



# The Heights Headlines



January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Have you heard . . .



Hair Massacure events are in full swing at Sturgeon Heights! "Pinking" Day, DQ hot lunch, Wear PINK Day, and the big event at West Edmonton Mall all make up a very busy month!

Join us at West Ed at 5:30 pm on February 11<sup>th</sup> to support the Sturgeon Heights Hair Massacure team members!

**MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**OPEN HOUSE AT STURGEON HEIGHTS  
BBQ - Displays - Classrooms - Entertainment  
Bring along your friends and neighbours!**

**Time tba**

## **F**ROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Our school is initiating a project to develop a learning garden to enhance our school community. To date, staff members and our school council chair have attended a workshop on designing spaces that can serve as outdoor classrooms. We have also formed a staff committee to move the project forward.

Learning gardens provide richer opportunities for students to embrace nature, learning about indigenous plants, growing vegetables or planting varieties that attract species of insects or birds. Our school already has the luxury of native trees and sheltered areas that may become part of our project. We also see potential for providing opportunities for hands-on experiences to children including construction of planters, mixing soil, the nurturing of plants, species identification and action research with fertilizers or natural pest control.

The learning garden project will involve students from the design stages through construction of the garden and ongoing maintenance and development. It will become a tool for learning and a catalyst for deeper understanding. We are hopeful that parents will also become involved in this project. If you are aware of any grants, resources or have access to supplies or services that will assist us in keeping costs down, please let me know. To this point we are applying to the Evergreen Learning Grounds organization sponsored by Toyota, Fido and RIM. We will keep you informed of our progress.

*Garnet Goertzen, Principal*

## **F**ROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

After a cold start to 2011 the weather has warmed up and our students have enjoyed some time outdoors. Being Canadian, I think it might be requirement for me to like snow, but I don't think I have to like this much of it. Congratulations to all for surviving the snow thus far.

The snow has added to the parking trouble we all know exists at Sturgeon Heights School. The pile of snow at the north end has made it more difficult to navigate traffic. Many times traffic has been backed up to the neighboring school and all the way out to the Villeneuve Road. Mr. Goertzen and I, along with staff from the division office are working on solutions to help remedy the situation. Your patience while we work this out is appreciated.

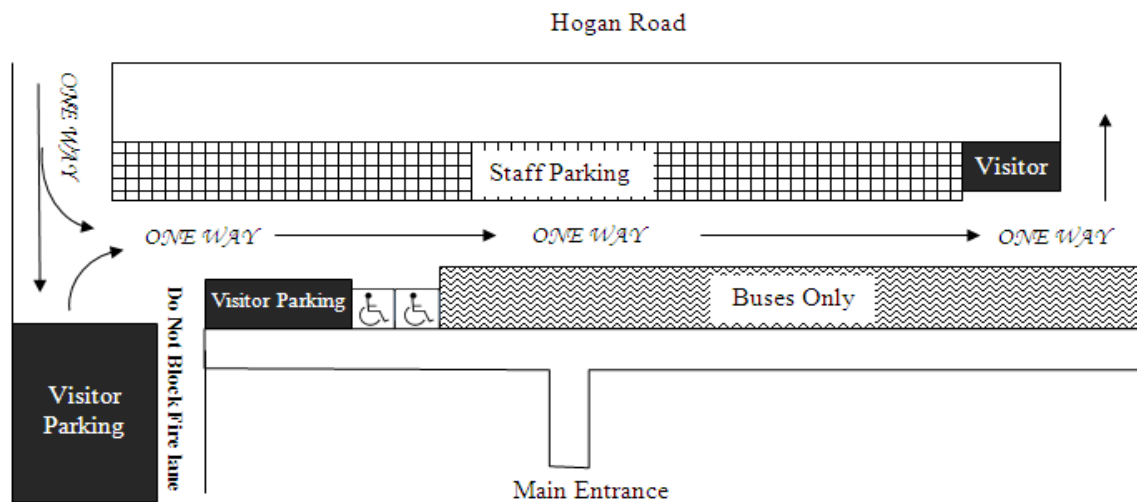
I would also like to remind parents and others who may be dropping off or picking up children. Currently our sign indicates no parking in the bus lane 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Although busses typically do not arrive until after 8:20 a.m., people dropping off students in the area designated for busses often get caught up and inadvertently hinder the arrival of the busses. Similarly, staff parking is used as a quick drop off parking stall, but that action may prevent a staff member from parking. We ask that bus lanes and staff parking not be used for drop offs as it can delay those that are designated for those spots. Please yield to busses at all times.

