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LGS NEWS

November 2015

Halloween



Halloween is a fun time of year. Amidst all the fun of making costumes and trick-or-treating, Halloween also gives parents and teachers an opportunity to teach children about fact and fiction, and opens the door for conversations regarding the characters in popular movies, video games and stories.

James Steyer, founder and CEO of Common Sense Media, a non-profit focused on media issues, says that parents should start teaching media literacy to children when they are 3 or 4 – “**younger than you think.**”

You won't always be around to explain to your children the difference between fantasy and reality, fact and fiction.

Steyer says the first step is teaching children to question what they see.

“It’s very important to teach children to think critically. That is the essence of media literacy,” he says.

Steyer warns that more “vulnerable” children might struggle to understand the difference between fantasy and reality. Playing violent video games, watching scary movies or getting lost in online horror stories might be fine for some kids, but trigger bad behaviours in others; parents need to be more vigilant with sensitive kids.



Within the school day teachers monitor the activities of the students and err on the side of caution, requesting that students not include gore and violence within their play, schoolwork or in the movies they bring for free-time. Discussing and writing stories that are fictitious or factually based is a primary focus as well. Working together with efforts from home to develop students who are savvy with what they are watching and understanding the difference between fiction and fantasy. All this will develop a better understanding of what students are exposed to with (or without) adult supervision.

Yours in Education,
Janet McKnight,
Principal

Congratulations!

Nolan Orr was the winner of our textbook fee draw.

Thanks to those families who paid their fees already.
Please call the office to make payment arrangements if you have not already done so.



Superintendent's Message

Academic Results

Each year Alberta Education reports on numerous performance measures for Alberta school divisions in a report known as the Accountability Pillar Report. Our updated results show that 69.6% of students (combined in grades 6 and 9) achieved the Acceptable Standard on the Provincial Achievement Tests, and, 10.3% achieved the Standard of Excellence.

Updated results on the Provincial Diploma Exam courses show that 82.6% of students achieved the Acceptable Standard, and 9.1% of students achieved a Standard of Excellence.

Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams are only one measure of student achievement and results are best examined at the school level where the local context can be considered. Each school will be sharing school results within their local community.

I wish to congratulate students, staff and parents on working so well together on improving student achievement. Achievement Test and Diploma Exam results will be further analyzed to help inform instructional decisions that will lead to increased student achievement.

I invite you to view a detailed summary of the division's overall results on our website at www.prsd.ab.ca.

Paul Bennett

Superintendent of Schools

Remembrance Day

November 11, 2015 marks Remembrance Day. The day that we put aside to honor those who fought for the many freedoms that we enjoy today.

Lloyd Garrison School will remember those brave veterans with a Remembrance Day General Assembly on Tuesday November 10 at 10:30 am in the Meeting Room.

Please accept this as your invitation to join LGS Students & Staff for the Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

We have a donation box at the office for poppies if you wish to send a donation.



HALLOWEEN AT LGS

Thursday—October 30—ECS Students will be participating in a Sensory Activity and enjoying activities with their “Big Buddies” in Grade 4-6. The whole school will be doing a Bear Den activity that has a Halloween Theme.

Friday—October 31—Students in Gr. 1-6 will be participating in a costume parade over to the Senior’s Autumn Lodge. Then the students will have class parties and crafts.



Costumes will need to be brought to school—and put on after noon recess. Thank you.

Halloween Safety:

Please ensure that you have a Happy Halloween. Dress for the weather. Wear costumes that you can move easily in and that aren’t blocking your vision. Make sure you are using traffic safety rules—crossing at corners and watching for traffic before crossing.



Carry a flashlight and have reflective tape on your costume to make sure everyone has a Safe Halloween.



Have fun! It will be a spooktacular night!



Reminder

Clocks go back on November 1, 2015 at 2:00am. Check your smoke alarm batteries!!



Parents Matter to us!



Peace River School Division
www.prsd.ab.ca



LGS Parents Matter Activities:

Nov 24 - Coffee and Muffins at 8:15

Nov 25 - Students Dress Like Your Parent Day

Nov. 26 - Lunch with the Bunch—
Everyone invited to eat bag lunch with students in the Gym

Nov 26 - Muffins to the Community

School

Council Meeting Nov 9 at 5:30

Council of School Councils

Nov 30 at 6:00 PM

Grade 5/6-Mrs. McCann

The grade 5/6 class has been busy learning material for Bell Choir for the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 10th. The band has played their first song together as well and progress this year has been exciting. In science we are well into our Flight and Aerodynamics units that includes many hands on activities. In Social 5 the students are learning about Canadian landforms and about missionaries of New France. The grade six class are studying how local government works. Students are also just finishing up their project “La Maison Hantee”(Haunted Houses) implementing French Halloween Vocabulary. Ozzy continues to entertain and endear the students every day.

Grade 1/2 News

We have been very busy reviewing our letters and their sounds in Grade 1/2. We are practicing our Dolch words daily. We are very EXCITED to be earning a bubble gum from Mrs. Grant's machine for each 100% we score on the sight and spelling portion of our weekly tests. The Grade 1's are concentrating on initial, medial and final consonant sounds as well as working on short vowel word families. For the Grade 2's, they are learning the long vowel a spelling patterns. We love to play a variety of games while we learn and practice these concepts. In Math, we are learning to tell time using an analog and a digital clock. We are becoming very good at writing time in standard form as well. We have just started a short unit on ordinal numbers.

