

May 7, 2010
Education Highlights

At the beginning of this year students in our division from grades 7 to 12 attended an amazing presentation called Rachel's Challenge. Several schools then carried on one of Rachel's activities by developing a F.O.R. group - Friends of Rachel. This group motivates and encourages their fellow students to pass on kindness and compassion throughout their school and community.

Prairie Spirit School Division is sponsoring a student retreat for these F.O.R groups in hopes of sustaining Rachel's message of kindness and compassion in our schools. There are 45 students from 7 schools attending this student retreat located at Winkler Bible Camp. The students will be supervised by 10 teachers from these schools in our division who will be delivering sessions about Rachel's Challenge. The students from Baldur who have volunteered to participate in this worthwhile endeavor are Trinity Chambers, Tyler Parsonage, Teighan Hetherington and Brittany Wiebe.

I know these students will be excellent representatives of our institution and I am certain that they will come back with many useful ideas and activities.

Spirit Week is upon us and the students are immersed in a variety of activities. The middle years and elementary students decided to exert their independence this year and they set their themes up separately from the high school. The daily chosen themes of each age group include:

	Elementary K - 8	High School
Monday	PJ Day	Beach Day
Tuesday	Formal Day	Super Hero Day
Wednesday	Opposite Sex Day	Opposite Sex Day
Thursday	Sports Day	Gobbler Golf Day
Friday	Crazy Hair / Beach Day	PJ Day

It should be a fun week for the students, hopefully the weather cooperates.

Mr. McLean has the high school students practicing for Track and Field, and as usual Mr. Moore has ensured that the middle year's students are also in the process of developing their stamina for the upcoming competitions. The dates for the various competitions are as follow:

- High School Pre-Zone Track Meet - Glenboro on May 19
- Baldur School K-8 Track - May 21 (Rain date May 26)
- High School Zone Track Competition – May 28 in Brandon
- Grade 5-8 Divisional Track - June 2 in Glenboro

These competitions are always a lot of fun for both the students and the parents, so come on out and cheer the kids on. We are all hoping for warm weather by then.

Unfortunately the Parent Advisory Council and the school will not be able to run a swim program for our younger students this year. Deb Roeges has put in a lot of time and effort over the last couple of years organizing this program, and Deb once again put forth a great effort this year. Pools that could offer training in the immediate area were contacted, however, there is a lack of instructors available to provide the lessons. Hopefully this situation will improve, and we can investigate the program again next year.

May 14, 2010
Education Highlights

It has been a very hectic week in and around the school. All grades from Kindergarten to grade 12 were involved in Spirit Week activities. Participation levels were very high at all levels and the kids had a great time. The student councils and their advisors must be thanked for all the hard work and effort they put into making sure that everything ran smoothly. Two highlights of the week for the high school students were the Gobbler Golf Classic which took place on Thursday, and then the sunrise games on Friday, followed by the student appreciation breakfast. This event started a number of years ago, and it has become an annual tradition. Many of the staff members arrive early and prepare a pancake and sausage breakfast for all the high school students. The breakfast is enjoyed by all, and it is a small token to let the kids know how much we appreciate working with them.

The Baldur Community Development Association along with the RM of Argyle also helped the students to celebrate Manitoba's 140th birthday on Wednesday. Gayle Lucas (who claims she did not bake the cake), provided the school with a huge cake designed in the shape of our province. The students in grades 3 to 12 took part in a Manitoba trivia contest to determine who should claim the cake. In the final count, the grade 5/6 class came out ahead and then they graciously shared the cake with the students in grades 1 through 4. Thanks for arranging this event Gayle! It made a great addition to the activities already taking place, and all the grades enjoyed competing for the top honors in the trivia contest.

Along with all the other activities, our grade 5/6 class also traveled to Glenboro to take part in the Progressive Agricultural Safety Day. This one-day event was organized to help teach children safety and health lessons that can keep them and those around them safe and healthy on a farm, on a ranch or at home. Not only was the event educational, it was also a lot of fun. The following reports have been provided by students who participated in the event:

When my group made it to the "Chemical Look-a-Like Station, the first thing we saw was test tubes. Oodles of test tubes! Test tubes galore! Did I mention there were test tubes? We looked at the test tube and guessed which item was safe and which one was a chemical. For example, in one test tube was "rockets" and the other was "Tums". – Jessica G.

