



# VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL JANUARY UPDATE BULLETIN



## PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

For the past nine years, Alberta Education has asked students, parents, and teachers to complete an "Accountability Pillar Survey" sometime during the months of January and February. Once again this year Alberta Education will be conducting this survey. The survey will be mailed out to parents of students in **Grades 4, 7 & 10** by the middle of January with the request to be returned to Alberta Education by February 18<sup>th</sup>. Students in Grades 4, 7 & 10, as well as all teachers will complete the survey on-line at school between February 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. I would request that all parents of grade 4 students kindly complete the survey and send it in before the deadline date. We appreciate the feedback on our school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly. This year's survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2012, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

The survey covers six main categories. Below are the survey results for the Accountability Pillar Survey completed by students, parents and teachers in February 2011.

Measure Category	Measure	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe & Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Student Learning Opportunity	Program of Studies Education Quality	Very High Very High	Maintained Improved	Excellent Excellent
Student Learning	PAT: Acceptable PAT: Excellence	Very High Very High	Improved Significantly Improved Significantly	Excellent Excellent
Preparation for Lifelong Learning	Work Preparation Citizenship	Very High Very High	Improved Maintained	Excellent Excellent
Parental Involvement	Parental Involvement	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Please note that we take the information collected from the survey results very seriously. The teaching staff received a copy of the results last May and the information in each of the categories was analyzed. Vincent Massey's School Council also received a copy of the results last May and had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the results. Both parents and teachers were pleased with our results.

We realize there is still room for improvement in our student performance results on Provincial Achievement Tests. Vincent Massey's teaching staff work diligently to ensure all Grade 3 and 6 students are prepared to do their best in May and June of each year. Please note that the primary teachers and upper elementary teachers meet as a group to analyze the results when they are released each year. Teacher groups focus their discussions on three areas: 1) What's working 2) Gaps/Needs and 3) Future actions/directions. All future directions are implemented as soon as possible.

In the Continuous Improvement Category our school's three-year average survey results improved from 87.6% to 91.7%, which brought us up from High results in 2010 to a Very High result in 2011. (Please note that this is significantly above the provincial three-year average of 80.1%).

At Vincent Massey we work very hard to offer a comprehensive number of programs. **The following is a list of all the programs offered to students at Vincent Massey.**

### Character Programs

Children of Noble Character  
Bully Awareness & Prevention  
Safety Patrols  
Lunch & Ball Helpers

### Recognition Programs

Pride and Praise, WOW, SWEAT & Caught in the Act  
Honorable Mention & Honors Certificate – each Report Card Term  
Year-end Awards – Academic, Most Improved, Citizenship, School Service, Grade 6 Music Award, and School Patrol  
Fair Player of the Month  
Library Winter Reading Program

### Support Service Programs

Full Day Kindergarten  
Grade 1 Early Literacy

Grade 2 Early Literacy  
Grade 3 Resource Room  
Smart Boards in every homeroom and support class  
Grade 6 E.P.I.C.  
Grade 6 Outdoor Education  
Speech & Counseling Services  
Babysitting Course  
Home Alone Course

### Aid & Humanitarian Fund Raising Programs

Terry Fox Cancer Run  
UNICEF  
Operation Christmas Child  
Salvation Army Food Drive  
Penny Drive – supporting local charities

### Extra – Curricular Programs

Primary & Upper Elementary Choirs  
African Hand Drums  
Chess Club  
Basketball Club  
Inter-school Sporting Events  
Winter Ski Trip

### School Pride Programs

Pride Days / Dress-up Themes  
Monthly Pride Day Assemblies  
Christmas Concert / Family Night  
Year-end Fun Fitnic / Track & Field  
Education Week

### School Council Support Programs

Hot Lunch & Hot Dog Fridays  
Classroom Incentives and Rewards  
Updated Playground Equipment  
School Dances  
Cultural and Science Assemblies / Programs  
Kinsmen Skate-a-thon  
Teacher Requests

### Before and After School Program

This program is offered Monday to Friday 7:15am – 8:15am  
and 2:45pm – 5:45pm.

We are proud of the number of programs we offer to students at Vincent Massey. We know there is always room for improvement and we value your feedback. If you have suggestions on how we can improve, or feel we should be offering other programs, please give me a phone call (403-527-3750 ext. 5603) or send me a note. We appreciate all the parent support offered to us and look forward to hearing from you regarding any concerns or questions.

