

# September 2011



## Crestwood Notes

Welcome everyone to the first issue of Crestwood Notes for 2011-2012!

For those parents who are new to Crestwood School, Crestwood Notes is a regular newsletter that goes out to every family in the school. The regular issue is handed out to the youngest child in the family during the first week of each month. If the notes do not get home during that week, would you please ask your child about them? On the odd occasion, we also print a special issue, whenever the need arises. The notes can also be accessed electronically by subscribing on our school home page at [www.crestwoodschool.ca](http://www.crestwoodschool.ca).

### WELCOME BACK FAMILY PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

All Crestwood School students and their families are invited to the annual Welcome Back Family Breakfast on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Pancakes and sausage will be served for \$3.00 a plate. Tickets need to be pre-purchased by Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pancakes will be cooked by the administrators and served by staff volunteers! Please plan to join us for breakfast that day.



Mr. D. George,  
Principal

### Crestwood School's Admin. Team

Mrs. M. VanMaarion, V.P.



Mrs. J. Sehn, V.P.

### Welcome to New Students, Parents & Staff

A warm and friendly Crestwood School Welcome is extended to all families new to our school and a big "Welcome Back" is extended to those who have been with us in previous years. We are pleased to welcome back all staff who are returning to Crestwood. There are a number of changes to our staff this year. As a result of Mrs. Laubman-Ruff moving to Calgary, her replacement in 6B and Grade 6 French is Ms. Mara Ganten. Ms. Perret has returned from a one-year leave of absence where she taught in a special needs school in England. She now returns to teach her Jr. LAP Class at Crestwood as Ms. McLane. Miss Fischer has moved from 4A to 5B, and Mrs. Jones has chosen to work out of central office in a consulting role. We also welcome back Ms. Windjack and Mrs. Pruden. We welcome each of these teachers to Crestwood School and we know that each will make a wonderful addition and significant contributions to our school! All of us are looking forward to a banner year!

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS**

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**School Pictures:** School pictures will be taken on **September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**Parent Parking, Use of the Driveway and Parking Lot:** Parents who drive their children to school are invited to drop them off in the driveway, to continue driving through the driveway and are asked to park only in designated areas. If you are staying at the school for any length of time, please park on the school-side of the street. Please note that from 2:50 – 3:15 the driveway is reserved for **School Busses only**. Parents are asked to pick their children up by parking on the street only. **Please also note that the parking lot is to be used for staff parking ONLY.** In the past, some parents have dropped off or picked their children up in the parking lot, but this creates a potentially dangerous situation as children dart out between cars as staff members' cars are backing out of stalls.

**Crestwood School Bingo Schedule –2011-2012:** Monthly Bingos are a very important fundraiser for Crestwood School. These bingos pay for many vital aspects of our school's programs, including Phys. Ed Equipment, computer technology, major field trips, and library books, among others. This year we are going to organize our BINGOs as we did last year. Each month, two classrooms will be designated as having responsibility for staffing the bingo. Parents from those two rooms will be invited to work that one bingo for the year. To show their support, the school staff will also staff two of the bingos through the school year. Parents who are interested may also work additional bingos if they wish, or may work a bingo from a different classroom if you are unable to work on your assigned night. If you would like to volunteer for any of the bingos this year, please phone the office and leave your name. Thank you to the people who worked the summer bingos!

### **Crestwood School Goals for 2011-2012**

The Crestwood School staff is committed to work on four major goal areas for this year.

**7 Habits of Highly Effective People** - We will continue to work to expand the character education provided to students through the 7 habits of Highly Effective People. During the past four years, the Crestwood School staff has worked to implement the **'7 Habits of Highly Effective People'** throughout the school culture and curriculum across the grades. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is a principle-centered program that teaches responsibility, integrity, honesty, and character-building skills, concepts and processes that strengthen personal character, and relationships, helping people to become more effective in many aspects of life. To that end, teachers have been working collaboratively during the past years developing lesson plans and activities for children of all grades.

**Leadership Academy** - A major focus this year will be to refine the "Crestwood School Leadership Academy" for all Grade 6 students using the 7 Habits as a foundation. We will continue our work to embed the 7 Habits across the curriculum.