MPIC was the fifth station I did and one of the coolest! You got to see what happened when you do and don't wear your seatbelt. I learned that S.R.S. stand for Supplementary Restraint System and Supplementary means to work with help! That means the seatbelt and the airbag work together, NOT alone! – Logan C

Another interesting station was the fire extinguisher one. After we talked about fire, we put on vests with fire cutouts that were velcroed to the vest and rolled on the ground to get them off. Then we shot fake fire extinguishers that had lasers on them. When we shot it at a simulator, the laser would make the "fire" go out. – Austin R

Let's all hope that the sunny weather sticks around for the next couple of weeks because all the grade levels will be involved in Track and Field competition. Our high school students are traveling to Glenboro for a mini-meet on Wednesday the 19th, and then we are having our annual K to 8 Track and Field meet on Friday the 21st. This is always a fun day for everyone involved, so if you are able to attend please plan on doing so. The kids really enjoy having their parents and grandparents out to cheer them on.

May 21, 2010
Education Highlights

Mother Nature blessed our high school students for their Track and Field meet on Wednesday. Our students traveled to Glenboro where they competed under near perfect weather conditions. The intent of this event was to help the students on the Track and Field team prepare for the upcoming zone competition in Brandon on the 28th. All our high school students were encouraged to participate though as part of their physical education program. This had multiple benefits, more kids got to take part and have fun, and some discovered talents for events that they had not tried before. This was the first year that such an event was organized, but it was successful enough that it may become an annual activity.

The weather was not quite as nice on Friday for our elementary students, but they still had a great time. The students were broken into two groups. The kids in kindergarten to grade 2 participated in "Tabloid Events". The emphasis for this age group was on fun and participation, and this was definitely achieved thanks to the high enthusiasm displayed by these grade levels.

While the early years were busy having fun, the older children participated in the more competitive events, many of them participating in all the events in their age category. The students were divided into 6 teams; each team was awarded points based on participation and placement in the various events. The Baldur School champion team was 'MCCCKLONNJ' (first initial of each team member) Members included Callum Jarvie, Chase Desrochers, Chelsea Dearsley, James Gillis, Kristin Labossiere, Natasha Geeregat, Nathan Grenier, Niomi Pantel, Owen Lockhart, Mandy Hendrickson & Luke Wiebe. I would like to thank the students and staff for the hard work they put into running the various events. I would also like to thank the student council and the staff who assisted them in setting up and operating a very much-appreciated canteen. It was also great to see the large number of parents and grandparents who came out to cheer the kids on. We will post the results in next week's edition. The next level of competition for these athletes in grades 5 – 8, is at the divisional meet, which takes place in Glenboro on June 2.

Our Thursday pizza meal program has been very successful this year. The cooperation between the school and Mary's Place has proven to be very beneficial to all involved. Due to all the activities in June, this meal program ends on May 27. The Tuesday hot dog program will also end on the 25. If everyone is agreeable, we have full intentions of resuming these programs in the fall. There is one more chance to avoid packing a lunch for your kids though. We would like to remind everyone of the Teddy Bear Picnic which is being planned by the Baldur Manor on Friday, May 28. They have a very tempting menu which is as follows:

Hot Dogs - \$1.50; Smokies - \$2.00; Pie/Cake - \$1.00; Drinks - \$1.00; Chips - \$1.25; Ice Cream - \$0.50.

Students will place their orders in advance from the school, that way there will be less of a line up for everyone else. This is a very worthy cause and I encourage all to support the event.

For all you music lovers out there, I would like to inform you that the Wawanesa School Choir will be putting on a show for our students on Thursday, May 27th, starting at 12:40. These students put on a wonderful show, and we appreciate the fact that they are willing to come to Baldur to entertain us all. I would like to extend an invitation to any members of the community who would like to take in the performance.

As mentioned last week, Mrs. Ballingall took four of our students to a Rachel's Challenge retreat earlier in the month. The following has been provided by Brittany Wiebe, one of the students who participated.

On May 13 and May 14, Brittany Wiebe, Teighan Hetherington, Trinity Chambers and Tyler Parsonage went to Winker Bible Camp to participate in a Rachel's Challenge Retreat. At the Retreat we took part in many sessions on the topics of kindness, compassion, helping, leading and letting go. After our sessions we participated in camp activities: rock climbing, ropes course, fire survival and team development. We also had a keynote speaker, Rick Puteran. Rick's overall message was what 1% can do at the school level for positive change and especially how to start a chain reaction in this way. Throughout Rick's message with our group, he discussed with us many elements that go into being a great leader. When this discussion took place Rick also had us reflect on what is not a good leader. Over the two days we were able to meet new friends and realize how much we had in common with so many students over the division. The camp leaders provided a safe and enjoyable stay that will be memorable for years to come. The retreat was a worthwhile event and we hope to build on the message we received and sustain it in our school.

