

Happy New Year and Welcome Back to Crestwood School!

Christmas Concerts a Real Hit Again...The Tradition Continues!

The Crestwood School tradition lives on! The Annual Crestwood School Christmas Concerts were very successful, with full-house audiences in attendance all three nights. The students performed very well. Teachers, teacher assistants, practicum students and volunteer parents are really appreciated for their long hours of preparation and rehearsals to make the concerts so successful.

Thanks also go to Mrs. Western and the parent volunteers for decorating the gym for us and to the staff and students for creating the wonderful decorations that transformed our gym into a Christmas Season delight! Thank you Mrs. Cruz and Mrs. Nielson for directing the Grade 4-5 Concert, and in directing the Intermediate Choir. Thanks also go to Mrs. Pruden and Mrs. Hughes for their work with the Primary Choir and for directing the Grade 2-3 Concert. We appreciate Mrs. Browne who coordinated and directed the Grade 6 concert and the Leadership Academy Choir with the assistance of Mrs. Neilson and their colleagues. Thanks also to the Grade One and Kindergarten teachers who developed their own class performances which were also absolutely delightful. Every teacher and many of our Teacher Assistant worked diligently in preparing their respective students for the performances.

Mrs. Sehn, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Van Maarion also provided leadership and organization for the events behind the scenes. We appreciate our custodians, Mr. Seidal and Mr. Thompsons for their leadership with set-up of the gym, lights and sound systems. Thank you to Mrs. Hammel and Mrs. Monson for the secretarial support for this event. Virtually every staff member contributed to making this set of concerts a tremendous success so we express gratitude to all teachers for their work in making the concerts so wonderful! All students are also to be commended for sharing their talents to make the concerts a wonderful event for their families. Thank you to the many parents made the evenings special for their children by attending the concerts.

CRESTWOOD SCHOOL SPREADS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The Crestwood School students, staff and parents have enjoyed spreading the spirit of the season by finding ways to give to others. Throughout December families of Crestwood School donated items for hampers. Thanks to Mrs. Barth, Miss O'Reilly and the staff of the HUG Project for organizing this event and to the entire school population for contributing to the effort. Food items were also collected from several other schools across the city, which were sorted into hampers in our gym on Friday, December 16th for delivery. This was true synergy at work! School Council and staff members also contributed funds to the creation of Christmas Hampers that will be delivered anonymously to several Crestwood School families in need. A special seasonal touch was added to the school environment as students decorated their classrooms which were judged by a panel of décor experts.

SKATE-A-THON: A January Event This Year!

Our annual Kinsmen Skate-A-Thon was moved from November to January and will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 17th :

9:10-10:10 - Grades 1 and 4

10:30-11:30 - Grades 2 and 6

Wednesday, January 18th

9:10 - 10:10 - Grades 2/3/4 D, 3 and 5


10:30 - 11:30 - Grade 5/6 D



This is an annual community service project for Crestwood School, and all grades will be participating. The Skate-A-Thon pays for free public skating and swimming for children across the city. In order to participate in the Skate-a-thon, students are encouraged to raise or donate money for this good community cause. We will have lots of fun and prizes will be awarded as incentives. Many parent volunteers are needed. If you are interested, could you please call the office to volunteer some of your time?

Our School Council has decided that in order to participate, students need to arrange for a minimum \$5.00 donation for this community cause.

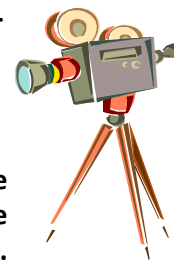
"7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE" ... TRAINING FOR PARENTS



Many parents have commented each year about how pleased they are with the fact that the students are being introduced to our character education program called the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." The goal of our staff is to embed the 7 Habits in to the culture of Crestwood School. This is a program and approach to life that teaches how to establish positive, trusting relationships, how to take greater responsibility, and generally how to begin to reach one's potential. To that end, virtually all staff members have now received training in the 7 Habits. We have also now had five groups of parents receive the training and are looking into the viability of another session in the near future. To that end, please watch for a note home asking if you are interested in participating on Monday, January 16th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The course will be co-facilitated by Mrs. Thompson and Mr. George. This is being offered to parents at no cost so that they will be able to assist and support the students as they work to apply the principles of this program, will be able to use the "7 Habits Language" and will have a greater understanding of one of the key components of the children's program. Please watch for an invitation to sign up for this program as soon as we are back to school. Parents who have already taken the 7 habits training are also invited to attend this overview as a review.