### SCHOOL FEES

We still have several families who have not paid their school fees. We would sincerely appreciate this being cleared up as soon as possible.



These fees are used to purchase the classrooms supplies and learning resources that are provided for your children throughout the school year. **Remember, we accept cash, cheque, VISA, M/C or can offer payment plan options.** If you have any questions or would like to set up a payment plan, please contact the school at 527-3750. Thank you for your cooperation.

### PERSONAL HEALTH PROGRAM AND PARENT INFO NIGHT

This unit will take place from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> for Grades 4 to 6 students. To facilitate questions that parents may have about the “Human Sexuality Program” for Grades 4, 5 and 6, there will be a parent meeting on **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8 pm** in the Staff Room of Vincent Massey School. You may wish to attend in order to learn more about what is taught to the children in the Human Sexuality Unit. We will quickly review the curriculum topics at each grade level. If wished, School Board approved videos will be made available to preview.

The Alberta Learning Health Curriculum states that teachers of students in upper elementary school must cover the following instructional objectives:

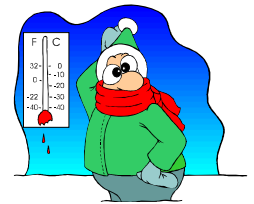
- Grade 4: Puberty
- Grade 5: The Human Reproductive System
- Grade 6: Conception to Birth and Blood-borne Diseases

### ANNUAL SKI TRIP (Gr. 4-6) TO ELKWATER

The annual ski trip for **Grades 4 – 6** will be held on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the forms to come home with your child. Paperwork and full payment need to be returned to your child’s homeroom teacher **no later than January 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

We would sincerely appreciate your assistance. **PLEASE** make sure your children are **dressed properly for winter weather and that they wear it outside at school.** We require that students go outside at recess and noon hour (weather permitting) for fresh air and they need to dress appropriately. Remember our Alberta weather is unpredictable, so be prepared!!



# Thank You!!!

Mr. McFetridge would like to thank all students that raised funds for UNICEF this year. The total raised was \$1,017.00!! Way to go Vincent Massey!!

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION TELETHON

Help us celebrate the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Education Foundation Telethon. This year's Telethon theme is, "**Celebrate 125**"; **The Journey Continues; Recognizing 125 years of Public Education in Medicine Hat**". Our schools, in partnership with parents, develop tomorrow's citizens in so many ways. We would love to have our students perform at the telethon.

This year, the Telethon Committee would like to focus predominately on group performances to allow as many students as possible to showcase their talents. If any of our VM students are interested in performing at the Telethon – **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, 2pm-6pm at the Wahl-Harker theatre at CHHS, please contact the school office **immediately** so we can let the committee know and get your name on the performers' list.



Performing at the Telethon might be good practice for students who might be performing in the Music Festival.

We know there are numerous talented children at Vincent Massey and this is your chance to be a shining star! This information needs to be to the Telethon Committee **before January 27<sup>th</sup>**. The Telethon can be viewed on Shaw Cable 10 and pledges can be made to (403) 526- 0726.

## RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the **Kindergarten Raffle** Winners:



Mom's Basket – Kristen Banks  
Dad's Basket – Konrad Galts  
Family Basket – Rhonda

Thank you again to all the Kindergarten parents and supporters of this Kindergarten fundraiser. It was a huge success with a "sell-out" of tickets.

## STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION

It is **very important** that we have the correct information on file in case parents need to be contacted or if an emergency arises.

If you have had **any changes** to your child's information, such as new phone/cell numbers, new address, new contact information, etc. please contact me **as soon as possible** so your child's file can be brought up to date. Thanks for your cooperation.

# Student Success!

Staff members of Vincent Massey are very proud of our students and we love hearing about their achievements inside and outside the school setting. If you would like us to acknowledge your child's accomplishments for out-of-school activities, please contact Mrs. Knutson or Mrs. Pahl at 527-3750.