**AISI Project – Instructional Intelligence** - Another goal area for 2011-2012 is the District-wide AISI Project (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement), intended to develop the teaching skills, approaches and strategies under the heading of "Instructional Intelligence." Instructional Intelligence refers to a wide variety of teaching approaches that engage students in their learning and in higher level thinking skills. This project will see teachers from across the district attending training sessions in large cohort groups followed by teachers throughout Crestwood School working in "Grade Level Professional Learning Communities," which means simply teachers working with teachers. Each grade level of teachers will meet periodically using substitute teacher time provided through the AISI Project to work collaboratively on a number of vital curricular projects, starting with the 7 Habits plus some time on staff meeting days.

Much more information will be forthcoming on this initiative, including 7 Habits Training sessions for parents in the fall and likely again in the winter/spring. under the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISi). This is the second year of a three-year AISI Project cycle that provides schools with funding for school improvement.

**Filling out Student Registration Sheets:** Please note that with computer record keeping we require your child's **full legal name** on the registration sheet. This includes the second, given name.

**Textbook and Material Fees:** This is a reminder that the fees for renting all textbooks and supplying the students with workbooks and supplies is \$100.00 The fee is payable by **Friday, September 30th** . Kindergarten fees are \$110.00 for the full-alternating-day program. Payment for fees may be made in one lump sum, semi-annually, or monthly. (Invoices will not be sent home) Please telephone Mr. George if you are unable to pay by the deadline and need to have a payment plan established.

**School Arrival and Dismissal Times:** In the morning the bell rings at 8:30 a.m. Teachers do not go on supervision until 8:20 a.m., so we ask that you please make sure that your **children do not arrive at school any earlier than 8:20** unless they are in the Child Supervision Program.

**Child Supervision Program:** Does your child need supervision before and after school? If you need the service all you have to do is telephone the school and register in the program. Details of the program are contained in the school handbook. The Program operates from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. daily. We are now required to be licensed as a Day Care.

**Crestwood School Advisory Council Meeting:** The first meeting of the School Advisory Council is scheduled for **9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**. (This year a goal for the council is to shorten the meetings to accommodate the busy schedules of our parents). All parents are invited to attend, so please come if you possibly can. Refreshments will be served and free babysitting is provided.

The School Council Executive would welcome two or three volunteers to assist in the important responsibility of contacting parent volunteers to work the Bingos. This role works best when several people share the role.

The School Advisory Council is also registered as a Charitable Society, and as such is a member of the Top Hat Bingo Association. The School Council hosts one Bingo each month as the major fund-raiser for the school. We also work at one casino each year. The Bingos and Casino provide funds for our extensive field trip program, major purchases and provides many other benefits to our school such as technology purchases. As a result, the parents take primary responsibility for fund-raising. Anyone interested in volunteering to work a bingo is asked to please telephone the school office.

**Cafeteria Operation:** Please note that we will be working to conform to district policy on encouraging healthier eating so the menu will be changing somewhat during the course of this school year. Students will also be able to order our hot food specials every Friday.



### Crestwood School Milk Program

We are trying to get a program in place for drinking more milk. We are currently working on this!

So watch for more information to follow!!!!

Welcome back from the HUG team! "New Beginnings" is our theme for September. Our primary focus will be on helping the students with the sometimes stressful aspects of a new school year. Please encourage your child to stop by and see us or contact us yourself if we can help with transitions.

Throughout the year we will be working with school staff to plan universal, group, recreational and individual programming for the students of Crestwood and Southview Schools.

The HUG (*Helping Us Grow*) program is a mental health capacity building project which is part of an initiative intended to use a team approach in providing 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.

Thank you from Shonna, Jo , Allana and Nicole!!



## STAFF MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

Please note that Staff Meetings/Teacher Development and Inservice will continue to be held on one Friday per month. On the staff meeting Friday, there will be no school for students as we will have Grade Level Professional Learning Community meetings in the morning and Professional Development for the staff from across the district followed by the staff meeting in the afternoon. This approach to staff development benefits our students due to increased teacher collaboration time as the staff will be working on a number of projects through grade-level teams and through staff-wide endeavors to strengthen the programs we offer the children. Our initial dual focus for the staff development will be the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People coupled with the District AISI Project on Instructional Intelligence, then other topics throughout the school year. **There will be no After-School Supervision Program on this one Friday per month.** There will be fewer days when teachers will be using substitutes this year for the AISI project.



