

January 8, 2010
Education Highlights

The first week of the New Year has seen our students quickly diving back into their course work. Our Senior 4 students have been very busy for the entire week. Upon return to school on Tuesday they had to immediately start to write the provincial English exam. This is a process exam and it extends over a four-day period. As in the past, I am certain that our students will perform very well on this exam. The individual results will be available before the end of the month and provincial comparison marks are usually sent out in February. Our school based exams start on the 25th. The students have been provided with a schedule and they are all aware of what exams they write on which days. The schedule is also listed on the school web site.

The second semester will officially start on February 4th. We have met with all the students in grades 11 and 12 to ensure that their course selection and timetables allow them to meet the requirements for graduation. Aside from the classes taking place in our building, we also have students enrolled in on-line learning courses and career/technology study programs. These options provide our students with a greater selection of courses which allow them to select programs which more closely match their own areas of interest. If you as a parent would like more information about these options please give myself or Ms. Ballingall a call.

Many of our grade 12 students are in the process of applying for early acceptance into various post secondary institutions. Mr. Ballingall has also been providing them with a surplus of information relating to various scholarship and bursary opportunities. In relation to post secondary studies I would like to remind everyone that the Carrie Anne Van Damme Scholarship Committee is receiving applications for the 2009/2010 scholarship. The Scholarship is open to students who attended school or lived in the R.M. of Argyle and who are enrolled in business related courses at a university or college. Those who have previously applied are invited to reapply. Preference will be given to those enrolled in a first year university or college program. Applications may be obtained at the school. Completed applications should be sent to Baldur School, Box 340, Baldur, MB R0K 0B0. Applications must be submitted to the school by February 19, 2010.

Prior to exams our high school students will have the opportunity to enjoy themselves by participating in their annual field trip which will involve an overnight stay at the Russell Inn. The kids will be traveling to Russell on the 14th, spending the night at the Inn and then hitting the slopes at the Asessippi Ski park all day on the 15th. All of the students have participated on similar trips in the past and it is always an enjoyable event. The kids have all been hoping that the weather warms up prior to the trip.

The Baldur Grad Committee would like to thank everyone who bought December '09 cash calendars to support its fundraising for Grad 2010. The following are names of all the winners from the December cash calendar: Jennifer McGill, Margie Weddall, Elaine Vrooman, Elaine Kavaner, Donna Skardal, Betty Brooks, Joy Dearsley, Frank Kimpling, Maureen DeBaets, Bryden Ronnquist, Barry and Shelly Hacault, Daryll Ronnquist, Gil Langner, Nyles Desrochers, Lori Johnson, Andrea Boulet, Malo Campbell, Brenda Gudnason, Belinda Skardal, Debbie Biles, Doug Degraeve, Wanda Jefferies, Roberta Nicholson, George Hanna, Austin and Bernice Hiscock, Janice Smith, and Crystal Wickens. Thanks again and congratulations to all the winners!

January 15, 2010
Education Highlights

The month of January seems to be flying by, and there is a steady flow of activities taking place at the school. Our grade 12 students completed their provincial English exam, and the marking process started this week. Mrs. Johnston was the coordinator for this task, thus the school hosted the divisional marking and we had 8 English teachers in our building for 3 days to complete all of the marking. The students' results will be included on their next report card which will be provided immediately after the exams which take place during the last week of January. Interim reports for the other grade levels will also be provided at this time.

Mrs. Law has requested that I inform everyone that Family Literacy Day is celebrated on January 27th. Family Literacy Day (FLD) is a Canada-wide awareness day intended to promote the importance of reading and learning as part of family life. Every January 27th, FLD is celebrated across Canada at literacy-themed events such as read-a-thons, story writing contests, book drives, and literacy workshops. FLD can also be celebrated through home-based activities. To participate in the comfort of your own home, try turning off the TV and spending some time with your family reading, playing a word game like Scrabble or Boggle, or writing a short story or poem. As simple as these activities sound, including them in your daily life can improve your level of literacy and significantly increase your chances of meeting your education and career goals. 2010 will mark the 12th year of Family Literacy Day. To prepare for the celebration the government has updated the website with new tips and event ideas. In addition they have made a lot of the material available to download. Visit the official FLD website <http://www.abc-canada.org/fld> to access these materials.

