



The **Heights** **Headlines**



April 29th, 2011

Have you heard . . .



We had an amazing turnout at our Open House on April 13th! The BBQ idea was definitely a hit! Parents and guests had an opportunity to see and hear the Band, the Choir, our 1/2B and 1N dance troupe, a Musical Theatre number, and special music presentation by two junior high students.

Everyone enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration cake for the new projector screen which was purchased for the school by our Parent Fundraising Group. Tours of the classrooms took place after the BBQ and events were over in the gym. Displays, experiments, games and information were available throughout the school. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this evening possible, and to all who attended, both new families and returning families.

**Lots of pics inside and
enjoy more on our
website under Photo
Gallery!**

Sturgeon Heights School
50 Hogan Road
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 3X7

Make Sturgeon Heights your homepage:
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Principal: Garnet Goertzen
Vice Principal: Wayne Rufiange
Telephone: 780 459 3990
Fax: 780 460 2565

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Learning Garden Springs Forward!

I first introduced the learning garden concept to you in January. Since that time the school has had many indications of support. With the recent announcement of a grant in the amount of \$2000.00 and several donations of money, tools, seeds, along with the expertise and equipment to prepare the site, our learning garden moves closer to reality. We are still short of our budgeted expenses due to a \$1500 shortfall in our anticipated grant. We will be acknowledging all sponsors once we have made significant progress. We have also applied for other grants after hearing from many informed parents.

Our goal is to have students meaningfully embrace and increase their understanding of nature. We hope to provide meaningful opportunities for all children to experience nature through hands on construction, planting and maintenance. Our culture of cross-graded activities will support involvement of all students from age 4 to age 14 years. Our vision is of a garden designed for function which will allow opportunities for each and every student to take responsibility, ownership and celebration. Students will experience nature in an outdoor classroom and through a hands-on development of flower and vegetable gardens designed for the opportunity to actively garden, learn and be guided through a discovery of the sounds and smells of nature. Together we will provide a rich environment for experiential learning.

Our plan is to construct a vegetable garden of potatoes and pumpkins which will serve as the foundation for a fall harvest day complete with festival and activities to use the products of our garden. Potatoes will be prepared in a variety of ways on our "potato day" and pumpkins will be used as Halloween decorations and pumpkin treats.

Our vegetable garden will be framed by raised flower planters made of square logs. The perimeter of the vegetable garden will have the corners defined by the planters with planters down the sides to act as buffers from the playground activities but spaced so as to allow equipment to access the garden to dump soil, till or clean the garden along with space to move around the planter to facilitate planting and maintenance.

In our heavily treed area, we will eventually create a clearing 8 meters in diameter and pathways leading to the clearing. Trees that are cut out and the deadfall removed will be chipped and spread back on the ground and pathways to provide a suitable ground cover to prevent weed growth and to provide a suitable sitting/learning area for classes.

All of the steps will be documented with photographs on a timeline which will be displayed in the library. As we move through May, the buzz of the initial preparation for learning garden and student work will be evident. We have been delayed in our motivation by a late spring, but it is now time to push the project full speed ahead.

Garnet Goertzen, Principal

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The BBQ crew did a wonderful job of cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for our Open House.

Dylan Long, Grade 5 student, assisted by Tracey Buryska, School Council Chairperson, had the honour of cutting the ribbon on the new projector screen in the gym.



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FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

The end of April is here and there are only two months left in our school year. It can be a difficult time for students to stay focused during this time so parents and teachers need to increase their effort to make sure that students continue to do their best work. Provincial Achievement Tests are quickly approaching for students in Grades 3, 6, and 9. If parents would like more information about the PAT's they can view the parent guides by visiting the Alberta Education website, <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/exams.aspx>. Parents are also encouraged to contact their child's teacher with any questions.

April was an exciting month with our students getting involved in some great events and activities. The school's band, choir, and musical theatre group performed wonderfully at their respective festivals. Thank you to Mrs. Medisky and Mrs. Holmes for their work preparing the students. The grade 6 - 9 students were part of a Career Day where they learned about different careers available to them. We can't thank enough the community members, including many SHS alumni that volunteered to share their knowledge and experiences with the Sturgeon Heights students. Thank you to Ms. Sydlowski for organizing the Career Day.

