

Dear Home School Families

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas season! After a busy but exciting fall filled with lots of outdoor activities because of the extra long season of good weather, we hope that you are ready to play games, prepare yummy food and enjoy special activities with your families and friends.

We are happy to say that our Fish Tales musical was a success again this year and we thank all who participated and also all those who came out and watched and encouraged our performers, singers and dancers! Our senior band has one more performance this Friday at the Festival of Trees and then our fall music program takes a break and then back together again in February.

A reminder to Mom's to think about attending the Mom's Retreat this year at the Pine Lake camp. Details can be found later in this newsletter.

Have a Blessed December and we wish you a Happy New Year now as this is the last newsletter until February 2010. Kathy ☺

Activities:

Violin Performance Day

Here's a reminder that on **Tuesday, Dec. 1st**, violin players are planning to get together. There has been a slight change of plans due to situations at nursing homes. So, the new plan is that we do meet on the same day but just in a different place. So, please meet at the Rosedale Community Shelter (29 Roland Street) at **10:15 a.m.**. Here we will practise playing our songs together and then go for lunch and then we will meet at Victoria Park at 2 p.m. to perform there. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723)

Archery

Please note that due to the popularity of this activity, we have added two more times for archery. They are: **Thursdays, December 3 and 10th** from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Red Deer Archery Centre is located at #1-6816-50 Ave. The cost is \$8/person and includes the lesson and rental of equipment. Ages approx. 6 years old and up to adult, are welcome to participate. If you are interested in participating, please book your spot with the Sniders at 348-0723. The people that were on the waiting list have first chance at these times but do check as there will still be room for others that have already participated.

Lazer Tag

Here's a reminder for those who signed up for Lazer Tag that it is **Friday, Dec. 4th** at 1:30 p.m. Lazer Force is located at #3 – 5239 – 53 Ave (next to A & B Sound just to the north of Superstore) and is a great spot to play. There is even room for a few more if you would still like to attend (Kathy – 403.348.0723).

Disney's The Princess and the Frog Movie - Monday, Dec. 14th - Early evening show.

For all girls... big and small! (in replacement of the Tonne's annual Christmas PJ Party) The exact time will be confirmed with Cineplex a week before and emailed out to everyone who has signed up but will be early evening. Cost is \$5.50 per child and \$7.50 per adult (mom's and grandma's welcome too). Concession packages available at discounted prices also...Kids Combo is \$4.50 and Reg Combo (Reg drink & Reg popcorn) is \$7.50. All prices include taxes. We will arrive to the theatre (bring exact change) about an hour before the show starts. Please email or call Natalie Tonne (ilovepicure@yahoo.ca 403-348-5813) by Dec. 8th if you are coming. (include Email or phone contact phone number, # of children, # of adults, and # of concession packages.) There is a limit on how many we can take so sign up sooner than later.

FLT Spelling Bee in December

This year our annual Can West qualifying spelling bee will take place on **Tuesday, December 15th** at 1 p.m. at Rosedale Community Shelter in Red Deer (29 Roland Street). This event will take about an hour. (You are welcome to stay longer if you like and skate afterwards as the outdoor arena is right there.) Most of you have already signed up to participate in this event but please confirm that you are still coming now that the date has been set. Contact Kathy at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723.

Springboard Diving at the Michener Dive Tank

Canadian Amateur Diving Association (CADA) Learn to Dive Program for all Levels 1-4.

Prerequisites: SwimKids 5 or higher and 8 years of age or older. The staff at the Michener Pool are willing to create a homeschool program for us. We need to pay the diving instructor (who is fantastic) for two hours of her time with a minimum of six students (maximum of eight students) per hour long class. This activity can only happen if we have a minimum of 12 students!!

Before classes begin, we must choose 4, 5 or 6 classes of instruction. Each hour of instruction will cost \$10. At this time, we are looking at Tuesdays during the month of March with one class from 1h30 - 2h30pm and the second class from 2h30 - 3h30pm. Please contact Lori Dunbar at fldunbar@telus.net or 403-343-0463 to book your spot.