## PRIDE & PRAISE STUDENTS

Jasmine Acton	Sharli Clarke
Alyssa Ford	Madison Hunt
Emily Martin	Josh Thunberg
Isabella Walter	Tyra Wickenheiser
Ardit Zejnnullahu	Jayden Collins
Isaac Handley x2	Anna Heggie x2
Bailey McCann x2	Jocelyn Middelhoeck x2
Benjamin Milner x2	Blayne Penner x2
Nataya Penttila x2	Riley Rutledge x2
Josh Suelzle	Davane Beauchamp
Dakota Degenstein	Taylor Hanson
Isreal Honig	Victoria Jones
Adam Klick	Tanner Maxwell
Akira Penttila	Ivey Russell
Ardita Zejnnullahu	

## FAIR PLAYER AWARD WINNERS

The following students received the Fair Player Award for December. Congratulations to:

Owen Keays	Halle Cahoon
Hudson Stewart	Paityn Flemmer
Sam McFetridge	Alycia Simpson
Noah Smith	Madison Hunt
Jordan Myers	Adam Hilgendorf
Taylor Hanson	Dakota Carrier

## S.W.E.A.T. AWARD WINNERS FOR DECEMBER

Congratulations to: Rogan Wellbrock, Axxel Foley, Logan Hobson, Kendra Richards, Tristan Parks, Daniel Fleckenstein, Kenzie Ellerman, Lizzy Tweed, Cole Russell, Abby Amancio, Dominik Ferrier, Nicholas Sembaliuk, Victoria Jones, and Ryder Goldade.

Movie family pass winner was Jordynn Volden. Congrats!

## PATROLLER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER



The Patroller of the month for December is Autumn McFetridge.

Thank you Autumn for your dedication in keeping the kids of Vincent Massey safe.

## SKATING SCHEDULE – HOCKEY HOUNDS RINK



### **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 – 11:30      Grade 1 – Morin & McBain  
Grade 6 - Brandt

### **Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 – 10:00      Grade 4 – Oliphant & Baird  
10:30 – 11:30      Grade 2 – Cowan & Seitz  
Grade 3 – Ryckman & Thompson

### **Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 – 10:00      Kindergarten A

### **Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 – 10:00      Kindergarten B  
Grade 5 – Bader & Elderkin

### **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 – 10:00      Grade 4 – Oliphant  
10:30 – 11:45      Grade 1 – Morin & McBain  
Grade 6 – Brandt

### **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 – 10:00      Grade 4 – Baird & Oliphant  
10:15 – 11:30      Grade 3 – Ryckman & Thompson  
10:30 – 11:30      Grade 2 – Cowan & Seitz

## WINTER READING PROGRAM

The Winter Reading Program, “Buggy for Books” will kick off on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The program will run for 4 weeks ending Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Pride and Praise assembly.



This is an opportunity for students to record all their free reading time on their tally sheets and hand them into the library every MONDAY to win great prizes. They can win individual prizes and also a pizza party for their “Bug Team.” We ask that students are honest about their reading time and that parents only initial their tally sheets if the reading minutes are correct. This makes the contest fair for all students.

We look forward to a fun and rewarding program this year.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

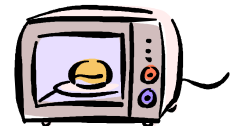
- \*January 16<sup>th</sup> - KPAC Meeting 6:30 pm  
- Parent Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- \*January 18<sup>th</sup> - Parent Night for Human Sexuality Program  
7-8pm in the Staff Room
- \*January 19<sup>th</sup> – Hot Lunch
- \*January 20<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL
- \*January 21<sup>st</sup> – Babysitting Course
- \*January 26<sup>th</sup> - Ski Trip (Gr. 4-6)
- \*January 27<sup>th</sup> – Gr. 6 Pizza Sale
- \*February milk - \$10.50
- \*February Family Week – NO school Feb. 20-24<sup>th</sup>

## LUNCHTIME REMINDERS

-If you bring warm up items for lunch, please do not send anything that needs more than 2 minutes of warm up time. We have long lines at the microwaves.

-Sandwiches cannot be warmed.

-If bringing “Ichiban” type noodles for lunch, you must provide a **bow**l to heat them in. We will not provide styrofoam cups to heat their noodles.



## FUN & EASY FAMILY OUTDOOR WINTER ACTIVITIES



### **Cold Molds**

Borrow some pans from the kitchen. Use them to build crystal fairy castles or to create cakes for a cold-weather "buffet."