In school sports, it is basketball season and we have numerous teams in action. Mr. McLean boy's varsity team is developing and the guys are playing better with each and every game. We have also cooped with Swan Lake School for girl's varsity, and this has provided an opportunity for our girls who enjoy playing basketball to join a team. At the grade 7 and 8 level we have both a boys and girls team in action this year and the first home game for the girls will be on January 19th against Treherne.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that the Carrie Anne Van Damme Scholarship Committee is receiving applications for the 2009/2010 scholarship. The Scholarship is open to students who attended school or lived in the R.M. of Argyle and who are enrolled in business related courses at a university or college. Those who have previously applied are invited to reapply. Preference will be given to those enrolled in a first year university or college program. Applications may be obtained at the school. Completed applications should be sent to Baldur School, Box 340, Baldur, MB R0K 0B0. Applications must be submitted to the school by February 19, 2010.

Important upcoming dates to keep in mind are the following:

January 22nd → Funky Friday for the Diabetes Association

January 25th – 28th → Exam week

January 29th → Grad pictures

January 29th → Administration Day, no classes for students.

January 22, 2010
Education Highlights

After a frosty start, January has proven to be a very pleasant month and this was definitely appreciated by the grade 9 to 12 students who participated on the ski field trip to Asessippi on January 15th. Weather conditions for skiing were ideal and the 39 students had a fantastic day. We arrived in Russell in time for supper on Thursday night, after which the kids spent the evening in the pool and on the waterslide. It was lights out time at 10:30, although I am certain it was much later before most of the students finally got to sleep. We woke the kids for breakfast at 7am, and we were out to the hill and all geared up by 9:00am. The next eight hours were spent enjoying the excellent facilities that Asessippi has to offer. We left the ski hill at 5:30 so that we could drop off the boy's basketball team in Virden so that they could participate in a tournament. Those of us left on the bus arrived back in Baldur a little before 10 o'clock and there were some very tired kids. Despite being tired and a little stiff, I am certain that many of the students are looking forward to a similar trip again next year.

Skiing all day certainly did not prove to be a hindrance to the basketball players. After being dropped off the bus at 7 o'clock, the boys played their first game against Russell at 7:30. Although they were down by 15 at half, the guys found their second wind and fought back for a victory. The next day the team was pitted against Neepawa and once again they end the first half trailing but were able to claw their way for the win. This put them into the finals, where unfortunately they were just not able to defeat Grey Academy from Winnipeg. The team was still very proud of themselves for their second place finish. They accomplished this while being tired and competing against some much larger schools. Their ability to make it to the finals just goes to show how dedicated they are, congratulations boys.

Not to be outshone by their high school counterparts, the middle years teams were also victorious this week. The middle years boy's team continued their undefeated streak by beating Glenboro, and the girl's team celebrated their first victory of the year against Treherne. All the participants are having a lot of fun this year and they are learning lots of new skills and displaying fine sportsmanship.

The students and staff of Baldur School have once again demonstrated their generous spirit by making a contribution to the Canadian Red Cross for the Relief Effort in Haiti. By combining contributions from the High School and Middle Years student councils, the staff and our Funky Friday on the 22nd, we have pledged \$611.00 to the relief effort. We have also extended a challenge to all the other schools in the division to match our donation. Hopefully our combined effort will provide some assistance in helping the world cope with this horrendous catastrophe.

Provincial exams are out of the way for our students, but they are now in the process of writing their school based exams. Most exams are slotted for the morning from 9 am to 12 pm. If a high school student does not have an afternoon exam, they have two options. First, we recommend that they remain in the school and study for upcoming exams, staff will be available to assist them. If they plan on leaving the school, we request that they provide a note excusing them; this note can cover more than one day. If a student has any outstanding or incomplete assignments they must remain in the school during the afternoon to complete this work. If the students and his or her parents opt to disregard this advice the student will receive a grade of "zero" for the incomplete work and this could jeopardize the credit.