Wayne Rufiange, Vice Principal



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Mrs. Brenneis' classroom had a very exciting event in April. They hatched chicks in an incubator and this was the result. These cute little chicks were a huge hit with all the classrooms as they visited the 1 / 2 B room!

Open House was an opportunity to show parents and guests what students are working on in their classrooms.

A new complementary course will be offered to Junior High students next year – Horsemanship! Two horses arrived at our Open House to introduce this option to students.



Stu
50 B
St. J

FROM OUR TRUSTEE:

The Board has spent a great deal of time working on the budget for the 2011-2012 and the 2012 – 2013 school years. We are presently short one million dollars which we have to find for next year. I will once again assure you we will make every attempt to protect our school programs. The Board will be making some difficult decisions but let us hope this down turn in the Provincial Education Budget will not last long. Under no circumstances will the Board be putting the Division in debt since it is our experience that in the long term, recovery from such a debt takes years to recuperate.

We are also reviewing the Board's Religion policy. I have had some requests for input into any new policy. If you would like to also have input please contact me (see my contact information below) at home or via email.

I would like to commend the students and staff on the great activities they spent so much time preparing for this month. Our Open House was a huge success and I know our students enjoyed sharing the many activities and skills they are learning at Sturgeon Heights. It was a pleasure to attend the evening and bravo to all involved.

Our students took pride in sharing their interpretation of Easter with friends and family. I know the teachers and students worked hard and it showed in their actions and their faces. Well done!

Thank you for your continuing support,

Wendy Miller, Trustee
Trustee, Ward 7
millerwa@shaw.ca 780 973 3164

**The Learning Garden display
At Open House was a popular
Stop for students and guests.**

**Thanks to those who generously made
donations of supplies, time and cash.**



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BOARD MEETING:

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME!

Sturgeon School Division places great value on the input received from parents and community members. Our Board meets at the division office in Morinville (9820-104 St.) twice a month on the following dates in 2011:

May 11 at 6:00 pm
May 25 at 4:30 pm
June 8 at 6:00 pm
June 22 at 4:30 pm

All those who wish to attend and provide input are more than welcome. Please visit www.sturgeon.ab.ca for more information.



The Grade 3 students learned how to decorate Ukrainian Easter eggs.



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MAY STAFF MEETING:

The May staff meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 11th, 2009**. Students will dismiss at **12:20 p.m.** on that date.



The choir performed for the Easter Celebration – “A Child’s Hope.”



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**Mrs.
Hamilton's 5/6
Religion Class
performed
"Easter
Tableus" for
the Celebration.**

**Miss Loh's
Grade 4
Religion Class
performed a
Movement
Presentation
entitled "Arise
My Love"**



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“Chatter with the Angels” by the Snowday Ensemble under the direction of Mrs. Medisky – another Easter Celebration number.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY:

Students at Sturgeon Heights will not attend school on **Friday, May 20th**, as staff has the opportunity to meet with colleagues for planning and further organization of year end curriculum.

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**Lewis Lavois,
Artist, was one of
our Career Day
speakers.**

CCAREER DAY:

Junior high students were involved in a Career Day on the afternoon of April 19th. . Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed listening to speakers from a variety of occupations. Presenters from many walks of life shared details of their occupation and also had question and answer periods! Students listened to a psychologist, sports announcer, social worker, firefighter, veterinarian and many other valuable career speakers. Lots of fun – and information was available! Thanks to all the volunteers who shared their time and information with our students.

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Jared Tabler, The Style Guy, shared details of his career with students

Dean Sydlowski, Director of Security, held students' attention with his presentation.



The Military was represented at Career Day by Captain Rodney Dietzmann



Alumni from Sturgeon Heights returned to share their careers at our recent Career Day – Gurpreet Takhar/Rockland Landscaping and David Bailey/Monolith Digital

PFA AND SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS:

Just a reminder to everyone to return your Flower Basket orders by **Monday, May 2nd**, to ensure pick-up in a timely manner. (An order letter was sent home last week. If you didn't receive one and would like to order, please call the school.)

With the upcoming PD Day on Friday, May 20th, Snack Shop will have hot dogs for sale on May 19th.

VICTORIA DAY:



Monday, May 23rd is the Victoria Day holiday. Students and staff will not attend school on this date.

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MUSIC NOTES:



Under the direction of Mrs. Medisky and Mrs. Holmes, the Sturgeon Heights Band, Choir and Musical Theatre group did very well at the recent Rotary Festival. The Band and Choir came away with silver standings, while the Musical Theatre group received gold! Great job by all!

