



Learning together; doing our best!

# MAGRATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## OCTOBER 2011

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 7	PLC - No School
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day - No School
Oct. 14	Kindness Award Assembly (changed from Oct. 21 as shown in the agenda)
Oct. 19	Picture Retake Day
Oct. 20	Family Photo Night
Oct. 31	Pumpkin Carving & Costume Parade



### AR Information

Our school library has access to over 40,000 AR quizzes. We currently have over 7,000 books in our library, most of which have AR quizzes.

If students are reading books from home or from the public library and want to know if they are AR books, they can go to the AR Bookfinder in the AR section of the school webpage, enter the title and/or author of the book, and click search. If it is an AR book, it will show up, giving information about the reading level and the points awarded to that book.

Our contract with Renaissance Learning, the company that supplies the tests, limits students to taking the tests at school, but they can take any tests for any AR books, even if we do not have them in the library.

The lab is open from 7:30 to 4:30 for students to take tests.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the school librarian, Jan Heath at 403 758-3367.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wow, It's October already! September was a great month filled with many exciting adventures for the students and staff at Magrath Elementary School.

I would like to thank everyone who is working so hard to raise money for the Terry Fox Cancer Society. This is a very worthwhile cause that helps our students focus on something bigger than themselves as they strive to become responsible contributing citizens. I would also like to thank all those who attended our Back To School Night and School Council Elections. We have more parents than ever elected to School council positions and our discussion on Lock Down and Fire Drill procedures was invaluable as we strive to improve the communication between the school and the parents.

Our grade 6 Playground Patrollers program is also off to a great start. We have 30 patrollers this year and they have been fantastic as they help to keep problems on the playground to a very minimum. Another project that seems to be off and running in a positive direction is our morning snack program. Studies have shown that when children have fuel in their tank, they are more involved and responsive to learning. Thanks to the help of School Council, SASH, and Roosters, we are able to offer all students the opportunity to have a small snack at the start of morning recess.

Just a reminder of some important dates in October you may want to mark on your calendar. October 10<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving and there is no school that day. Our Monthly Kindness assembly is on October 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:15 and our annual Halloween parade and Pumpkin carving contest is on October 31<sup>st</sup>. These dates and other important information can be found on our MES website at [www.magrathelementary.ca](http://www.magrathelementary.ca).

We have had a great start to the year. As a school we are focusing on Literacy and making sure that we are proactive rather than reactive in the interventions we do as we strive to improve student learning. If you would like more information on these interventions, or anything else we are doing at MES, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

## FAMILY PHOTO NIGHT

Photography will take place on Thursday, October 20th from 5:00 to 9:00 pm in the MES auditorium.

This is an opportunity to get your family together for a group photograph. There will be a \$30.00 sitting fee and that includes an 8 x 10 portrait of choice from 6 to 12 proofs. \$20.00 of this fee goes back to the school as a fundraiser.



Come on out that night to support the school and end up with a beautiful family photo.

## SCHOOL FEES

The deadline for paying school fees has now passed and we will be charging an extra \$10.00 per family late fee. This does not pertain to those who have come in and made arrangements for payment.

Fees are \$52.00 for students in Grades 1 to 6 and \$76.00 for students in Kindergarten. We take cash, cheques, and debit. We will also accept post-dated cheques.

Please see that your child's fees are paid as soon as possible as this is an important part of running the school.

## Terry Fox Run



## WEB RESOURCES

The Web has become an invaluable place to find current information for teaching and learning. However, with the proliferation of millions of sites it has become increasingly difficult to navigate to and find those most relevant to our educational needs.

To assist parents, students, and staff in accessing safe educational online resources for teaching and learning, Westwind Division has acquired subscriptions to some excellent web sites. These sites provide a comprehensive set of timely, curricular-focused links to streaming video, text, and other media resources.

Our licensing agreements also provide logins for parents and students to use these resources outside of school as well. Please contact the school and talk to Lorna Dorner or Marilyn Christie for login and password information.

Resource	Website
LearnAlberta (provided by Alberta Education)	<a href="http://www.learnalberta.ca">www.learnalberta.ca</a>
2Learn.ca (provided by Alberta Education)	<a href="http://www.2learn.ca">www.2learn.ca</a>
Atomic Learning	<a href="http://www.atomiclearning.com">www.atomiclearning.com</a>
Discovery Education	<a href="http://www.discoveryeducation.ca">www.discoveryeducation.ca</a> (Canadian site) <a href="http://www.discoveryeducation.com">www.discoveryeducation.com</a> (US site)
Learn360	<a href="http://www.learn360.ca">www.learn360.ca</a> (Canadian site) <a href="http://www.learn360.com">www.learn360.com</a> (US site)
Access Learning	<a href="http://www.accesslearning.com">www.accesslearning.com</a> (Canadian site)
Media Awareness	<a href="http://mnet.hypernet.ca/e/">http://mnet.hypernet.ca/e/</a>



MES students and staff participate in the Terry Fox Run on September 30th.

When I advise parents about saying "no," I tell them the same thing I tell adolescents who might be considering some self-destructive act: "You can always do that, so let's try other things first."

- Give a choice and imply consequences: "Gee, I don't think that is a very good decision and I'm pretty sure it might work out poorly for you."
- Suggest an alternative behavior without ordering it: "I think that if I were in your shoes, I would probably change my tone of voice rather than being asked to leave."
- Ask for illumination (without using a witness stand tone of voice): "I've always wondered about what leads kids to be obnoxious. Can you help me understand that?"
- Give a direct question: "How do you think this is going to work out for you?"

Remember, Love and Logic has nothing against telling a kid "no." However, that means the response has not been clearly thought through. If we can say something that gets the kid to make his own decision, we are further ahead.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible.

Dr. Foster Cline

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Teachers perform during the Welcome Back Assembly.



## VISION FOR CHILDREN

October is eye health month. Your child's vision health is an important component to learning. Vision examinations help develop a baseline for your child's future vision needs. Alberta children under 19 years of age get one free annual vision exam.

Here are a few symptoms you should watch for that may indicate a vision problem;

- if your child loses their place while reading,
- avoids close work,
- holds reading material closer than normal,
- tends to rub their eyes,
- has headaches,
- turns or tilts their head to use one eye only,
- omits or confuses small words when reading.

Children need to be encouraged to take rest breaks during periods of close concentration as well as when using the computer or playing video games. For further information go to [www.opto.ca](http://www.opto.ca).

## INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK October 3-7, 2011

International Walk to School Week gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking. Every year, millions of walkers from around the world walk to school together for various reasons — all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk.

Walking:

- encourages physical activity by teaching children the skills to walk safely and to identify safe routes to school, as well as the benefits of walking
- raises awareness of how walkable a community is and where improvements can be made
- raises awareness about concern for the environment
- reduces traffic congestion and pollution near schools

For more information: [www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org)

## SIMPLE SNACKS

Give your child energy and nutrients throughout the day, by encouraging them to eat a meal or snack every 3-4 hours. Snacks can be very simple and healthy too.

When making a snack, choose foods from at least two of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide. Some easy snack ideas include:

- berries and yogurt
- whole grain crackers and cheese
- red and green peppers with hummus
- fruit salad and almonds

To make a healthy snack the easy choice keep cut up veggies and fruit in the fridge!

For more information and snack ideas please visit <http://bit.ly/ohAllm>.