Monday Gym Days in January and February

These will take place from **1:00-3:00** at the **Collicutt**. Here's the information from Alison. Thanks!

- #1 Please EMAIL me (Alison Rittamer) and I will make sure you get the gym updates. (akrittammer@hotmail.com) The field house can be booked the day before and we might have to change plans. (Might be a good idea to bring indoor shoes and swimming stuff everyday.)
- #2 Let me know if you need Collicutt passes BEFORE DECEMBER 1. (This will save you on admission)
- #3 Bring the whole family. Last year the little ones were happy to run around together.
- #4 Unless your child is old enough to be left on his/her own, you won't be able to drop off your children. Last year we often had more than thirty kids and keeping track would be a logistical nightmare. Some parents would play with them (Gavin loved Bball with his buddies and a dad), many parents would sit on the sidelines and visit or read, and some would spell each other off (parenting) and grab a cup of tea.
- #5 Pack a lunch/snack. There is a food area for eating and after a lot of activity it keeps the kids happy.

Please call if this is still confusing or you have more questions...Alison 347-7086.

Ski times at Canyon

This winter's ski times will take place on the following **Tuesday afternoons: Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23** from **1 - 5 p.m.** You must arrive 20 -25 minutes early if you are renting equipment and otherwise 10 – 15 mins. early is fine. You do not need to call ahead unless you are booking a lesson. For lessons, you must call by Thursday before the ski date and let the Parkers know – 784-3078. Also, you must pay and get your tickets downstairs from the Parkers.

The **costs** this year are as follows: **6-12 yr. olds:** Lift and Lesson \$17, Ski Equipment rental \$11; **13-17 yr. Olds:** Lift and Lesson \$19.50, Ski Equipment rental \$12; **Adults:** Lift and Lesson \$25.50, Ski

Equipment rental \$16. Snowboard rentals are \$16 and snowboard boots are \$10. Helmets are \$5.25.

We will not cancel the ski times unless Canyon Ski Hill closes the hill due to weather. They do that if the temperature is -20 or colder in the morning. If there is some doubt about them being open or not, you can call the hill directly to find out. Again a reminder that you need to pay in cash only or you can use funding if you have some available that hasn't been used in the first half. We're looking forward to another great season of lots of fun on the ski hill!

Ski or Board at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary

Here is a reminder that we have booked **Thursday, January 7th**, at 10 a.m. for our group to ski or snowboard at COP. Again we plan to meet there by 9:30 if you need to rent equipment or 9:45 if you have your own. The cost for the day is as follows: Lift and Lesson \$19 (including gst) and \$14 for either snowboard rental or ski rentals. Adults with our group would also pay student rates. Please contact Kathy (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723) if you would like to come. Extra details can be found on the calendar on the website.

Chemistry Presentation at the Bennett Centre in Edmonton

Thursday, January 21st, we have booked a 'Classroom Chemistry' science day at the Bennett Centre in Edmonton located at 9703 -94 Street. It looks as though we will have to cancel this activity due to lack of children registering. The only other option since we have 10 students signed up for this is to have those 10 be willing to pay \$38 each. Please contact the Sniders (k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348.0723) to let us know what you would like to do with this or to register quickly! We have heard that this is an excellent field trip and so you may want to consider participating before it's too late. We have one week to decide (by Dec. 4th). Again for further details on this check the calendar on the website.

Climbing Classes in Sylvan

Climbing classes are back and a whole lot cheaper!! BestBody Fitness in Sylvan Lake will offer climbing classes every **Tuesday in January and February from 1:30-3:00 pm**. All levels of expertise will be accommodated. Minimum age of 5. We qualify for the group rate of \$75.00 per child. That's last year's price for an extra month of climbing. There might be some wiggle room on the prices if you can only do one of the two months. Payment is made directly to BestBody Fitness on the first visit. Parents can stay during the class or go. Register with Moira Stelmack by Tuesday, December 29th at mkstelmack@hotmail.com .