Sturgeon's annual **EVENING OF MUSIC** will be held on **Thursday, May 5th** at Sturgeon Composite High School. Choir and band members from Sturgeon Heights will join together with other schools in the Division to perform in combined groups for this evening. The Evening of Music begins at 7 pm in the South Gym. Band and choir members have received letters detailing clothing to be worn and times of arrival for both groups.

An **ART WALK** will also be on display on May 5th at Sturgeon Composite High School. Mrs. Brenneis undertook to organize various art projects from all grades to display this evening. The Art Walk opens at 6 p.m. in the Main Halls and Room 419.

Head over to Sturgeon Composite High School on Hwy. 37 in Namao on May 5th and spend the evening enjoying art work and listening to music by students from within Sturgeon School Division!

THEME DAY:

Friday, May 13th is "Twin Day" at Sturgeon Heights! Find a friend or classmate and coordinate your clothes for the day! Lots of fun for staff and students.

TRACK MEETS:

The elementary track meet will take place at Sturgeon Heights School on **Monday, May 16th**, with a rainout date of Wednesday, May 25th. Junior high track meet will take place at Sturgeon Heights on **Tuesday, May 17th** with a rainout date of Thursday, May 26th.

Divisional Track Meet will be held on **Tuesday, May 31st** with elementary students going to Namao School and junior high students going to Redwater. The rainout date of the Divisional track meet is June 2nd.



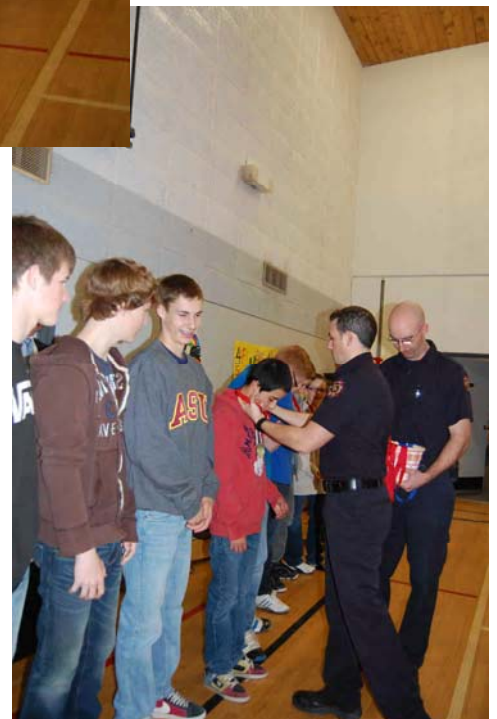
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The girls' and boys' basketball team members and coaches were presented with medals by St. Albert Firefighters.



REPORT CARDS:

Report cards will be handed out on **Thursday, June 30th, 2011**. If your child is **NOT** going to attend school that day, please ensure that we have a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can forward the report card and enclosures to you. Please ensure the envelope is a large one and that it contains sufficient postage.

If there is no envelope provided and your child is not at school on the last day, the report card will be held in the school until September.

REGISTRATIONS:

Registration packages are now available for students in Kindergarten to Grade 9. If you are aware of anyone moving in to your neighbourhood, please advise them to come to the school and pick up a package.

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MOVING?:

Do you know of anyone moving in to your area at the end of the school term? Are you planning on moving or changing schools at the end of the term? Please let the school know information for either of the above as soon as possible as it certainly makes the transition in to the new school year much easier for everyone!



As a culmination of their unit on the Ukraine, students in Mrs. Smeaton's class enjoyed Ukrainian food for lunch. Delicious!!

Thanks to parents for bringing in the various dishes!



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GRADE NINE STUDENTS – CALM 10:

For your information, if you are planning on taking CALM 10 at Sturgeon Composite High School next year – it can be taken during the summer through Morinville Learning Centre. Registration forms and course info is available for pick up by Grade 9 students in the Sturgeon Heights office. The Learning Centre needs names and phone numbers as soon as possible; however, materials will not be released until mid June.



Mrs. Brenneis' class enjoyed a lunch of scrambled eggs and toast in honour of the Easter season! Mmmmmm – looks good!



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COMPLEMENTARY COURSE FEES:

Term 3 options began a short time ago. Please watch for fee reminders coming home with your son or daughter. If you have any questions regarding fees for your child's options, please call the school at 459 3990. If fees are outstanding from Term 1 or 2, these will be shown on the fee invoice as well.

