



Erskine School January, 2025

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season.

Congratulations to the kindergarten to grade 6 students on a fantastic **Christmas Concert**. I hope everyone enjoyed our performance of "Christmas at the OK Corral" as much as we enjoyed performing and rehearsing for it. Thank you to all of the families that brought in decorations and props for the performances. Thanks also to Kate Martin and Brooke Shaw for organizing the fantastic EEPS raffle table and 50/50 draw and special thanks to all of the sponsors of the amazing prizes. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Our students union held **Crazy Sock Day** on December 16 and **Pajama Day** on December 20. Thank you, to all that participated. Future dress up days will be determined at the next students union meeting and shared with parents in the next newsletter. Thank you, Mrs. Rajewski and our students' union for organizing these dress up days.

The last day of school for kindergarten to grade 6 in 2024 was enjoyed **with Christmas movies, popcorn and classroom parties** while our grade 7 through 9 classes took down the stage and cleaned up the gym. It wasn't all work for them though as they also enjoyed watching Christmas movies and playing hide and seek throughout the school. In the afternoon, some of our grade 7 to 9 students ran fun **Christmas activities** for everyone in our cross graded groups. Thank you to all of the junior high students that helped with the stage clean up and for creating and supervising the awesome activities!

Junior High basketball started up in December with Mr. McComish coaching the boys team and Mrs. Chapman and Anthony Jackson coaching the girls. Thank you, coaches. Since returning from Christmas break our teams have competed with Christ King.

Grades 5 - 9 students have started curling at the Erskine Curling Club on Wednesdays. Students will head over close to their regular phys. ed. times. Thank you, Mrs. Chapman, for organizing and volunteering to work with our grade 5 - 9 students those afternoons. **CARA curling** has been set for February 4 at the Stettler Curling Club. Thank you, Mrs. Lachowsky for organizing our teams.

There will be **no school on January 29**. This is a professional development day for all teachers in the school division. Erskine School teachers will spend the day continuing to work through our school goals of enhanced literacy instruction and student engagement.

Success
is our
Choice

Dates to remember:

January

- 6 Back to School
- 15 Ski Forms Deadline
- 16 Math & Munchies
- 17 Jr High Dance
- 29 Teacher PD—No School

February

- 3 EEPS Meeting @ 3:15
- 4 CARA Curling
- 6 Ski Trip—Canyon Ski Hill
- 12 Valentine's Activities
- 13/14 Teacher's Convention
- 17 Family Day—No School
- 20 Math & Munchies
- 26 Pink Shirt Day
- 26 Nakiska Ski Forms due

March

- 14 Report Cards go home
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 20 Gr 6—9 Nakiska Trip
- 21 PD Day—No School
- 24 Spring Break Begins - No School
- 31 Back to School

From the Principal's desk continued.....

In February, our **junior high options** will transition yet again. Grade seven through nine students will be traveling to Stettler for the CTS options; home economics and industrial arts. Please discuss your child's choice with them as they will be deciding their option class as early as next week. Students will travel to Wm E Hay on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and occasional Fridays. Please consult our school website for a calendar.



Our **Canyon ski, snowboard and tubing trip** is scheduled for **February 6**. Traditionally, almost all students take part in the day. A staff member will stay back at the school to be with the handful of students that may not attend. Please understand that all students that remain at the school will be supervised in one group. There will not be regular classes. Please make sure all forms related to skiing have been returned. We are in the process of organizing a **grade 6 through 9 ski trip to Nakiska for March 20**. Our students will combine with students from Big Valley, Byemoor and Donalda to help keep our costs low. A note was sent home earlier in the week outlining costs and expectations.

The Erskine Curling Club has invited our students to watch the **2025 Alberta Boston Pizza Cup Men's Curling Playdowns**. On Wednesday, February 5 at 1:00, our grade 1, 7 and 8 students will travel to the Stettler Recreation Centre to watch. On Thursday, February 6, prior to heading to Canyon Ski Hill for tubing, our Kindergarten students will travel to Stettler to watch. On Friday, February 7 at 8:30, our grade 2, 5 and 9 classes will travel to Stettler to watch and finally, at 1:00, later that day, our grade 3, 4 and 6 students will get their chance to attend as well. Special thanks to members of the Erskine Curling Club for giving our students such a wonderful opportunity!

In keeping with our HourZero safety protocols, we will continue to practice **Lockdown** drills in the months of January and February. Just like a fire drill, we try our best to prepare students for this possibility without creating fear or anxiety.

Classes will soon be starting to take advantage of the Erskine outdoor skating rink for **skating**. Please look for a message from your child's teacher indicating when they plan to be using the rink and please make arrangements for helmets, skates and mitts for those days. Our insurance company has made it difficult for schools to introduce hockey on our local rinks by requiring face masks on helmets, neck guards and elbow pads. Teachers of our older students may allow hockey for students that bring these items, however, teachers of our younger students may choose to encourage skating only. Thank you so much to the many volunteers in our community that have worked to prepare the ice and maintain it for the season and those that are able to come in and tie skates and buckle helmets.

Alberta Education's Accountability Survey will be coming out in January. Students in grade 4 - 9, staff and parents will be asked to complete the survey online. Thank you in advance for your support in completing these surveys as they help guide the programming that we offer in our school. Please see the attached letter from Alberta Education.

With the **colder weather** upon us, please send toque, mitts and scarves with your children as they are expected to go outside for recess. Our guideline for inside recesses for kindergarten to grade 6 is a temperature or wind chill of around -25. Throughout the winter, grade 7 - 9 students have the option of remaining inside in the gym.

Just a reminder that from time to time students need to **leave our school campus** because they are not feeling well during the school day or they have an appointment. Sometimes older students reach out to their parents through a cell phone text or call. **Parents please be sure and check in** at the office prior to leaving or call and let us know what is happening.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education and the school's many activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at 403-742-5220.

Severe Weather ...



TO: Parents and Legal Guardians

With our winter conditions in Alberta and our area, we would like to remind parents and legal guardians on the guidelines for school busing during severe weather conditions (including temperature guidelines). Clearview's [Administrative Procedure 132 "Severe Weather Conditions"](#) outlines transportation operations during those weather conditions that may impact the safety of students and staff.

Highlights of Clearview's guidelines you may wish to be aware of include:

- School bus operations will be suspended when visibility is 0.2 km (200 metres) or less (for example, during snow or fog conditions)
- School bus operations will be suspended when the air temperature is colder than -35 degrees celsius' or when the temperature taking into consideration wind speed exceeds -40 degrees celsius.
- When a decision is made to operate the buses, the decision to send children on the bus is that of the parents/guardians. The parents/guardians should consider factors such as age and health of children, as well as any other factors they deem advisable.
- All students are required to be prepared for severe weather conditions, and carry with them appropriate winter footwear, outerwear, including headgear, and gloves or mitts.
- When most or all school bus services are suspended for an area or school, all schools shall normally remain open to students, which may be determined otherwise by the Superintendent or designate.

Please be aware that in the event the school bus services is cancelled or late on a particular day, updates are available using Bright Arrow or the website at www.clearview.ab.ca.



January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	First Day Back		Gr 5–9 Curling Basketball— @ Christ King			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Ski Forms Due Gr 5–9 Curling Basketball— Donalda @ Erskine	Math & Munchies	Jr High Dance 7-10 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Gr 5–9 Curling Basketball— Girls—Stettler @ Erskine Boys –Byemoor @ Erskine			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			PD Day—No School			