



# The Heights Headlines



November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Have you heard . . .

Congratulations to the 4 L classroom who won tickets to the Oil Kings game on November 24<sup>th</sup>!



Grade 4 students will be going to see *Wheels, Wings and Waves: A Lego World of Transportation* and will be working with city engineers on devices that move!





## ***THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER!***

**Thank You Students and Parents! Our Annual QSP Magazine Fundraiser was another huge success, with sales of over \$29,000.**

Remember, now that our main campaign is over, you can still support our school all year long, by purchasing all your NEW, RENEWAL and GIFT subscriptions on-line at [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca).

Each subscription that you purchase continues to bring profit to our school. So if you have any additional magazines expiring soon, or just forgot to order during our main campaign, you may still do so! You can also send emails to your friends, colleagues and family members across Canada, or put a link on your Facebook page, inviting them to shop on-line and support our school.

Simply go to [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca), click **JUST SHOPPING**, and use **Our Group # 382**.

**Remember:** Due to the length of the fundraiser, publisher's schedules, and magazine frequency, your magazines may take 12 to 16 weeks to arrive as stated on the back of your pink receipt copy.  
If you have any questions regarding your magazine subscriptions, please call QSP Time Inc. customer service toll free at 1-800-667-2536.

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

Sturgeon Heights is a very busy school. Our staff continually looks for ways to bring engaging learning opportunities to our students and reinforce student learning. We have a parent support network also bringing great support to our school through time, energy and the raising of funds.

Some of the activities this past month include the swimming program, Take Our Kids To Work, the book fair, the magazine sale, gymnastics classes, picture day, marketplace day, school team sports and tournaments, hot lunch days, Oil Kings hockey game, poinsettia fundraiser, coupon book fundraiser and the family bingo. Situations where notes are sent home promoting activities that cost money or fundraisers allowing us to bring future learning opportunities to kids are considered on an individual basis. It is not our intent to 'nickel and dime' parents, but our eagerness to enrich the experiences for kids is a priority.

Our fundraising programs are in place to subsidize our field trip and enrichment programs. Experiential learning outside the classroom and opportunities like swimming programs are very important to our school community. I frequently hear from parents about the importance of those programs and how they value the

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extra things we do for their children at Sturgeon Heights. While many schools have cut field trips, we work hard to maintain those activities with very limited user fees.

I also hear that all of these wonderful opportunities can take a toll on family finances. Our Parent Fundraising Association and our staff are aware of the challenges. Having talked about all the wonderful opportunities made available to our students, I want to remind you that parent decisions to take part in the extra-curricular activities like ski trips, marketplace day and fundraisers are absolutely optional. We certainly do promote and market our activities designed to bring extra resources into our school and enhance the learning environment, but parents may need to be selective. I would hope parents feel very positive about supporting the classroom based activities as they are always tied to a curriculum outcome.

Contrary to the message children often bring home, not everybody does everything; not everybody has a cell phone and not everybody stays up late every night. As a parent, make the choices that work for your family and support your family values, and if issues arise feel free to talk with me in confidence.

*Garnet Goertzen, Principal*

**Marketplace Day, organized by Mr. Goertzen's Entrepreneurship class, was a very successful event. Students and staff were able to purchase the many items the vendors had for sale!**



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

### **Busy Time**

Report cards went home today and our winter holiday is quickly approaching. As one hectic event (report cards) ends, we start something else like the Christmas Concert. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Band Concert Dec. 2 and the Christmas Concert Dec. 9.

### **Phones**

A concern recently has been the use of cell phones during the day. Winter can bring a lot of great activities for students to participate in, but it also marks the flu season. Students are required to use the office phone to call home if they are not feeling well. It allows us to keep track of our students and know that they are safe. Using a cell phone during school hours, even to call home, is not allowed. Using cell phones during the school day is easily abused and we ask that students make contact with parents via the office phone.