Red Deer Home School Ballet Lessons

These lessons are for children 7 – 10 years of age and will take place starting **January 14** – March 18, 2010.

We have found an excellent teacher, Cheryl Cooper, who would be willing to hold a ballet class Thursday afternoons 2:00-2:45. We can only have a maximum of 10 children and so please call early to book your spot. The cost is \$90 for the 10 weeks or 3 payments of \$30/month in post-dated cheques. Please call Alison Rittammer @ 347-7086 for more information.

Crib Party

Tuesday, January 26th, 2010 at the Snider's house. Calling all cribbage players! We've given you a year since our last crib party to practice up and so it's time to come and play again. We would like to start playing at 7 p.m. sharp. Please bring your cards, a crib board and a card table if you have one and some peanut free snacks. Please contact us at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348-0723 if you wish to attend.

Please note that this party is for those who already know how to play. If you or your child would like to learn, please let us know and we can plan to put you in contact with someone who can teach you.

Bower Pond 2010 Skating/Tobogganing Party

This year again we are going to get together at **Bower Ponds** for our January activity day instead of having it at the Collicutt Centre. So please mark your calendars for **Friday, January 29th**, to meet at Bower Ponds anytime between 1p.m. and 4 p.m. We should have lots of snow by then for tobogganing and of course there is plenty of room for skating and playing games on the ice (although hockey is not allowed there). There is plenty of room for everyone and you can get your next newsletter there and the Scholastic flyers as you do at the Collicutt activity days. It will be a great day! Come and join the fun!

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2010 Activity Days at the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer

This year as mentioned above, our Friday, January 29th Activity day will take place at Bower Ponds between 1p.m. and 4 p.m. Following are the times for the remaining Activity days at the Collicutt Center:

February - **Thursday, Feb. 25th** – We will start with the gym time first from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m followed by skating at the Collicutt arena from 2 – 3 p.m.

March - **Friday, March 26th** - 1 – 1:30 Swap Meet and gym time from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

April – **Thursday, April 22nd** – Field Day and Gym times 1 – 2:45 p.m.

Triathletes Get Set!

We (the Cote family) would like to see a triathlon club start up with our home school athletes (or those just wanting to keep active). We have participated in the Woody's Triathlon the past two years and really think it's a great opportunity. They are held every year on a Saturday at the end of June for 6 to 16 yr. olds, and adults can participate the next day if they would like! Adults get the advantage of putting in a team to make it easier on us old folks. So we think it's a great family activity too. The distances are all modified for the various age groups, even the adults don't participate in "real" triathlon distances. So it is very doable and a positive, encouraging experience. The little guys even get to wear a life jacket for their two length swim. So I'm wondering if we have anyone that has participated in triathlons in the past or likes to swim, run or bike that could help make a club like this a reality. We know it would be a lot of fun to practice together, other than that we don't really know what this club might look like. Give me a call at 403-346-9406 or email ldcote@telusplanet.net if you have any questions or any experience, we'd love to see you out there getting active!

Band News:

Starting times for all bands: Wednesday, February 3rd , all bands (beginner, intermediate, senior and recorder bands) will begin their second 10 week session! They all will be at the following times: Recorder Band from 12 noon til 12:55 p.m. Beginner band will be from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Intermediate band will be from 1 – 1:55 p.m. and senior band will be from 2 – 3:30 p.m. So please note that the only time change is for the recorder band which will start a half hour early to give them a full hour which they will be ready for now that they know more notes! Beginner band members with siblings in the recorder band are welcome to come and practice together before band starts .

We do appreciate all band members arriving approx. 10 mins before band so that you can get settled in and set up with your instrument so we can have all the time we can get together! The cost again is \$25 per child for this second session.

