton can guide you through post-secondary application procedures and ensure that you are on the road to graduation. Also, now that January is here, the student services office is the place to find scholarship applications, post-secondary viewbooks and information on student loans.**

**During selected TA blocks students have been signing on to the school division's new partnership website myblueprint.ca. This program has many wonderful planning and inquiry tools for students. Your student can log in and plan out their high school courses, take an interest inventory, set SMART goals with specific steps, or even upload current documents like an autobiography or resume. Asking your student about this website is an excellent way to strike-up a conversation with them about their future as they will be able to demonstrate the tools and answer some questions without having to look you in the eye or feel too much pressure.**

## Denmark Update

Danish Invasion steps it up! In September 2012 we will potentially have 40 Danish students visiting Innisfail. We need as many hosts as possible to make this a successful trip for all involved. I would be very pleased to take 40 students back to Denmark with me...please let Mrs. Mobley know if you are interested. Some students have expressed interest in hosting a student but not travelling to Denmark. I may be looking for some families as the date draws nearer. The cost of the trip is approximately \$2000.00 as we may be travelling in August 2012. More information to come in the February newsletter.

## A Message from the Superintendent

### Prioritizing health and wellness in our schools

The new year brings a renewed focus on supporting health and wellness initiatives in our school communities. Ensuring a healthy physical and social environment in our schools can positively impact student performance and academic achievement, and support our goals to help each of our students reach their full potential.

Chinook's Edge School Division believes so strongly in the priority of promoting healthy lifestyle choices that we have established a formal policy on Wellness Education. Our Board of Education believes acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to develop healthy habits for life is critical and, therefore, supports a comprehensive school health approach to wellness education. This involves a partnership with Alberta Health Services to provide resources, information and a facilitator to support all facets of wellness through an individualized approach in each of our schools.

Wellness is a balanced state of emotional, intellectual, physical, social and spiritual well-being, and students, staff and parents throughout our division are working together to encourage growth in each of these areas. I thank everyone whose efforts are supporting this Chinook's Edge priority, and I wish all of our school families a happy and healthy new year!

Kurt Sacher

Superintendent of Schools