On the other side, there is the misuse of the office phone. Please speak with your child about when it is appropriate to call home. The office staff makes every effort to accommodate students that need to use the phone, like when they are sick. Unfortunately too often students give "It's an emergency" as a reason, but it is soon found out the emergency was not until next week or it was to ask to go to a friend's house. Many times the student does not need to call home, but it has become a habit of calling for everything. Students' using the phone through the day often means they are missing class time.

### **Great Support**

Thank you to the community's support for magazines sales with this year total being \$29,097.03 in subscriptions sold. That means I don't have to wear a chicken suit. Maybe next year if we reach our goal of \$36000, I may have to dress like Big Bird.

### **Ski and a Movie**

Lastly, I want mention the ski trips and one more travel option for junior high students. In light of Mr. Goertzen's message about parents making the choice to pay for certain activities or fundraising, please understand that the ski trips are optional. Sturgeon Heights School, like other schools, is in a position to organize group activities that are often at a reduced rate. We will continue to plan events that involve our students, but at the same time are cognizant that families may choose to opt out. The school has planned a ski trip on March 10, 2010 to Rabbit Hill for students in Grades 4-9. More information will be sent in January. I received enough emails and phone calls to plan a Marmot trip for students in Grades 7-9 on March 10 also. Junior high students will have received the information today.

One more travel option for Junior High students in grades 7 and 8. Has your child ever wanted to direct, shoot, and edit a movie. Galliano Island Film and Television School (GIFTS) offers that opportunity to students and Sturgeon Heights is planning a trip that could send up to 38 students in Grades 7 and 8. While it is a wonderful opportunity there is a cost associated with it. The school feels that this is an amazing hands-on program and we would be remiss if we didn't try to send some students. More information about this will be sent next week.

Take care and have a great December.

*Wayne Rufiange, Vice Principal*

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## FROM OUR TRUSTEE:

Concern has been raised at our Board table about how students with special needs will be funded in the future. While the coding process parents have become familiar with, has been in place for a number of years, is not a perfect system, it enabled access to provincial dollars over and above the basic funding allotment for all students. We have been told the coding process will soon be no longer used. There is discussion at the provincial level as to how there can be cross ministry (Education, Health and Children and Youth Services) funding of special needs children but there has been little concrete decisions that would indicate a way to guarantee continued special needs funding at the present level or for that matter any level. Our Board is working closely with the Public School Board Association and the Alberta School Boards Association to lobby the Provincial Government for continued specific funding for special needs children. As a Board member, I have concerns our children will get lost in the bureaucracy and special needs funding will become a major challenge to secure for them. I will keep you informed when any decisions are made.

As previously mentioned, you can read David Hancock's blog at <http://www.davehancock.ca> If you are interested in discussing his comments with me or wish me to pass your comments on to him, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have enjoyed the many activities I had the opportunity to attend at Sturgeon Heights this month. The Remembrance Day activity was thought provoking, especially during this time when we as a nation are deciding when our troops should be brought home from Afghanistan.

The Entrepreneurial Day was not only a learning experience for the junior high students but also fun for all as they circled the gym deciding on which tasty treats to try. Bravo for all the hard work and success of students.

I attended the pep rally on the 19<sup>th</sup> and it was fun to watch the teachers spar against the students in the volleyball games. Since I played volleyball in school, it was hard not to get in there and play too. A great time had by all and the music was great!

The kick off to the Massacre Fundraiser also took place at the pep rally and it looks like we are off to another great start for a successful campaign.

I would appreciate any feedback on how we can improve the information that is included in the Board meeting highlights. They are found on the Sturgeon School Division website at [www.sturgeon.ab.ca](http://www.sturgeon.ab.ca). Click on trustees and then click on Board Highlights. We are always looking for new ways to improve our communication to you so let me know your ideas.

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

## BOARD 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.



Welcome to the Headstart Bakery!

"D" is for Donut - and "D" was the letter of the day when Headstart students made their clay donuts and decorated them.

Don't they look almost good enough to eat?



