

# ATHLONE ADVISOR

Athlone School  
110 Athlone Drive  
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3L4  
Phone (204) 832-1373  
Fax (204) 885-2273

January, 2017

Principal, Mr. J. Baker



## Dates to Remember

**Monday, January 16**  
Grade 1, 2 & 3 to WSO

**Wednesday, January 18**  
"Munch Busters!"  
9:15 a.m.  
School Gym

**Thursday, January 19**  
Kindergarten Information  
Evening 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 23**  
Grade 4 Immunization

**Wednesday, January 25**  
Math Night

**Thursday, January 26**  
Special Lunch

**Friday, January 27**  
"The Magic of Kindness"  
School Gym

**Friday, January 27**  
Kindergarten Registration  
7:30—5:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 3**  
Inservice—No School

**Tuesday, February 7**  
Early Dismissal 2:45 p.m.

**Monday, February 20**  
Louis Riel Day—No school

**Tuesday, February 21**  
Early Dismissal 2:45 p.m.

**Friday, February 24**  
Admin. Day—No school

## Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. January, as always, is a busy month in classrooms. Out are the days on winter concert rehearsals and in are the days of focused literacy and numeracy lessons.

There are also lots of chances for more "out-of-the-box" types of fun too! There will be a performance of "Munsch Busters!" by the Prairie Theatre Exchange. The tour will perform in our gymnasium on Wednesday, January 18th at 9:15am. We also have the Great Kindness Challenge planned for the end of the month, as well as, an evening of Math Games for students and their parents. More details about these will follow in the days to come.

The weather can be quite changeable at this time of year. You are reminded whenever the wind chill is warmer than -28C we still do go outside for some much needed fresh air. Please have your children always dressed appropriately for the weather.

Our Kindergarten Information Evening will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00pm in the school library. Registration for Kindergarten will start on Friday, January 27th. If you know of anyone in the area with children who will turn five before Dec. 31st, 2017, please make them aware of these important dates.

J. Baker

## Kindergarten Information Evening

Athlone Schools offers a half day Kindergarten Program, mornings or afternoons. Our Kindergarten Information Evening is on Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Children must be born in the year 2012 to register for Kindergarten in September 2017.

Kindergarten registration is Friday, January 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please call the school office at 204-832-1373 if you require further information.

## Notes from the Music Room



## Adventures in Music

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra is putting on a series of concerts for students! All students in Grades 1-3 have the opportunity to go see our very own symphony orchestra at the Centennial Concert Hall downtown. In music class, we have been learning about the different pieces we will be hearing at the concert and studying some of the instruments we will be seeing at the concert.

We will be going on Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. and will be back at school around 12:00 p.m. in time to eat lunch.

Grades 4 and 5 students also have to opportunity to see the Divisional Musical Theatre production of James and the Giant Peach. This will feature a few of our Athlone students! We will take a school bus to Westwood Collegiate on **Thursday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:20 p.m.** and be back around **2:10 p.m.** Permission forms and more information will be going home with Grade 4-5 students later this month.

Choir students have a few performances coming up. Stay tuned with more information regarding the St. James Music Celebration Festival later this month and the Winnipeg Music Festival coming up in early March.

Thank you for your continued support in the music program at Athlone!

Mrs. J. Dunk

## Phys. Ed. News

Yoga with Cathy Spack on Fridays will continue in the New Year. Please watch for a permission form that will go home shortly.

Athlone Basketball will start in the New Year. Please watch for a permission form coming home shortly.

Intramurals will start in January. Students will be notified which day they are to participate. Intramurals will be over lunch break.

## Athlone Science Fair News

Athlone Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 8th.

This year we are introducing a new club for students wishing to complete a Science Fair project but aren't sure how to complete the process. This club will run once a cycle on Day 3 of the school day cycle. If more sessions are needed closer to the fair then we will add more. During this time students will have access to iPads and will set-up a Showbie account to store their information. This account can be accessed online, so that they may work on it at home as well. This club is not mandatory for students who wish to participate in the fair, just a support group. Students may complete projects independently, with support from home. Backboards are available for purchase at the office for \$5.

This year there will be prizes awarded to the top research and experimental projects in grade 3, 4 and 5.

Also each classroom will complete a large group project to be shared during the fair.

Mrs. Jensen will be coming around to the classrooms to give more information about the process and the fair soon but if you have any questions after please email her at [wjensen@sjsd.net](mailto:wjensen@sjsd.net).

We look forward to seeing all the exciting ideas and happy "Science Fairing"!

## Vision Screening

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division has a Vision Screening Program for students within the division. Screening will take place between February 13<sup>th</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup> for all Kindergarten, Grade 1, 3 and 5 students.