### **Ice and Easy**

Freeze colored water into ice cubes, then hide them around the yard for a wintertime scavenger hunt.

### **Tic-Tac-Snow**

Two players go for the championship in this classic game. Use crisscrossed sticks and pinecones as game pieces.

### **Frosty Toss**

Have a snowball-throwing contest! Make a target by creating a bright circle in the snow with colored water in a squirt bottle.

### **Build a Fort**

Build a fort. Use sand buckets, loaf pans, and cut-up empty milk cartons to make a cool snow castle.

### **Swing Away**

Make a golf course by packing down a section of snow every few feet. Bury tin cans halfway down in the snow to create holes, and mark them with mini flagsticks.

\*Ideas courtesy of [www.parents.com](http://www.parents.com)

When enjoying outside fun, keep these tips in mind:

- Dress in multiple layers and layer-down if needed.
- Don't forget about your feet. Wear warm and appropriate foot wear.
- Wear bright colors so you can be seen by other fun-goers and motorists
- Watch that ice. Ensure that vehicles have come to a complete stop and make eye contact before proceeding in front of traffic

## CHADS BEHAVIORAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

### **Children's Groups:**

Kids in Between divorce group for 6-7 year olds who have experienced parental separation or divorce

**Kids in Control** – Anger management for 6-7 year olds & 4-5 year olds

**Bravehearts** – Building courage through play, a play therapy group for ages 3-5

**Cool Cubs** – Learning limits through play, a play therapy group for ages 3-5

### **Parent Resources:**

Visit: <http://www.palliserhealth.ca/Parent-Resources.html>

For more information and registration please call Janice Eckert at 403-502-8257 from 8:00-12:30.

## SPOTLIGHT ON NUTRITION - ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

- To get all the nutrients you need to grow and be strong, enjoy different foods from each of the 4 food groups from *Canada's Food Guide*. To create a personalized food guide for yourself and family, go to [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide). Click on "Create My Food Guide".



- Milk and milk products are excellent sources of calcium. Calcium is a mineral that your bones need to grow and stay strong. Try drinking milk at breakfast, adding cheese to your sandwich, or eating yogurt with your favourite fruit to meet the number of milk servings you require from Canada's Food Guide.
- Sugar free gum is a great treat that actually helps prevent cavities!



Well balanced, healthy lunches delivered to your child's school just in time for lunch!

Peace of mind your children are eating healthy, nutritious lunches!

Eliminate school lunch making stress!

Easy online ordering convenience in your busy schedule!

Visit [www.kidsplate.ca](http://www.kidsplate.ca) for more information or to contact us.

"We Make Healthy Easy!"

### **Breaking Up is Hard to Do!**



*National Non-Smoking Week: January 15-21*

Most parents hope that their children will choose to avoid tobacco. For parents who use tobacco, it can seem difficult to discuss these expectations with their children. Research indicates that children whose parents talk to them about smoking are less likely to start. **That is especially true if the parent is a smoker.** Parents are one of the greatest influences in their kids' lives and honest conversations about the risks and consequences of tobacco use can influence kids' decisions about smoking.

If you are a smoker and tried to quit at least once before, tell your child about how difficult it is and why you wish you could. If you're thinking about quitting again, or are interested in helping someone else make changes in tobacco use, there are supports available. For advice on how to "Break-Up with Tobacco", visit [www.albertaquits.ca](http://www.albertaquits.ca) or call 1-866-710-QUIT(7848).



# JANUARY

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!!</b>	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	
8	9 Welcome back to school! 	10	11	12	13 Hot Lunch Orders Due Today. Hot Dog Day 	14
15	16 KPAC Meeting 6:30 School Council Meeting 7:00 Everyone Welcome!  Reading Program Starts	17	18 Parent Meeting for Gr. 4 – 6. Personal Health Week 7pm Staff Room	19 Hot Lunch Day! Pride and Praise Assembly 2:10pm	20 NO SCHOOL PLC Friday	21 Red Cross Babysitters Course
22	23 Personal Health Week Grades 4 – 6 Jan. 23 – 27	24	25	26 Elkwater Ski Trip Grades 4 - 6	27 Grade 6 Pizza Day! 	28
29	30	31				

**There is no school the week of February 20-24 inclusive.**