## **S**TAFF MEETING:

The regular monthly staff meeting for December will be held on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Students will dismiss at 12:20 p.m. on this date.

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**P**EACE POSTER:

Students in Mr. Ohm’s Grade 6 class participated in the Lions’ International Peace Poster Contest for 2010 – 2011. The contest theme was “Vision of Peace.” Congratulations to three students who received monetary awards at a presentation ceremony last night in the Morinville Town Hall: Conner Forbirghh, Keely Mazzolini-Flynn and Elana Profiri. Parents from three schools, Lions’ Club members and Mr. Goertzen were all in attendance to share in the presentations!





## **MUSIC NOTES:**

### **JUNIOR HIGH BAND CONCERT**

The junior high band, under the direction of Mrs. Medisky, will be holding a Band Concert on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Students will showcase many of their favorite numbers, along with a few Christmas tunes. It will be a super evening – come on out and enjoy the music!

### **SILENT AUCTION – Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Music Association is once again planning a Silent auction at the Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Any parents or community members who have businesses or who would like to donate items to the silent auction may obtain a letter authorizing donations to the school. Items may be left at the school anytime! The Auction will run from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Our Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The theme this year is “Christmas is my Favorite Time of year.” Students from Headstart, Kinderstart, Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 6 will be participating in the concert. A few of the numbers you can look forward to are: Jingle Bells, Do You Hear What I Hear, and many more old favorites. You will also be treated to dance numbers by the Grade 1 to 6 classes. Christmas Concert evening is always exciting and fun-filled for everyone. Bring along your friends and relatives – everyone is welcome!

A dress rehearsal will take place on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m. If you are unable to attend in the evening, please feel free to join us for the afternoon rehearsal.

## PARKING REMINDER!

Please remember this is **NO PARKING AVAILABLE** on Hogan Road. Sturgeon Heights has a parking lot for guests to the North of the school. We will also have an area to the back of the school (West) cleared of snow for extra parking. Driving entrance to the back of the school is through the Fire Lane which is located at the front of the parking area. Please **do not block** the fire lane!

## NO BABYSITTING AVAILABLE!

Please Note: There will be NO babysitting available for the Christmas concert on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## TOYS FOR TOTS:

The Leadership students have made arrangements for Sturgeon Heights to collect toys in support of the Salvation Army campaign. Toys may be brought in to the classrooms from **December 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is an optional campaign and we appreciate any and all the toys we receive! Boxes will be available for donations during the Band Concert and Christmas Concert.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND EARLY DISMISSAL:

Students will dismiss at 12:20 p.m. on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, to begin their Christmas holidays. Students and staff will return to school at the regular time (8:40 a.m.) on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.



The boys' and girls' volleyball teams anxiously await their chance to play at the Pep Rally.

**Congratulations to Nicole Brown, Jacob Kaup, Lana Labrecque and Teygan MacLowick** for representing Sturgeon Heights at the Volleyball Allstar game on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our athletes showed very well!



# BOOK FAIR:

The Book Fair held recently at Sturgeon Heights was a huge success! Thank you to all parents who supported the Fair by purchasing books for their children!

The “Count the Gummy Worms Contest” had two winners – both were one number away! There were actually 105 gummy worms in the jar. Kristen from 8W guessed 104 and Kennedy from 5/6 OYA guessed 106! The girls got to split the jarful of worms!

Karinne in 8W won the book draw of \$25 for herself and \$25 worth of books for her classroom!

## Congratulations to the Book Fair winners!



**Flight Corporal Joseph Schafers and Corporal Brandon Miller marched in the colors for our recent Remembrance Day Observance. Seeing their friends take part in such an official manner always has a very positive impact on other students.**

**It was the first chance everyone had to hear the Sturgeon Heights Choir under the direction of Mrs. Medisky. The Choir consists of students in Grades 1 to 6. Accompanist, Mrs. Lloy Williams, played piano, while the Choir sang ‘One Wish’.**

**Great job!**

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY:

Thanks to all our parents and guests who turned out for the recent Remembrance Day Observance! Wonderful to have everyone together for such a special service! We were joined by Mr. Lockwood from Central Office and our Senior Friends from West Country Heath!