This screening program is designed to uncover signs of any possible vision difficulty, which may interfere with school progress. It is not intended to be a substitute for the vision examination performed by an Ophthalmologist/Optomtrist. If you do not wish that your child participate in this no-cost vision screening, please contact the school.

After the vision screening has been completed and you receive a notice from the school requesting that you refer your child for a professional eye examination, please follow up by making an appointment with an eye doctor of your choice. If you require any further information or would like to volunteer to assist in the screening, please contact Mrs. Posillipo.

## Bus Cancellation

When temperatures fall below  $-45$  Celsius, Metro Superintendents in Winnipeg shut down the school buses for safety reasons. All households with students in the division will receive an automated call advising of the bus cancellation. If buses are cancelled they are cancelled for the day, no buses will run at the end of the day.

Although the buses do not run in these extreme weather conditions, schools remain open. It is best to have a back-up plan in these instances because as we have seen in the last couple of years the buses can be shut down for a few days.

## School Entry

Entry bell is at 8:35 a.m. and students line up outside to proceed in with their classrooms. Please have your child line up with their classmates and let your children proceed to school without your help. Allowing them to do this fosters independence and responsibility. School hallways are very busy during entry and this is not the time to have a conversation with your child's teacher. Teachers need this time with students to settle in for the day. If you need to speak to your child's teacher send a note in with your child and they teacher will contact you. Your co-operation in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

## Please be on time!

We ask that you get your child here on time. Being on time is important. Time management is a skill that a child will need throughout their lives. Being late is stressful for the one who is late and interrupts the entire classroom. If your child is late send them to the office for a late slip and then let them proceed to class on their own. This is not a time to engage your child's teacher in a conversation as classes are already in progress. If you need to talk to your child's teacher call the office to leave a message and the teacher will return your call.

## Outdoor Recess

Now that the weather is colder please ensure that your child is prepared for outdoor recess. All students will go outside based on the division policy guidelines for cold weather. Division policy is that temperature or windchill of  $-28$ C or colder students will remain inside for recess. Temperatures between  $-25$ C and  $-28$ C students will still go outside for a shortened recess of no more than 10 minutes.

**Students who are well enough to come to school are expected to go out for recess.**

## Please call the school office

The safety of students is a priority. If your child is going to be late or will be missing school for any reason please call the school office at 204-832-1373. The office phone is equipped to take messages so please feel free to leave a message.

## All visitors must report to the school office.

Just a reminder that all visitors/parents must report to the school office. If you are picking up your child for an appointment you must come to the office to sign them out and your child will be called to the office. If you are dropping off anything for your child please bring it to the office and they will be called to the office to pick it up. Parents should not be disrupting the classroom during learning time to drop off items.

# Athlone School Parent Council Newsletter

January 2017

## Happy New Year!

On behalf of the ASPC, I would like to wish Athlone families a very happy new year! If giving back to your community was on your list of new year's resolutions, why not start with attending an ASPC meeting?

## Winter Concert Thanks

The ASPC has so many people to thank that helped to make our winter concert silent auction a success. Thank you to Athlone families and staff who donated items from your homes and businesses. Thank you to the teachers and Mr. Baker for helping us to collect prizes. We would also like to thank parent volunteers who helped us to sell tickets, get prizes, and make prize baskets – some of whom took on multiple duties. These are Holly A, Lauren N, Angie M, Joanne M, Colleen G, Barkley E, Walter R, Erin M, Vanessa H, Matt, Felix M and Sarah D. An especially huge thank you to Maria S, Devin S and Adam M who helped to organize the raffle.

We raised over \$2,700 at this year's raffle, surpassing our total from last year. The proceeds from this and other ASPC initiatives helps us to enrich the experience of Athlone students and we thank you for your support.

## Update on our Outdoor Classroom

The ASPC has approved \$4,000 to set aside to build an outdoor classroom and plant trees. The ASPC hopes to present a preliminary plan for its outdoor classroom and natural playground area at its upcoming January meeting. It will also present the draft plan to staff and students of Athlone and will be seeking ideas to improve it. We hope to apply for several grants in early February.

## December 2016 Meeting Highlights

The ASPC approved funding to bring live theatre to Athlone students. *MunschBusters* will be coming to Athlone School in January. The ASPC also approved the purchase of pizza for Athlone's Math Night, which will be coming up in the new year. More details on Math Night will be coming home with your child in the new year.

## New Members Wanted

The ASPC is hoping to recruit more participants to its meetings. If you have an idea of how to make it more convenient for you to attend, please let us know.

**The next meeting is Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Babysitting is available.**

**Do you have questions or ideas? Would you like to volunteer at one of our events?** Contact Erin Robbins, ASPC President [erinrobbins@shaw.ca](mailto:erinrobbins@shaw.ca) or 204-807-8594.

