



Riverside Report

December, 2009

“Celebrating ninety two years of excellence in education”

Principal’s Message

Over the last several weeks I have been asked about the appropriateness of Facebook and the elementary students. It is my understanding that children under the age of 14 are not allowed to have a facebook site. Parents are the ones that are in control of what the children in their house can and cannot do on the computers (what sites are appropriate etc.) Here is an article that I found that gives some tips.

Facebook Unmasked

Like it or not, students are more connected to wireless information and networks than ever before. As parents and educators, we cannot ignore this reality in the hope that it will either go away or that students will somehow magically learn appropriate cyber behaviour. Instead, we must arm ourselves with as much information as possible so that we can guide young people through the maze of information and cyber networks available to them.

One such cyber network is the ever-popular Facebook. Founded by former Harvard University student Mark Zuckerberg in 2004, Facebook currently has between 8 and 10 million users and a net worth of more than \$10 billion.

But what is Facebook? Facebook’s website describes the network as “a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.” Simply put, Facebook is a social network that allows the users to connect with their friends and their friends, their friends’ friends, and so on.

When users apply for a Facebook account, which is free, they are asked to fill out a profile that prompts them to provide information about their interests, activities, friends, and high school and/or university education along with optional information such as their home address and phone number. From there, the possibilities are endless. Facebook’s platforms are ever changing and updating; users never get bored. This is the appeal to young people—and a possible source of trouble.

Educating kids on the possible dangers of posting private and/or personal information on a social networking site such as Facebook should be a priority for parents and educators alike. Once information is “out there” in the cyber world, it is impossible to know for sure who can get their hands on it. For this reason, young people need to be aware that posting inappropriate and/or embarrassing photos or videos could come back to haunt them many years later. As well, giving out private/confidential information on Facebook and other social networking sites could open the door to possible cyber predators.

So, what do parents need to know? First, parents need to get involved. Open a Facebook account of your own and learn, along with your child, how to use the technology safely and appropriately. Second, monitor

your child's computer use. Keep the computer in an open, visible area of the house. Third, ask questions, talk, keep the lines of communication open with your children. Know what they are doing on the website. There is a fine line between respecting their privacy and safeguarding them from potential dangers. Finally, understand that Facebook is a powerful networking tool that, used safely, can open many doors for the young and old alike.

If you would like to know more about Facebook and other social networking sites, here are some useful links.

[On Guard Online: Your Safety Net](#)

Although this is a US-based site sponsored by the American government, it provides valuable information on social networking.

[Social Networking in Plain English](#)

Created by Common Craft Productions, this simple, short video explains how social networking sites work and why they are appealing.

[The Media Awareness Network](#)

The focus of Media Awareness Week in 2007 is "e-Parenting." Parents must get actively involved in their children's cyber worlds.

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School Safety Patrols



The patroller of the month for November is Taylor Zeller. Her fellow patrollers say she is reliable, friendly, and follows the proper procedure when crossing students. She is always willing to pitch in and help out when another student can not make it out for their turn. Way to go Taylor!

Kindergarten News

At the beginning of November, the Kindergarten class visited the Medicine Hat High School cosmetology lab. The students were so excited to be styled with mohawks, crimped hair, and dyed chunks! The stylists were even skilled enough to paint our faces with theatre make-up.

We were also lucky enough to visit the local Pizza Hut to learn about food that comes from each of the food groups. Our tour guide, Ellen, took us on a tour of the back kitchen area. She showed us where the dough is made FRESH every day and allowed us to make 3 medium pizzas to share. It was a wonderful treat for all of us!

In December, we will visit the International Festival of Trees at Fifth Avenue United Church. As we begin to learn about Christmas Around the World, this will be a great opportunity to see the wonderful decorations of other countries!



Choir

The Grade 1-6 Choirs are getting ready for the school-wide Christmas presentation. They are busy practicing whole group songs, speaking parts and dance moves. The presentation promises to be enjoyable and the dances are amazing! Please look forward to attending the performance at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Please come early to avoid disappointment in the seating.

CHHS Musical – “Spelling Bee”

On January 5, the K-6 students will be attending the musical “Spelling Bee”. The buses will be departing from the school at 11:20 so **all student must bring a lunch on that day**. The students will return to the school by 3:00 pm.



INTRAMURALS

Intramurals continues to roll along as students wrapped up Dodge ball. The Bullets led by captains Ailish Richardson and Taylor Zeller hoisted the cup as they went on to defeat Eagle X who's team was led by Kasey McCrady. Students who are participating in intramurals are now playing football. Everyone is enjoying working on skill development such as throwing and receiving, as well as playing games which is developing teamwork. Good luck to all teams throughout the unit!



K-Kids Korner



K-Kids Korner

Riverside K-Kids have been very busy. During student – led conferences we set up a collection for the food bank. We were trying to balance the scale. We had a scale set up with cans of food on one side and we collected change on the other. We were successful both nights and raised over \$75.00 for the food bank.

Candy Cane Candy-Grams

During the month of December we will be selling candy-grams during the lunch hour. These candy canes will be delivered to the teacher to be handed out at the end of the day. The candy-grams will be 50 cents a piece or three for one dollar. Send a candy-gram to your friends and help us raise money for the food bank!

Pizza Cards

The K-Kids are also selling Dominos pizza cards to help us raise money for t-shirts for our club. We would like to wear these t-shirts when we are out in the community to help promote our school and our club. Any extra funds raised will be used for other fundraising efforts. If you are interested in purchasing a Dominos pizza card you can contact one of the k-kid members or Carol Ewert at the school.

Christmas Tree of Cans

We will be attempting to build a Christmas Tree out of cans for the food bank. We will be accepting donations from now until Christmas Holidays.

Mitten Tree

As in previous years we will be collecting mittens, scarves, hats, or any other new winter clothing. The tree will be set up in front of the office. Please hang your donations on the tree. All donations will be given to the Salvation Army. Remember donated items must be brand new.

Parent Council News

Parent Council would like to thank everyone who has generously donated items and sold tickets for our Christmas raffle. We would sure appreciate a few more items for the baskets, so if you have not had a chance to drop anything off yet, there is still time. Also please have your tickets returned to the school before noon on Wed. Dec 9th.

Our November family movie night was a lot of fun. Alex Wanty and his family who were the lucky DVD Ice Age III - Dawn of the Dinosaur.

Thursday Dec. 10th the K to 6 classes are having a afternoon at the movies. The buses will depart from 12:15 pm, so please send a lunch with your children be treated to a popcorn & drink combo while hilarious movie FANTASTIC MR. FOX.



Congratulations to winners of the

"Just for Fun"
the school at that day. All will enjoying the

Thanks to everyone for your continued support, our next meeting is Wed. January 13th at 6:30 pm in the library - all parents welcome.

A Very Merry Christmas to all!

At this time we would like to wish you and you family and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the staff and students of Riverside School. Remember that school will be dismissed at noon on December 18th and will resume on January 4th.