CRESTWOOD SCHOOL'S ANNUAL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

January 25



On Wednesday, January 25th, the Crestwood School gym will be transformed into a movie theatre. This event is the annual family winter activity for our school and is hosted by the School Staff. All Crestwood School families are invited to attend and are asked to bring lawn chairs to sit on during the movie. There will be refreshments for sale in the cafeteria as well. Please come out and make our family movie night great success!



Upcoming in February...

Please also remember that there will be no school for students during the week of February 20-24, due to Family Day week and Teachers' Convention on Thursday and Friday.

STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

It is now coming to that time when the parents of Crestwood School would like to show appreciation to all staff members for their dedication to the Crestwood children and families throughout the year. The selected date to honor our staff with an **Appreciation Luncheon** will be **Monday, January 20th** during lunch time at the school-based PLC and Staff Meeting Day. Please contact the school office as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of this event, and your name will be passed on to our school council executive. Every year our staff is so appreciative of this wonderful gesture from members of our School Council.

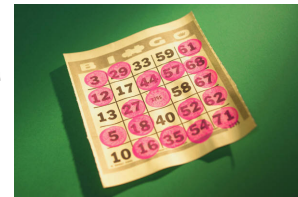


CRESTWOOD BINGO

Our December bingo event raised nearly \$2000. Thanks to the following volunteers from 3A and 3B families who helped us out: Bea Serfas, Leanne Kaczynski, Michelle Butchart, Wendy Christie, Raelynn Hall, Kerri-Lee Nevil, Charlie Tran, and Cam Charlton. Thanks also to Kerrie Simms, a grade one parent who worked the November bingo and liked it so much she came back for another round! We would also like to recognize room reps April Robinson and Sherri Wilkinghoff for recruiting the volunteers.

We now have the bingo dates for the remainder of the school year. They are as follows:

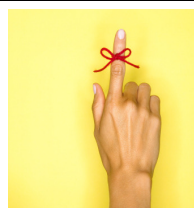
Thursday, January 12
Friday, February 10
Saturday, March 10 - afternoon
Thursday, April 12
Thursday, May 10
Monday, June 11



We are in the process of assigning classes to each of these dates; stay tuned for further details! Please note that the April bingo falls during the Easter Break. Rather than assign this event to any particular class, we are asking for volunteers from the school at large. Please call the school and leave a message for the bingo committee if you are willing to volunteer for this date. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Please remember – FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN...



PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS INTO THE SCHOOL WITHOUT GETTING PERMISSION FROM AN ADMINISTRATOR. WE HAVE CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES AND THEY WILL NEED TO BE KEPT HOME WHEN WE HAVE DOGS OR CATS, ETC., IN THE SCHOOL. WE ARE ASKING THAT ANIMALS ONLY BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES SUCH AS POLICE DOGS OR SEEING-EYE DOGS.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY IN THE MORNING, WE ASK THAT THE DRIVEWAY BE USED ONLY FOR DROP-OFF IN THE MORNINGS. ALSO NO CARS ARE PERMITTED IN THE DRIVEWAY FROM 2:55-3:15 AS THIS IS BUSES ONLY TIME! THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. ALSO, PARENTS ARE ASKED NOT TO DROP OFF OR PICKUP STUDENTS IN THE BACK PARKING LOT BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS. THE PARKING LOT IS FOR STAFF PARKING ONLY.