In front of the school there are two handicapped parking stalls. Out of respect for our students and community members that truly have need for those parking stalls; we ask that others do not park there. Only those who legally display the proper proof of need should be parked there at any time.

Please use the designated visitor parking areas for dropping off and picking up of children. In addition to the areas in the front and north of the school, there is a spot for approximately 5 or 6 vehicles to park at the south end of the staff parking area.

The Sturgeon Heights School parking lot is not ideal and we are doing the best we can with what we have. We recognize parents' frustration, but we are working to make the parking lot function in the best way possible for all involved.

Thank you.



*Wayne Rufiange, Vice Principal*

## FROM OUR TRUSTEE:

You may have read or heard about rumblings in the news indicating Alberta Education wants to work with the Alberta Teachers Association in redrafting their contract. As information becomes available, I will keep you up to date, so stay tuned.

The renovation at Namao School has finally been completed and the students of the school entertained the attendees at the official opening with a grand performance.

The trustees attended a Board retreat last week where we spent a day and a half talking about how we can continue to improve on how we provide educational services to our students and our educational community. I will be sharing the outcomes of our retreat and the Board decisions that will come out of our meeting next month.

Sturgeon Heights is off to another great start for the Massacure Fundraiser. I would like to acknowledge all the work of staff and parents in getting it off the ground and a special thanks for all who were willing to take on the pinking of their hair and eventual shaving for the cause. Your commitment to cancer research is not only admirable but shows the strength in your character. Bravo!

Our Board continues to fine tune how we will ensure Sturgeon School Division meets the goals and objectives our school community has assisted in establishing in the Three Year Plan. I appreciate the comments you have provided me by email, phone and at the grocery store and make no mistake, they are seriously taken into consideration as the Board progresses through the year.

Have a great 2011 and let's make this another great year at Sturgeon Heights.

Thank you for your continuing support,

*Wendy Miller*  
*Trustee, Ward 7*  
*Sturgeon Heights School*  
*780-973-3164*  
[millerwa@shaw.ca](mailto:millerwa@shaw.ca)



The boys and girls were very happy to finally get outside to play on January 18<sup>th</sup>. They had lots of fun!

Everyone was inside a long time with the frigid temperatures!

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## VALENTINE'S DAY HAIR MASSACURE:

We are looking forward to another successful Hair Massacure event to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and the Ronald MacDonald House. We have approximately 55 students and adults who are raising money for the Hair Massacure. Some have "pinked" their hair, some are shaving their heads, and some are fundraising. Together, they are the team from Sturgeon Heights!



Students and staff may participate in a Dairy Queen lunch on February 8<sup>th</sup>, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Hair Massacure.

Everyone is invited to **WEAR PINK** on the 8<sup>th</sup> also in support of our Sturgeon Heights team! Let's send them off to West Ed in style!!

They will be at West Edmonton Mall on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Anyone who wants to cheer on the Sturgeon Heights team is encouraged to come out and watch the head shaving action. There is nothing more important than our children and we look forward to raising awareness of the cause and contributing dollars to the programs offered by the foundations to support those families going through life threatening health issues.



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**The Hair Massacre team from Sturgeon Heights  
(not all participants were available for this group picture.)**

## **P**ROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY:

Just a reminder that **Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** is a Professional Development Day for staff within Sturgeon School Division. Students **DO NOT** attend school on this date. Staff will be offsite for various training sessions and there will be no access to the school.

## **T**EACHERS' CONVENTION:

The annual Teachers' Convention will be held on **Thursday and Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Students **DO NOT** attend school on these dates.

## **B**OARD MEETINGS:

Just a reminder to everyone that regular Board Meetings of the Trustees are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at our Central Office in Morinville. The public is welcome to attend these meetings.

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## **B**ASKETBALL NEWS:

Basketball is in full swing at Sturgeon Heights. Both boys' and girls' teams are participating in Divisional games, as well as regular practices at the school.