May 28, 2010 Education Highlights

Athletic activities dominated the venue this week. On Tuesday our high school students participated in their annual floor hockey game against the local RCMP. This is always a highly anticipated event that generates a lot of excitement throughout the whole building. Constable Graham was only able to show up with 3 of his colleagues this year, usually they are able to put together a team of at least 6. Not to worry though, 3 students, Colton Mitchell, Will Watson and Mayson Lockhart, eagerly volunteered to join the force for a day and play against their fellow students. The RCMP team is always a crowd favorite with the younger students and the constables did a great job in getting the kids all fired up for the game. For the last few years the students have not been able to crack the armor of the RCMP and have always had to graciously accept defeat, this was not the case this year. The two teams entered the final period of the game tied 4 to 4, it was at this point that the students came through, scoring two goals to win by a final score of 6 to 4, thus bringing the bragging rights back to the school. Constable Graham vows to return next year with a full squad of players in a bid to recapture the title. On behalf of all the kids, I would like to thank the constables for volunteering their time to make this event happen.

On Wednesday the local ball diamond was host to the Boy's Zone Baseball Tournament. Six boys from Baldur play on the co-op team with Cartwright: Brett and Connor Vrooman, Riley Martens, Brad Parsonage, Jordan Wickens and Taylor Hetherington. The boys have had a very good season but unfortunately their luck did not hold out for the zones. The team lost in semi-final play to Glenboro, who eventually went on to win the zones. Even though the results may not have been what they had hoped for, it was still a beautiful day for ball that was enjoyed equally by players and spectators. Coach Riley Kemp is putting in a request for a wildcard to the provincials, so who knows, the boys may still have another turn at the bats.

Thursday saw a move away from sports and a chance to enjoy the arts for a change. Danita Borton, the organizer of the Wawanesa School Choir arranged for her group to visit Baldur School and put on a show for the students and the staff. Wawanesa School must be complimented for putting on a fantastic show and for their organizational abilities. They arrived at the school with two bus loads of kids and a cattle trailer full of equipment. They had everything with them, from a portable stage to a lighting display that was powerful enough to trip breakers in our gymnasium. Their show was fantastic and all the kids found it truly enjoyable. If you ever have the chance to see this choir perform, I highly recommend it.

Despite the poor weather, zone track and field had to take place on Friday. Booking the track facilities at the Sportsplex in Brandon is difficult, and rain days are just not an option. The students persevered and our 14 athletes jumped on the bus at 8:15 am determined to do well despite the constant down pour. Let's all hope that the grade 5 – 8 students have better conditions when they compete in Glenboro on June 2nd.

As promised last week, here are the results from our school track and field event which took place on the 21st:

Middle Years Track Results

Grade 3 Girls

100 m – **Niomi (Record)**, Hannah, Nyah; 200 m – **Niomi (Record)**, Hannah, Sonja; 400 m – **Niomi (Record)**, Hannah, Sonja; 600 m – **Hannah (Record)**, Niomi, Sonja; Frisbie Toss – **Niomi (Record)**, Hannah, Nyah; Soccer Ball Toss – Hannah, Niomi, Sonja; Long Jump – **Nyah (Record)**, Hannah,

Sonja; High Jump – Hannah, Nyah, Niomi; Triple Jump – Hannah, Nyah, Niomi; Ball Throw – Niomi, Hannah, Sonja;

Grade 4 Girls

100 m – Brooke, Tayla; 200 m – Brooke, Tayla; 400 m – Brooke, Tayla; 600 m – Brooke, Tayla; Frisbie Toss – **Brooke (Record)**, Tayla; Soccer Ball Toss – Brooke, Tayla; Long Jump – Brooke, Tayla; High Jump – Brooke, Tayla; Triple Jump – Brooke, Tayla; Ball Throw – Brooke, Tayla;

Grade 5 Girls

100 m – Jessica G, Sara, Jessica L; 200 m - Jessica G, Sara, Jessica L; 400 m – Sara, Jessica G, Jessica L; 800 m – Jessica G, Sara, Jessica L; Discus – Jessica G, Jessica L, Sara; Shot Put – Jessica G, Jessica L, Madison; Long Jump – Jessica G, Sara, Madison; High Jump – Jessica L, Jessica G, Madison; Triple Jump – Jessica G, Jessica L, Madison; Ball Throw – Jessica G, Jessica L, Madison.

Grade 6 Girls

100 m – **Chelsea (Record)** Morgan, Alexa; 200 m – **Chelsea (Record)**, Savana, Morgan; 400 m – Chelsea, Savana, Alexa; 800 m – **Chelsea (Record)**, Savana, Morgan; Discus – Chelsea, Ginny, Alexa; Shot Put – Ginny, Chelsea, Taylor; Long Jump – Savana, Chelsea, Natasha/Ginny; High Jump – Chelsea, Savana, Morgan; Triple Jump – Chelsea, Savana, Natasha; Ball Throw – Chelsea, Ginny, Morgan.