For Social Studies, we are learning about three communities in Canada. We have explored each community's climate, geography, and weather. We have had fun discussing the early days in each place. We have compared what life is like in Berwyn to each of the regions. We are busy discovering daily life activities in each community.

In Science, we have been learning about magnets. We enjoyed being young scientists performing many experiments. We are now exploring liquids in our second unit.

Watch for more exciting news coming from the Grade 1/2 room this year.





BULLETIN – Occupational Health & Safety

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun and exciting time for children. Although Halloween activities should be fun and harmless, they could also be dangerous. The weather, darkness and excitement of the night can create dangerous situations.

The most common causes of Halloween injuries children suffer include:

Motor Vehicle

When driving, slow down and be alert.

Make your children visible with reflective tape, glow sticks and bright coloured costumes and bags.

Teach your children how to cross the road safely.

Younger children should be accompanied by a responsible adult or older child.

Plan a safe route and curfews.

Falls

Make sure costumes and footwear fit properly.

Don't allow children to carry sharp or dangerous props.

Choose face paint instead of masks.

Make sure your child carries a flashlight, and stays in well-lit areas.

Remove any obstacles in your yard, and leave your porch light on.

Burns

Costumes, wigs and hats should be made of fire-resistant materials.

Keep lit Jack O'lanterns away from curtains and other flammables.

Don't let children play near Jack O'lanterns and keep them out of the way of trick-or-treaters.

Be cautious with candy and toys; inspect for any defects and remove any choking hazards.

For more Halloween safety tips:

<http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/security-securite/home-maison/halloween-eng.php>
<http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources-/first-aid-tips/halloween-safety>
<http://www.parachutecanada.org/injury-topics/topic/C11>

Proper supervision, safe environments, hazard awareness and participating in age-appropriate activities all help reduce the risk of injuries on Halloween.

Children with Food Allergies

About 1 in 13 kids have a food allergy. An allergic reaction occurs when the body's immune system overacts to a food protein (an allergen). The most common food allergens are: peanuts, tree nuts, sesame seeds, soy, seafood (fish and shellfish), wheat, eggs, milk, mustard and sulphites. Symptoms of allergic reactions can be different for everyone and may occur within minutes or hours. The most common symptoms of allergies are:

- Flushed or pale face, hives, rash, itchy skin
- Swelling of the eyes, face, lips, throat or tongue
- Coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath
- Stomach pain, diarrhea, vomiting
- Feeling anxious, weak, dizzy or faint

Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to food can be life threatening and occur quickly and without warning. These reactions can be treated with an epinephrine auto injector; an EpiPen®. The only way to prevent allergic reactions is to avoid contact with the foods or ingredients that cause them. As many children have food allergies, the majority of schools have adopted guidelines to help keep all students safe. Some of these guidelines may include:

1. No sharing of food or treats.
2. Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating.
3. No homemade treats for celebrations or special events. Cross-contamination is always possible.
4. Restricting the allergens from the classroom/school.

Food allergies are a serious medical condition, not a choice. Help prevent exposure to allergens by following your school's guidelines for food allergies. Take time to explain food allergies to your child and encourage them to learn about allergies that their classmates may have. If you are unsure of what to do, talk to the other child's parents or teacher. Students, parents, teachers and other staff all have an important role in keeping students safe, healthy and happy. To learn more about allergies, visit: www.anaphylaxis.ca or www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/index-eng.php



Children and Video Games

Research has shown that playing video games (or “gaming”) can affect children in both good and bad ways. Playing certain video games can help children develop language, thinking and fine motor skills as well as cope with anger and stress. However, gaming can also result in lower grades and reduce time spent with friends and family. Video game play takes away from other healthy activities and some games may encourage children to act aggressively. It is up to parents to help their child learn to enjoy video games in a safe way. The following questions will help parents decide whether video games are a problem for their child:

- Is he/she playing too much? Do video games interfere with important tasks like chores, school work or family time? Too much gaming can take away from sports, hobbies, sleep and other healthy activities.
- Does the game fit with the household norms or values? Games that include aggression, bullying, violence and discrimination can influence a child's developing beliefs.

Making and enforcing rules about video game play with young children will help them avoid problems with gaming in the future. Here are some ways in which parents can teach their children to play video games appropriately:

- Make sure **play comes AFTER important tasks** like chores, school work, meals and family time.
- Ensure play happens in a central location, not a bedroom, so it can be **monitored**.
- Make sure **children do not play games intended for teens or adults**.
- Set and enforce a **time limit on play**.
- **Play together**. Playing video games as a family can be fun and allows parents to model appropriate behaviour and monitor play.
- Balance video game time with **other fun family activities**. Invite your child to go for a walk, play a game or do a puzzle together.

November 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5 Healthy Active Symposium	6	7
Swimming 10 - 1						
8	9 School Council Meeting 5:30	10 	11 NO SCHOOL 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 LGS Day - NO SCHOOL	21
22	23 PD Day NO SCHOOL	24 Coffee/Donuts 	25 Dress Like Parent Day	26 Lunch with Bunch	27	28
Parents Matter Week						
29	30 Council of-School Council 6PM					