Team members for this year (in no particular) order are:

### **Girls' Team**

Faith Tallas  
Stephanie Paches  
Jessica Toews  
Grace Bokenfohr  
Cassidy Paré  
Siobhan Williams  
Kaitlynn Dietzmann  
Erika Fisher  
Ella Coyes  
Keely-Shaye Manning  
Kassidy Dean  
Parker Claussen  
Paige Shelemey  
Lana Labrecque  
Alexis Lema  
Maggie Boras  
Nicole Brown

### **Boys' Team**

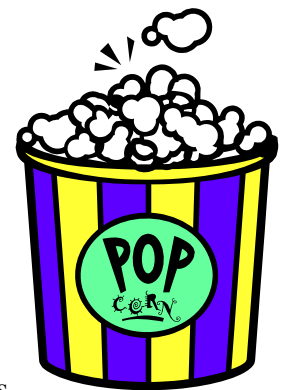
Jacob Kaup  
Teygan MacLowick  
John Brouse  
Mitchell King  
Eli Kaup  
Ernesto Sillito  
Austin Mazzolini-Flynn  
Rayan Boras  
Liam McCoy  
Brandon Brown  
Mason Roberts  
Jaxon Strembitsky  
Connor Gierulski  
Matthew Slessor  
John Brouse



## **P**OPCORN IN SNACK SHOP:

Snack Shop will be making and selling popcorn on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks to our Snack Shop volunteers – students and staff definitely enjoy this treat!





Mrs. Smeaton's Grade 3 class enjoyed an Indian lunch at the conclusion of their unit on Indian culture. Students tasted a wonderful variety of foods and spices, and everyone enjoyed their lunch!

Thanks to the parents who provided the lunch items and helped to serve the students.



## COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL:

Join Mr. Goertzen and other parents for coffee in the Conference Room on **Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** at **9:00 a.m.** All are welcome to attend!

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# FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY:

Students and staff at Sturgeon Heights will not attend school on **Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** – the annual Family Day holiday. Hopefully, everyone will enjoy time with their families.



The Grades One and Two students spent the afternoon of January 14<sup>th</sup> conducting various experiments on color and temperature. Many thanks to all the volunteers that came in to help out with the stations.

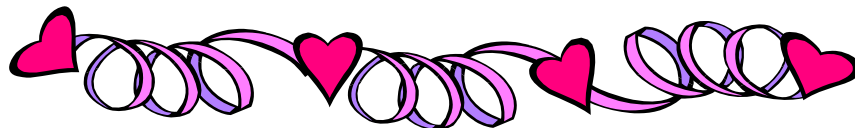


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## **S**TAFF MEETING:

Our February staff meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Students will dismiss at 12:20 p.m. on that date.



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# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MEETING:

Our registration / information meeting for kindergarten for the 2011 – 2012 school year will be held on **Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** beginning at **6:30 p.m.**

If you are aware of anyone moving in to the area with kindergarten-aged children, please let them know the date of this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please call the school and we will be happy to send you home a registration package, either through the mail or with an older sibling.



Registration packages for kindergarten for the 2011 – 2012 school year will be available shortly.

Projectmania is a new option open to Junior High students this year. Students had to create original and interesting gumball machines that had an additional function: one of the groups used a pulley system to raise the gumballs to the ceiling before dropping them into a large bucket and filtering them through a series of tracks, another group had a machine that sorted gumballs and paintball balls by size, a third group used a "Marbleworks" game to lead the gumballs through various tracks and the fourth group had tracks which led to a student's mouth at the end.



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## SKI TRIP:

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011** is the optional ski trip to Rabbit Hill and Marmot for students in grades 4 to 9. Grades 4 to 6 students will ski at Rabbit Hill, with junior high students having the choice of either location.

Students going to Rabbit Hill will be leaving the school at 8:45 a. m. and returning to the school for pick up at approximately 5:45 p. m. Payment for the Rabbit Hill trip is due by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Junior high students going to Marmot will leave the school at 4:30 a.m. and return to the school for pick up at approximately 9 pm. Payment for the Marmot trip is due by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note: March 10<sup>th</sup> is considered a regular school day and regular classes will be held for students not attending the ski trips.**



The grade two students completed their unit on the Inuit Nation. Grade seven students helped the students build igloos out of marshmallows. The igloos turned out great!

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**It might have been chilly outside but the participation in Sturgeon Heights' Hawaiian Day was spectacular!**

**The Headstart and Kinderstart students took some time out to learn the Hu Ke Lau!**

**Even our "resident" gerbil, Mr. Jingles got in to the swing of things in his little grass skirt**



## **P**FA GIFT PAK BOOKS:

The Parent Fundraising Association is continuing to try and track down a few of the Gift Pak Books that were sent home with students last Fall. If you still have a book around your house, please send it in with your son/daughter as soon as possible.

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The snow has been perfect for building great snowmen!

## 2009 – 2010 YEARBOOKS:

If you overlooked purchasing a yearbook from last year and would like one, we have copies available in the office. Please send in your order and payment of \$20 with your son/daughter and the 2009 – 2010 Yearbook will be sent home to you.