Grade 7 Girls

100 m – Samantha, Kristin, Mandy; 200 m – **Samantha (Record)**, Kristin, Mandy; 400 m – Samantha, Mandy, Kristin; 800 m – Samantha, Mandy, Kristin; Discus – Kristin, Mandy, Samantha; Shot Put – Kristin, Samantha, Mandy; Long Jump – Samantha, Kristin, Mandy; High Jump – **Samantha (Record)**, Mandy; Triple Jump – **Samantha (Record)**, Kristin, Mandy; Javelin – **Samantha (Record)**, Kristin, Mandy.

Grade 8 Girls

100 m – Kenzie, Melissa, Tamara; 200 m – Tamara, Kenzie, Melissa; 400 m – **Tamara (Record)**, Kenzie, Melissa; 800 m – Kenzie, Tamara, Melissa; Discus – Kenzie, Tamara, Kali; Shot Put – Kenzie, Tamara, Kirby Dalman-Smith; Long Jump – Melissa, Kenzie, Tamara; High Jump – Kenzie, Kali, Melissa; Triple Jump – Melissa, Kenzie, Tamara; Javelin – Kenzie, Melissa, Tamara.

Grade 3 Boys

100 m – **Jaden (Record)**, Kody, Callum; 200 m – **Jaden (Record)**, Kody, Callum; 400 m – **Jaden (Record)**, Callum, Kody; 600 m – **Callum (Record)**, Jaden, Kody; Frisbie Toss – Ethan, Jaden, Brayden; Soccer Ball Toss – Ethan, Brayden, Kody; Long Jump – **Jaden (Record)**, Kody, Dylan; High Jump – Jaden, Kody, Dylan; Triple Jump – **Dylan (Record)**, Jaden, Kody; Ball Throw – Kody, Jaden, Brayden.

Grade 4 Boys

100 m – Reece, Owen, Marty; 200 m – **Reece (Record)** Owen, Marty; 400 m – **Reece (Record)** Owen, Marty; 600 m – **Reece (Record)** Owen, Marty; Frisbie Toss – Owen, Marty, Reece; Soccer Ball Toss – Marty, Reece, Owen; Long Jump – **Reece (Record)** Owen, Marty; High Jump – Reece, Marty, Owen; Triple Jump – **Reece (Record)** Owen, Marty; Ball Throw – Owen, Reece, Marty;

Grade 5 Boys

100 m – **Luke (Record)**, Jack, Chase; 200 m – **Luke (Record)**, Jack, Chase; 400 m – Luke, Chase, Logan; 800 m – Jack, Chase, Luke; Discus – James, Kieven, Logan; Shot Put – Kieven, James, Chase; Long Jump – Luke, Jack, Logan; High Jump – **Luke (Record)**, Chase, Jack; Triple Jump –

Luke, Chase, Logan; Ball Throw – Luke, Kieven, Jack. Congratulations to Skyler for the following finishes – 10 m – 1st; 20 m – 1st; 40 m – 1st; 60 m – 1st; 80 m – 1st; Ball Throw – 1st; Soccer Ball Toss – 4th; Discus – 1st; Wheel & Coast – 1st; Bar Hang – 1st.

Grade 6 Boys

100 m – Austin, Joel; 200 m – Austin, Joel; 400 m – Austin, Joel; 800 m – Austin, Joel; Discus – Joel, Austin; Shot Put – Joel, Austin; Long Jump – Austin, Joel; High Jump – Austin, Joel; Triple Jump – Austin, Joel; Ball Throw – Joel, Austin.

Grade 7 Boys

100 m – Thomas, Connor, Tyler; 200 m – Connor/Thomas, Tyler; 400 m – Connor, Thomas, Tyler; 800 m – Connor, Thomas, Tyler; Discus – Connor, Thomas, Tyler; Shot Put – Tyler, Thomas, Connor; Long Jump – Connor, Thomas, Tyler; High Jump – Thomas, Connor, Tyler; Triple Jump – Connor, Thomas, Tyler; Javelin – Tyler, Connor, Thomas.

Grade 8 Boys

100 m – Raegan, Nathan, Dallas; 200 m – Nathan, Raegan, Dallas; 400 m – Raegan, Nathan, Tyler; 800 m – Raegan, Nathan, Dallas; Discus – Raegan, Nathan, Riley; Shot Put – Nathan, Raegan, Riley; Long Jump – Raegan, Nathan, Dallas; High Jump – Raegan, Nathan, Riley; Triple Jump – Raegan, Nathan, Dallas; Javelin – **Nathan (Record)**, Riley, Raegan.