Mom's Retreat at Pine Lake Salvation Army Camp

Here is a reminder that the Mom's Retreat is booked for **Friday, February 5th and Saturday, February 6th 2010**. Arrival time will be at 4:30 p.m or later with supper being at 6 p.m. So, it's nice if everyone is able to be there by then. Also we will be having supper on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and so we will plan to be done and ready to leave by 7 p.m. The cost per person comes to \$80 for the retreat. If anyone wants a room to themselves it would be an additional \$10. Just to remind you, you do need to bring your own bedding and towels.

Please let Kathy or Lorraine know if you plan to attend this year and haven't gotten your name on the list yet! We are looking forward to getting together and enjoying one another's company again with a variety of activities and topics discussed. You don't need to plan to bring dress up clothes for the Sat. supper. That was kind of a one time event we did last year but have different ideas for this year! ☺

Homeschool Rec Hockey at Caroline Kurt Browning Arena

This will take place on Thursdays Jan 7-Mar 25 (12 classes) from 2:00-3:00 pm and the cost is \$50 per child. Ages 6 and up boys and girls. Learn the basics of hockey- laterals; stick handling etc depending on skating abilities. No contact hockey. Each child will need a helmet, stick, shin pads and elbow pads. Parents will have to sign a waiver, so if their child gets hurt Arden, his helpers, and I won't be liable. For more info and to enroll contact **Darlene Loomis 403-722-2590 or loomis@xplornet.com** .

Lego Classes in 2010

For those of you inquiring, yes Loretta Cote is planning to organize Lego Classes again this year with home school Dad, Paul Desrosiers. Times will be given in the new year in the February newsletter.

Red Deer Swim Lessons

The next set of swim lessons at the Rec. Pool in Red Deer will be held on the following dates: Tuesdays, **Mar 2, 9,16,23, 30 and April 6, 13**. The swim time on the 13th is planned to be a family free swim day included in the price of

the lessons but that date is actually tentative right now and we're waiting for confirmation on that. Again the cost will be \$34/student. This time at the request of some families we have been able to add classes for pre-schoolers ages 3 – 5 years. In order to do this and hopefully also have somewhat smaller classes, it will be arranged so that there will be 6 – 45 min. classes but divided into two times. So the first group will start at 2 and go to 2:45 p.m. and the next group will start at 2:45 and go until 3:30 p.m. Hopefully this will be a good change for everyone but let me know after we've tried it. We will announce later what time which levels will be in the first time slot and the second. If you are interested in these lessons, please contact the Sniders at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 403.348.0723.

Valentine's Day Bowling Party

It's a tradition! Be sure to find all the red clothes you own and put them on and come bowling. You can register to bowl when you come, you don't need to call ahead. The cost is \$3.50 per game/per person and you can bowl as many games as you or your parent wants you to! Shoes are included in that price. This will take place on **Thursday, February 11th** from 1-3 p.m. at Heritage Lanes (8 - 6200 - 67 A Street).

Please bring a peanut free valentine snack (cookies, squares etc) to share after we bowl. We are able to bring any snacks to the party except for the items they sell there, which are chips, chocolate bars and drinks. We will have pitchers of water or you can buy drinks there including jugs of pop for \$4.

Poetry Recital

Here's just a quick reminder for you to keep track on memorizing your poems! Again this event will take place on **Tuesday, March 9th** at 7 p.m. at Balmoral Bible Chapel (just East of 30th Street on Highway 11). This is suitable for all ages! Please contact Venessa Kalist by email at dvkalist@telus.net or call 342.1716 so we have an idea of how many will attend. For those reciting poems, there is also an option of a musical addition to the evening as there is a digital piano available there.

Alberta Home Education Association Convention

This year's convention at the Westerner in Red Deer will be held on Friday, **April 16th** and Saturday, **April 17th, 2010**. We have brochures available if you would like one or you can check their website for more information – www.aheaonline.com .

This year's main speakers are Ken Ham and Diana Waring. Also a very exciting part of this year's convention is the **Friday night concert** where we will be treated to great music by the Larsgard family who many of you know and if you don't know, will love being able to hear them share their music. They have homeschooled all through their children's growing up years and will inspire you in your homeschooling journey and family life. Don't miss their concert! You can also check out their website at: <http://www.larsgardfamilybluegrass.com/>

There is also a children's program that will take place at the same time once again this year and the brochure will tell you how to register for that.