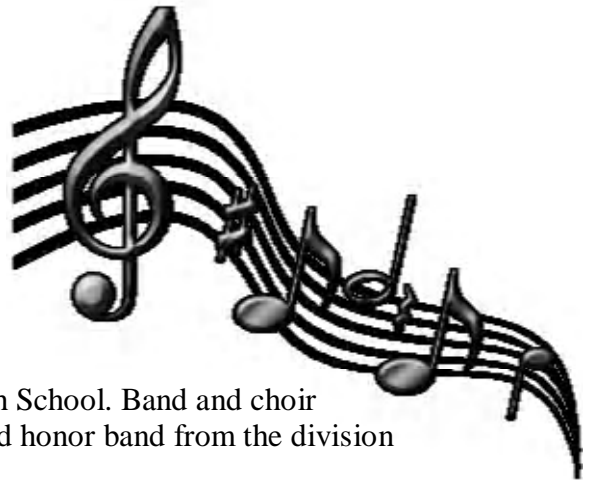
## MUSIC NOTES:

Here are some upcoming music performance dates to keep in mind and to mark on your calendar:

– Sturgeon Junior High Band Camp at Camp Nakamun  
– February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

– Sturgeon Evening of Music – Sturgeon Composite High School. Band and choir students will participate in large mass choirs and band and honor band from the division  
– May 5th

- Band, choir and musical theater students are entered in the **St. Albert Rotary Festival**  
- dates and times TBA.



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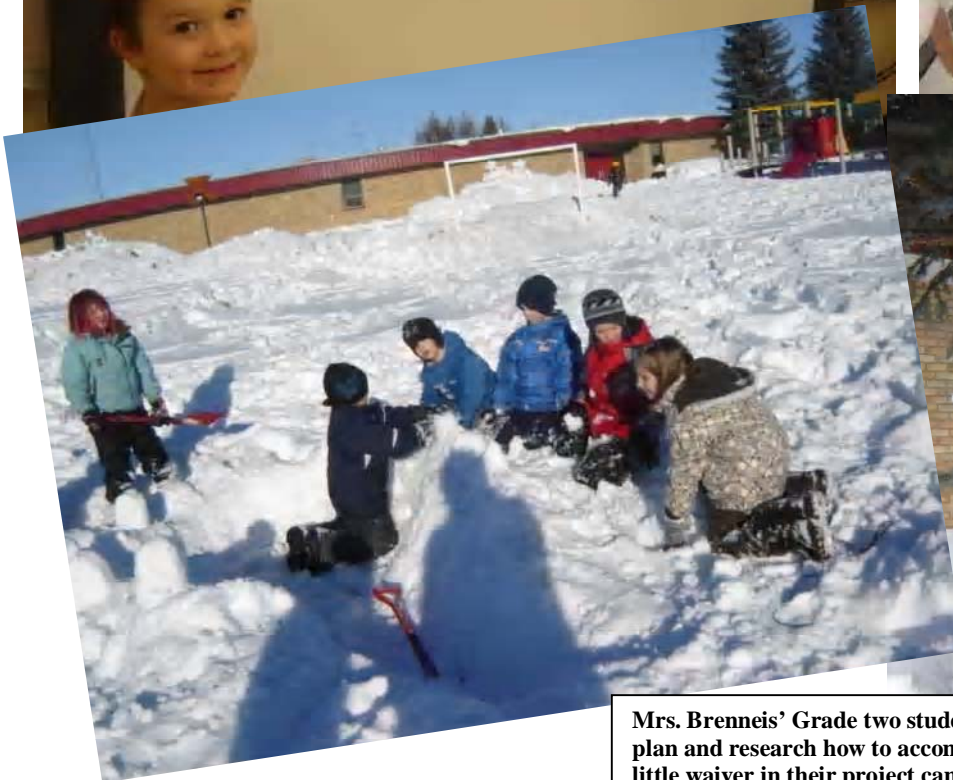
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## OPTION COURSE FEES:

Trimester Two option courses are now underway. Reminders came home in your child's Friday envelope last week, showing any outstanding fees to date. These reminders will also show if there are any IMF (Instructional Materials Fees) fees outstanding.



Mrs. Brenneis' Grade two students had a project – to build a fort. First, they had to plan and research how to accomplish this feat, then actually work to build the fort. A little waiver in their project came when they decided the class would actually teach a Mexican cousin of one of the boys how to complete the task. The cousin was not in attendance so Alex stepped in to fill his part.

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