Important JANUARY Dates



- Jan 9 – School Re-opens
- Jan 11 – SAC Agenda Meeting
- Jan. 12 - Crestwood Bingo
- Jan. 18 – School Council Meeting
- Jan 20 – Staff Development/Staff meeting; Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Jan 25 – CW Family Movie Night
- Jan 26 – 7 Habits Heroes Assembly
- Jan 30 – PD Day – School closed

Winter is here...some friendly reminders:

Throughout the school year we encourage all students to get a few minutes of fresh air during recess and noon hour. With the cold weather upon us, could you please ensure that your children are dressed for the outdoors each day? Also, with the cold weather, more parents will be picking up their children after school. We would therefore ask that you please do not block traffic in the driveway.

HUG Happenings

“Attitude of Gratitude” was our theme for December. Our main project was collecting food and toiletries to make Christmas hampers for local families. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. Thank you very much! We were able to serve 30 families in the community!

“Put first things first” is our theme for January. As well we will be helping the students seek first to understand when dealing with each other. We will be organizing classroom presentations based around handling conflict with their peers, especially during times like recess.

We will also be starting the “Fun Friends” program in some of the classrooms which helps build friendship, resiliency and goal setting skills. Parent information will be provided for the classrooms involved. Please contact us if you have any questions. Also watch for information regarding a “Home Alone” course in the new year.

The HUG (*Helping Us Grow*) program is a mental health capacity building project which is an integrated, community drive approach which provides promotion, prevention and early intervention addiction and mental health services to children, youth and their families within a school-based setting.



Please contact any of the HUG team if you have any questions regarding our program.
Happy New Year from Nicole, Joeleene, Mrs. Barth, and Allana.

PARENT - STUDENT - TEACHER SATISFACTION SURVEYS COMING

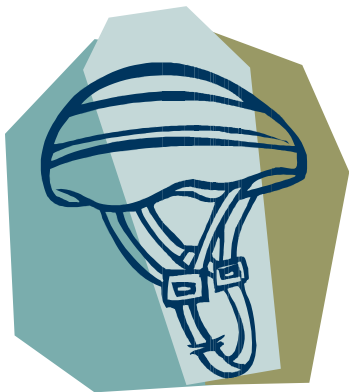
Parents of students of grades 4, 7 and 10 students across Alberta will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (all students grades 4 and above in Charter schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online through their schools.



All surveys are anonymous. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school. In order to assist our parents in providing informed responses to the survey questions, we will be sending a document home to our Grade 4 parents shortly with more details on the survey and information about how Crestwood School responds to the areas being addressed in the survey.



We strongly encourage your participation as the results help us identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses. Survey results will be available to jurisdictions by the start of May 2012, and will be reported publicly by the school and school council as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2012.



SKATING HELMETS A MUST

For the safety of our students, we have a policy on school skating. For students to participate, each one must wear a helmet. The school has a number of helmets, and the School Council has purchased a number of additional helmets for those without. While CSA approved skating or hockey helmets are preferred, parents may choose to have their children wear an alternative type of helmet if they are confident the helmet will provide the safety and protection needed, but please be cautioned that bicycle helmets are not CSA approved for skating.

We also have a number of skates that have been donated to the school for students who do not own a pair. If your child needs skates you may either purchase or borrow a pair from the school. We also could use donated hockey helmets in good condition that we could provide for some children who do not have their own.



January 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 School Re-opens	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 SAC Agenda Meeting	12	13 Hot Lunch McDonald's 	14
15	16	17 SKATE	18 SAC Meeting A THON	19 Hot Lunch Panago Pizza 	20 NO SCHOOL School Based PLC Staff Apprec Luncheon	21
22	23	24	25 Family Movie Night 6:30 pm	26 7 Heroes Habits Assembly	27 Hot Lunch Parent Council (Pancakes & Fruit)	28
29	30 NO SCHOOL PD Day	31				