Lacombe News:

Home School Swimming Lessons Levels 1 - 10 for children 6 years and older. The dates are Monday & Wednesdays March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24. One group would be 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. and 2nd group 1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Please register your child in the level they are IN not completed.

Home School Gym Class is for children ages 10 years and up. Class will start when the renovations are complete and the office is out of the corner of the gym. Class will start tentitively the first part of February. It will run on Tuesdays, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Rocky News:

Science Experiment Day, Potluck & Plate Making – Thursday, January 28th we are looking forward to getting together again at 10:30 a.m. at the Rocky Youth Hall for Science Experiments. We had lots of fun the last two years and look forward to a great time again this time! At noon we will have a potluck lunch and then we are planning time for plate making starting at 1 p.m.. That means that everything would be done in time for everyone to get to swim at 2 p.m.!

For the Science experiments we are planning to focus on experiments suitable for children ages 5 – 10 years old. We are asking each family with children these ages to pick an experiment to share with the others. It is more fun for the children to actually get to do it rather than watch and so if possible, please bring enough materials (bowls, pepper, soap etc.) for about 5 groups of children to do your experiment. You need to contact Kathy at k.d.snider@shaw.ca or 348-0723 to let her know if you would like to participate and also which experiment you would do. That way we can avoid duplicates. If you have older children, then they might like to be the ones to pick and set up the experiment to share with the younger ones! This should be lots of fun, so don't miss it!

Each family should bring food and drinks or dessert to share for the potluck.

Plate making – the cost for making a plate is \$12 each. We bring the special paper that each child draws his picture on as well as the markers. Then we send them away to be processed and that's where most of the cost comes in. After about 4 – 5 weeks the completed plates are sent back to us for pick up. Many families have done these over the years at all different ages and they are a great keepsake but durable enough to enjoy using everyday.

Sharing Bulletin:

Ski Passes - If you have children in grade 4 or 5 (born 1999/2000)...here's a website to check out: www.snowpass.ca Free & discounted ski passes fare available for the season in western Canada.

For Sale: Sonlight level 4 -\$250 Saxon Math 5/4 & 6/5 - \$25 each Call Barb at 403 342 6833.

Wanted: looking for " Jacobs Elementary Algebra " a black covered book with little lizards on the front. If anyone has one they're willing to part with please call Barb at 403 342 6833.

For Sale: Budgie - birds – Young budgies \$15 each, Hand fed \$20 and 1 Breeding Pair \$35 Call vanderBaarens at 403.844.2750.

Needed: Gently used teddy bears for fundraising purposes. Please call Heather Standish at 403.729.3873

To give away to a good home: pair of ring-necked doves. These are the white doves that will sit on your hand, the male does this a lot. They need to stay together as they would probably die without one another! Phone (403) 845-4955 (Levi or JoLynn Larsgard). We live just north of Rocky Mountain House. Also, the doves come with a home-built cage if the new owners want it!

For Sale by owner 5.29 Acres with a 1512 sq foot 1 ½ story older home on a full basement. The house faces west with a view of the mountains and the most amazing sunsets. Too many upgrades to mention a few are new roof, siding, windows, deck. Hardwood & tiled main floor. Wood stove on main, with newly added in floor

heating in basement with new rug & paint. Large garden plot and a built in huge dog run. Property is 80% treed with walking trails cut through the woods. Located only ¼ mile off pavement, and 17 min to Red Deer or Sylvan. Please call Julie or Darren Shipowick if interested 403-754-5697.

For Sale: Dodge Grand Caravan Sport, 7 seater, 3.3 L, 103,700 km, power windows, power locks, power heated mirror, studded winter tires with good tread, keyless entry. \$7500 (negotiable). Call Keith or Merryl Branson 728-0139

For Sale: Math U See manipulatives, starter set- \$20, and fraction overlays-\$20; " I Can Do All Things" by Barry Stebbing (a 3 year art program for drawing & painting) Like new -\$40. Call Barb:342-6833.