Donations of change from Sturgeon Heights students to the Poppy Campaign with the Royal Canadian Legion were \$121.30.



Students and guests were treated to a number called "Peace Train Silhouettes". It was well done by Mrs. Woods' Grade 7M Language Arts class. Miss Loh's 4L class performed "In Flanders Fields" and the Musical Theatre group presented the "Waving Flag."

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## HAIR MASSACURE:

Sturgeon Heights School is again taking part in the Hair Massacure in 2011. It will take place on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Ice Palace at West Edmonton Mall. Please see Mrs. Cornet, Miss Sydlowski or Mrs. Hartmetz to pick up a pledge package. More info to follow. Any questions, please call the school at 780 459 3990.

## CUTLERY:

Please remember to send some type of cutlery with your children's lunches if they require it to eat their lunch with. Whether you send "real" cutlery or disposable is up to you. We have a limited amount of cutlery in the office for the rare time we need it; however, some students are requesting it every day.



## CROSS COUNTRY RUN:

One name was omitted from the list of top ten runners: 1998 Boys – Austin Mazzolini-Flynn  
Congrats, Austin!

## COMMUNITY NEWS:

The Alberta Safety Council Babysitting Courses will again be sponsored by the Community Information and Volunteer Centre on:

**DATES:** December 4 and 5, 2010 (inclusive) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.)

**PLACE:** Community Information and Volunteer Centre @ Charles Gale Centre  
#10, 215 Carnegie Drive, St. Albert

**COST:** (\$50.00 includes manual and graduate card. **FREE** registration on our babysitting registry after successfully completing the course, and other emergency handouts.)

**FOR PRE-REGISTRATION** information call: **Community Information and Volunteer Centre at 780 459 6666 or register in person at #10, 215 Carnegie Drive, St. Albert**




Students and staff recently had an opportunity to visit with Dr. Michèle Dick, Superintendent of Sturgeon School Division, as she visited our classrooms.

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b> Trimester 1 Ends for Junior High Students (Day 4)	<b>2</b> Junior High Band Concert 7 pm All Welcome! (Day 5)	<b>3</b> Trimester 2 Begins for Junior High Students (Day 6)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> (Day 7)	<b>7</b> (Day 8)	<b>8</b> Staff Meeting Dismissal at 12:20 pm (Day 1)	<b>9</b> Christmas Concert 6:30 pm All Welcome! Silent Auction 5:30 – 6:30 pm (Day 2)	<b>10</b> (Day 3)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> (Day 4)	<b>14</b> Mr. Sub Day  Coffee with the Principal 2 pm (Day 5)	<b>15</b> (Day 6)	<b>16</b> (Day 7)	<b>17</b> Last Day of Classes for 2010! (Day 8)	<b>18</b> Christmas Break Begins
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	See you on January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2011
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <h2>December 2010</h2> </div>						

# Sturgeon Heights

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 "Dare to Soar"						
2	3 Welcome back to School! (Day 1)	4 (Day 2)	5 (Day 3)	6 (Day 4)	7 Kinderstart Gymnastics 1 - 2:15 pm (Day 5)	8
9	10 (Day 6)	11 (Day 7)	12 Staff meeting Dismissal at 12:20 pm (Day 8)	13 Basketball Namao at SHS (Day 1)	14 (Day 2)	15
16	17 PFA meeting 6:30 pm School Council meeting 7:30 pm (Day 3)	18 (Day 4)	19 (Day 5)	20 Basketball Lilian Schick at SHS (Day 6)	21 Kinderstart Gymnastics 1 - 2:15 pm (Day 7)	22
23	24 (Day 8)	25 (Day 1)	26 (Day 2)	27 Basketball SHS at Legal (Day 3)	28 (Day 4)	29
30	31 Professional Development Day No School for students					

January 2011