The grade 7 and 8 students also have exams on Wednesday and Thursday, they may also be excused if they provide a note from their parents. If they remain in the school, they will be able to prepare for future exams or get caught up on other work. The grade 5 to 8 students will be wrapping exam week up by hosting a dance on Thursday the 28th. Students from Glenboro will be invited, doors will open at 7:00pm and the kids will be able to party the night away until 10:30pm.

Everyone is reminded that there are no classes for students on Friday the 29th, as this is an administration day prior to the second semester. This year's potential graduates will have to come to the school though, as this day has been set aside for them to obtain their formal grad pictures from LifeTouch.

One more reminder: The Carrie Anne Van Damme Scholarship Committee is receiving applications for the 2009/2010 scholarship. The Scholarship is open to students who attended school or lived in the R.M. of Argyle and who are enrolled in business related courses at a university or college. Those who have previously applied are invited to reapply. Preference will be given to those enrolled in a first year university or college program. Applications may be obtained at the school. Completed applications should be sent to Baldur School, Box 340, Baldur, MB R0K 0B0. Applications must be submitted to the school by February 19, 2010.

January 29, 2010
Education Highlights

Winter has tightened its grip on us yet again. The first day of exam week was disrupted by adverse weather conditions which resulted in school closures. We had been prepared for this eventuality and the students were provided with a backup exam schedule on Friday just in case. This meant that many students had both morning and afternoon exams on Tuesday, but with the extra day of study everyone seemed prepared for this, and the rest of the week proceeded smoothly as far as exams were concerned. There was a collective sigh of relief on Thursday when the final exam was over. The students then had a 3 day weekend to enjoy prior to the start of second semester classes. This should prove to be a fairly easy transition seeing that all of the students have pre-selected their courses and are aware of the timetable format. Students and parents should be reminded that if any changes are going to be made, it should take place within the first week of the semester.

While the students were hard at work inside, Darcy Dearsley and a backhoe crew were hard at work outside in the cold digging up the ground in search of a water line break. Eventually the break was located and they were able to repair the line with a minimum of disruption to the school water supply. Unfortunately the swing set became a casualty during the process. The old swing set was right in line with the trenching and as a result it had to be removed. We are currently investigating if insurance may assist in covering the cost of a replacement. Once we have more information we will proceed forward to see what we can have in place for the kids. The division is also looking at replacing the line in the near future; we have had four breaks in the last few years, so it looks like it is time that we got rid of the old line. Darcy was a hero though to the middle year's students, once the break was found, it was repaired quickly and as a result we were able to go ahead with plans for the middle years dance later in the evening.

The middle years dance did prove to be a huge success. Over 90 kids showed up to enjoy the evening. They had a wonderful time dancing, laughing and running about in the gym. The energy level of kids at this age never fails to amaze me, it seems boundless. I am certain the majority of them would have continued all night long. I would like to thank the grads and the other high school students who helped to organize and run this event for the middle year students. The kids had fun and the grads raised some money for their year end event. The next middle years dance will be hosted by Glenboro School.

Mr. McLean and the high school boy's basketball team received some good news Friday morning. Their recent victories and their improvement over the year have resulted in them breaking into the top 10 standings in Boy's Provincial A Basketball. All these boys love the game, and their advancements have been made through a combination of dedication and determination. They are constantly in the gym practicing and their enthusiasm has even rubbed off on the younger students, and they are helping to groom some future basket players from the grade 7 and 8 classes.

With the Olympics starting in February, we are hoping to jump on the band wagon and get the kids involved here in school. The staff is currently setting up a schedule of activities that will help the kids to get into the Olympic spirit. Some of the activities will be grade based, while others will involve the whole student body. As the details are ironed out I will be providing everyone with more details.

This will be the final reminder that the Carrie Anne Van Damme Scholarship Committee is receiving applications for the 2009/2010 scholarship. The Scholarship is open to students who attended school or lived in the R.M. of Argyle and who are enrolled in business related courses at a university or college. Those who have previously applied are invited to reapply. Preference will be given to those enrolled in a first year university or college program. Applications may be obtained at the school. Completed applications should be sent to Baldur School, Box 340, Baldur, MB R0K 0B0. Applications must be submitted to the school by February 19, 2010.