Let it Snow – A Tree House Christmas, Scott Block, 4816 50th Ave, Red Deer. Performance dates are: Friday, December 4 – 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 5 - 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, Friday, December 11 - 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 12 – 2:00 and 7:30 pm.
Ticket price: \$12 Please call Emily Rittammer (347-7086) if you would like tickets or more information.
www.treehouseyouththeatre.ca

“A Christmas Carol” - Some of you have already been to the opening performance of CYT’s Christmas Carol. However if you still haven’t seen it, you have the opportunity to do so with the addition of a new show time on Dec. 10th at the Hub (4935-Ross St). Doors open at 6:30 show starts at 7. Tickets can purchased from Loretta Cote or any other CYT family as well as at the Hub and 53rd Street Music. Closing show is Sunday, Dec. 27 again at Unity Baptist Church at 5pm. Tickets are \$5. Contact Loretta Cote 346-9406 or ldcote@telusplanet.net for tickets or info regarding CYT.

What Is CYT (Christian Youth Theatre)? CYT is an after-school theater arts training program for students ages 6-18. Where is CYT? CYT is holding classes at Deer Park Alliance Church, Red Deer. Red Deer is in the process of becoming the first international affiliate of CYT. San Diego. CYT Winter Classes starting Thursday January 7, 4:00 - 6:00 pm (10 weeks of class). The new show is **The Emperor’s New Clothes**.

Once Upon a Time (ages 6 -7) - Theater is “story on stage”. In “Once Upon A Time” your child will be introduced to the concept and creation of “story” through activities, games, examples, sharing stories of their own and helping to author a showcase sketch! This age group is not eligible to audition for the session production. Curtain Up D100 Core Drama (ages 8-18) - This multi-faceted beginning drama class deals with the fundamentals of acting, staging, movement and interpretation. Learn how to use your

senses and draw upon them to develop characters. Other areas covered may include improvisation, pantomime and reader’s theater. Teacher -Lani Ledingham

Voice V100*Core Voice (ages 8-18)

This dynamic beginning voice class will cover all the elements of good singing techniques. Students will receive training in how to use their voices correctly and how to have a confident audition. Emphasis will be placed on proper breathing and support. This important class is for everyone who has ever wanted to . . . Stand Up and Sing .

Beginning Stomp (ages 8-18)

Use your body, hands, feet, wood, sticks, or just about anything you can find to make the hottest sounds ever heard. Modeled after the big Broadway show Stomp. Come see what the noise is all about. This is a class about pace, dance, rhythm and beat. Perfect for those interested in building drum skills.

Looking to “go green” in the New Year?

Become a member of the **Young Naturalists Club (YNC) of Alberta!** This club will get you and your kids meeting other families and having fun, while learning about Alberta's amazing natural environment. The program will kick off with the first Participation Day on January 17th, 2010. We will explore what animals do in the winter, while partaking in a variety of outdoor activities, such as snowshoeing. Unlike our wild friends, though, we will be able to warm ourselves up inside and enjoy some indoor crafts and games. The Participation Day will be held at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre in Red Deer, and will begin at 1:00 pm and run to approximately 4:00 pm. Pre-registration is required, but easy to do. Just become a member! Membership for the January – December season is only \$15 for the entire family, and entitles you to a Young Naturalists Package (with supplies and activity booklets) as well as involvement in all of our monthly Participation Days. YNC is geared towards children 10 years old and under, but involves the entire family. To become a member and pre-register for the YNC Participation Day kick-off, contact Leanne Ejack at Leanne.Ejack@gmail.com or visit the Red Deer River Naturalists website www.rdrn.fanweb.ca and click on the "YNC" link. YNC is a collaborative program between the Red Deer River Naturalists (RDRN), Red Deer College (RDC), and the Federation of Alberta Naturalist (FAN).