It would be appreciated if these fees could be remitted as soon as possible. Thank you.



The Firefighters from St. Albert accepted a cheque in the amount of \$750 raised by students at Sturgeon Heights towards their Muscular Dystrophy Fundraiser.

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Kindergarten held their own Circus events, complete with the Big Top and Ringmaster!



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MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Volunteer/Community Tea
Tuesday, June 7th - 2:00 p.m.
Please join us!



COMMUNITY NEWS:



Supercool Summerschool Grades 1-9!

Plenty of new programs and exciting changes have been made and added to our summer program. There is definitely something for everyone! Programs will run this year from July 4th- 8th and/or July 11th- 15th. Space is limited and programs fill very quickly so register early to avoid disappointment. Registration forms have been sent home with your child. Additional forms are also available in the office. Programs are taught by a certified teacher in a small group setting. Call Sherry Foote @ 780-914-3847 or Tracy Tattrie @ 459-2644 for additional information.

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Sturgeon Heights

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2 Spring photos for all in the Gym Kinderstart to the Winspear (Day 1)	3 (Day 2)	4 (Day 3)	5 Sturgeon Evening of Music – SCHS 7:00 pm (Day 4)	6 (Day 5)	7 Badminton finals SCHS
8	9 Badminton Team wind-up Party 3:30 – 5:30 pm (Day 6)	10 Popcorn in Snack Shop (Day 7)	11 Staff meeting Dismissal @ 12:20 p.m. (Day 8)	12 (Day 1)	13 “Twin Day” (Day 2)	14
15  "Dare to Soar"	16 Elementary Track Meet at SHS (Day 3)	17 PAT – Grade 3 LA / A Junior High Track Meet at SHS (Day 4)	18 PAT - Grade 6 LA / A (Day 5)	19 PAT – Grade 9 LA / A Hot Dogs in Snack Shop Awesome Bridges – 3S (Day 6)	20 PD Day – No School for Students	21
22	23 Victoria Day Holiday for Staff and Students	24 Popcorn in Snack Shop (Day 7)	25 Rainout Date for Elementary Track Meet at SHS Outdoor Ed day trip to Camp Warwa Primary Woodworking Day (Day 8)	26 Rainout Date for Junior High Track Meet at SHS (Day 1)	27 P.A.R.T.Y. Program Gr 9 8:45 – 2:30 pm 30-hr Famine 1pm Junior High (Day 2)	28 30-hr Famine ends at 7 pm Junior High
29	30 Grade 4's and 5's to Provincial Museum (Day 3)	31 Divisional Track Meets Elementary to Namao Junior High to Redwater (Day 4)				

May 2011

Sturgeon Heights

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 "Dare to Soar"			1 City Centre Art in Junior High Rooms 1 st to 3 rd School Council Meeting 7:00 pm (Day 5)	2 Rainout Date for Divisional Trackmeet Primary to Childrens' Festival (Day 6)	3 Coffee with the Principal 9 a.m. All Welcome! (Day 7)	4
5	6 (Day 8)	7 Volunteer / Community Tea 2:00 p.m. Join Us! Popcorn in Snack Shop (Day 1)	8 Staff meeting Dismissal at 12:20 pm (Day 2)	9 Grade 9 Farewell 6 to 10 pm in the Gym (Day 3)	10 Grade 9's to West Edmonton Mall (Day 4)	11
12	13 (Day 5)	14 PAT Grade 3 LA/B Grade 6 Social (Day 6)	15 PAT Grade 6/LA/B (Day 7)	16 PAT Grade 3 Math Grade 6 Math (Day 8)	17 PAT Grade 6 Science (Day 1)	18
19	20 (Day 2)	21 Popcorn in Snack Shop (Day 3)	22 PAT Grade 9 LA/B (Day 4)	23 PAT Grade 9 Science (Day 5)	24 PAT Grade 9 Math Primary Play Day (Day 6)	25 
26 	27 PAT Grade 9 Social Primary to John Janzen Centre (Day 7)	28 (Day 8)	29 No Classes for Students	30 Report cards handed out / Dismissal at Noon Admin in the school until 3:30 pm	Enjoy your summer holidays!	JULY 5 TH Administration in the School 9 a.m. - Noon

June 2011