## Accelerated Reader: A Key Part of Crestwood's Reading Program

Once again this year, our Grade 2-6 students will be participating in the Accelerated Reader Program (A.R.) as an integral part of their reading program. (Grade One's join in the spring). A.R. is a computerized reading improvement and reading incentive program. Each term begins with the students writing the computerized STAR Reading test that establishes individual reading level for each child to ensure they read books that are exactly at their reading level. (Educational Research has demonstrated that children improve their reading substantially more if they read books at their individual reading level.). Following the STAR reading assessments, each child and teacher collaborate to establish reading goals for that term whereby the child commits to achieve a number of points which are based on number and difficulty level of each book. As each book is read, the student takes a reading comprehension test on that book prior to signing out the next book. The A.R. system tracks each student's progress, enabling teachers to monitor student growth and acquisition of their reading goal points which can then be reported to parents. This program has been a tremendous addition to our reading program and doubled the library circulation as our students are reading much more than ever before. **A new feature of A.R. this year is that we purchased the on-line version that results in thousands of additional titles having access to tests, so books from the public library and home will likely be included now.**

## Important October Dates:

- 5 - SAC Agenda Meeting
- 5 - Goal-Setting Conferences 3:45—6:45
- 6 - Goal Setting Conferences 5:30—8:30
- 7 - NO SCHOOL—PD Day
- 10 - NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Day
- 12 - SAC Meeting
- 27 - 7 Habits Heroes Assembly





## Helpful Tips for Parents

School Wise Helpful Tips for Parents:

1. Encourage your child to develop a positive outlook toward school.
2. Stay in contact with your child's teacher regularly.
3. Attend parent-teacher conferences, school concerts, social events and sports events.
4. Inform the school in advance (whenever possible) of your child's absence from school.
5. Avoid taking holidays during school time if possible.
6. Avoid making appointments outside school during school hours unless it is essential.
7. Meet with school staff in confidence if necessary, when an incident involving your child arises in school.
8. Cooperate with the school when solving problems related to your child.
9. Inform the school staff of issues that might affect your child's progress or behavior.
10. Watch for changes in your child's mood or behavior that might suggest problems at school.
11. Review your child's homework and assignments, and sign agenda books each day.
12. Provide access to reading and study materials (library, bookstores, Internet)
13. Read all communications (newsletters, reports and report cards) from school.
14. Encourage your child to participate in school activities outside regular school hours (sports, drama, art, chess, clubs, etc.).
15. Spend time with your child at the end of each school day, reviewing lessons, assisting with homework or listening to your child's views and opinions.

## Teach young children the back-pack basics:

### **PICK, PACK, LIFT, CARRY**

Help your kids see the pros of proper use outweigh the cons of changing.

Encourage children to wear good supportive athletic shoes.

Lighten the load. If you are a teacher, encourage students to take home only what they need.

Studies show a 30% increase in back pain in young people since 1990 and doctors report seeing more young people than ever with reports of shoulder, neck and back pain.

These increases are due, in part, to kids carrying heavy or un-

balanced backpacks. As a teacher or parent you can help young people develop good carrying habits that will protect them from future health problems.

### **What You Can Do:**

#### **Teach young children the back-pack basics:**

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# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>AUGUST 30</b> <b>Students return FULL Day of Classes</b>	<b>AUGUST 31</b> SAC Agenda Meeting Bus Safety	1	<b>2</b> <b>Family Pancake Breakfast</b> <b>7:30—8:30 am</b>  <b>HOT LUNCH</b>	3
4	<b>5</b> <b>Labor Day</b>  <b>NO CLASSES</b>	6	7	<b>8</b> <b>Seven Habits/ Leadership Parent Info Night 7 pm</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Leadership Academy Boot Camp</b>  <b>HOT LUNCH</b>	10
11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> <b>HOT LUNCH</b>	<b>16</b> School Structured Staff Development  <b>NO CLASSES</b>	17
18	<b>19</b> <b>SCHOOL PICTURES</b>  <b>CAT IV Test Gr 2—6</b>	<b>20</b> <b>SCHOOL PICTURES</b>  <b>CAT IV Test Gr 2—6</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>CAT IV Test Gr 2—6</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>CAT IV Test Gr 2—6</b>	<b>23</b> <b>HOT LUNCH</b>  <b>CAT IV Test Gr 2—6</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	