



The New Heights Times

Read all about it ...

Principal's Message:

On behalf of New Heights, welcome to 2011! We are looking forward to what this year has in store for our students, families and school! This January we are re-introducing our LifeSkills program in the Senior class. The Senior students are excited about these school and community workshops that build the independent life skills needed for living in a city like Calgary. The program is organized with monthly themes including Home Skills, Business and Careers, Transportation and Entertainment, and Food Skills (such as grocery shopping and cooking). The Senior class will be kicking off the program starting on Friday mornings this month. For more information, please contact myself or Mrs. Black.

Also, a reminder to parents of students in Grades 4 and up: Alberta Education will be sending Accountability Pillar Surveys to your homes. By completing the survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to gauge the quality of education your child is receiving and make improvements where needed. Please be sure to fill out the survey to the best of your ability, and if there are any questions or clarification needed about the survey or the process, please contact myself at 403-240-1312. The more accurately and honestly the survey is filled out, the better New Heights School will become.

~ Katie Blasetti

*** IMPORTANT DATES:**

- January 21 - IPP Reviews sent home
- January 29 - PAC skating/sledding party
- January 31 - PD Day (no school or preschool classes)
- February 14 & 15 - PAC Casino
- February 17 & 18 - Teacher's Convention (no school or preschool classes)
- February 21 - Family Day (School and Home closed)
- February 22 FOP Day (no preschool classes)

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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January 2011

The newsletter is available online!
www.newheightscalgary.com

Katie & Angie's Intermediate Class:

In the Intermediate Class we took a new approach to Persuasive Writing paragraphs, and we pretended to be salespeople selling ridiculous inventions (that have actually been patented!). Each student choose one invention that they would try to sell. Take a look at what they came up with ... would you be convinced?

"I would like to tell you about the amazing talking dog collar. You can use this perfectly designed collar to converse with your dog, knowing that it understands everything you are saying. Padded cloth has been added for comfort, plus buttons for many different languages as it is available in all countrys. Choose between many different colors. It will also come with a name tag and no batteries or plug ins are required! The talking dog collar will make training your dog MUCH more easier!"

By: Katy P.

"I would like to tell you about the brand new Elvis Sideburn Glasses! It comes in black, blue, red, white, and many more awesome colors! They are great for Halloween, parties, and of course, exciting trips to Las Vegas! They are guaranteed funniest glasses around. They even protect your eyes from the sun! And you can't forget about the cool sideburns. They're fuzzy, soft, and plushy, and they give you extra hair! They're big, cool, and say "ELVIS" in giant letters on them. They're yours for only \$9.99! For a special limited time only, they're buy one get one free! BUY NOW!"

By: Ayden K.

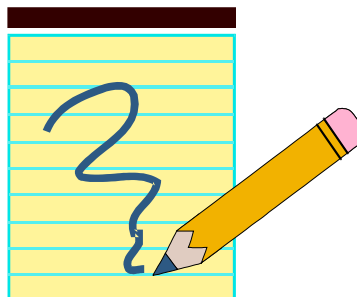
Senior Class:

We are starting off the new year with a NEW student in our class. We extend a warm welcome to Liam! We're excited to have him join us.

Since returning from the winter break, we've been busy focusing on learning creative writing skills. We're also getting started with LifeSkills each Friday morning and the class is enjoying it, so far!

Happy 2011 from the Sr. Class!

~ Miss Anderson & Mrs. M.



Miss Sarah's Primary Class:
New Beginnings for the Primary Class

The Primary Class would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful vacation full of love, friendship and fun! We have started this term on a different note as our class has reduced in size. We have embraced this change and will be spending more time developing our social/communication skills with Miss April and Miss Irwin's class. Our morning gym time will be twice a week with Miss Jen and half of Miss Irwin's class, while the other two mornings a week will be spent participating in musical group games. We will continue to spend our afternoon gym time with Miss April and her students as the primary students are excellent role models for the kindergarten class. Miss Angela and I have also been focusing on facilitating independent reading and we have started reading the novel "Clementine", which the students are enjoying. This first week of classes has been absolutely wonderful and Miss Angela and I are so proud of our students for transitioning from holidays to school with such ease. We are excited to continue to work with and watch our students develop over the next few months.

Important dates and reminders:

- ✓ Special snack: EVERY Friday (your child can still pack their regular snacks)
- ✓ Show and tell: EVERY Friday
- ✓ Miss Sarah will be away at conference from January 24-26
- ✓ We will be going sledding: **January 27th at 1:00pm** (helmet

Junior Class:

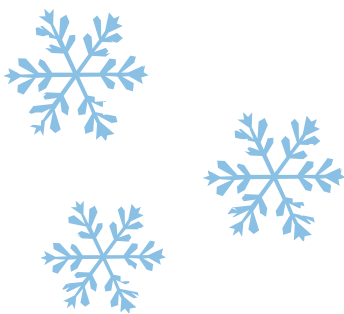
Happy New Year everyone! Our students are back and ready for another term of learning and fun. The Junior Class is continuing our study of classroom chemistry this term with a wintery bent. We will be doing a number of experiments with snow and ice and crystals. We will also look at how winter affects people and animals and how to keep ourselves safe in the winter. As well, we are looking further into how the land and climate have had an effect upon the people who live in Alberta.

~Ms. Irwin & Mrs. Lopes

P.S. If anyone has any of the following, we would greatly appreciate donations: Portable cd player(s) ("Discman"), Lego, K'nex.

Preschool/Kindergarten Class:

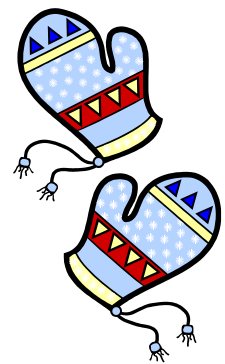
Welcome back! We are starting this new year off with a month of studying "The Mitten" and winter weather and activities. During our circle times, we will be practising recreating the story and singing songs that go along with the wonderful story. Later on in the month, we will be going sledding ... a favourite winter activity of mine. The song we are learning is written below, so you may practice at home with your child.



The Mitten: for Jan Brett's The Mitten (to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

The mitten on the ground.
The mitten on the ground.
Heigh-ho! It's cold outside.
The mitten on the ground.
The (mole) snuggles in.
The (mole) snuggles in.
Heigh-ho! It's cold outside.
The (mole) snuggles in.

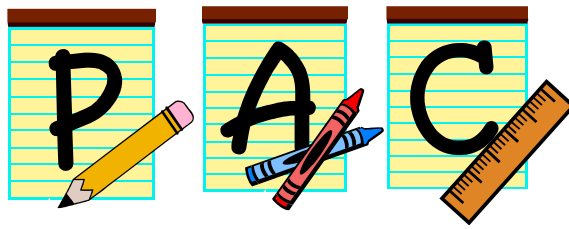
(After the last animal, all pretend to sneeze and fall out of the mitten.)



We are continuing our reading buddies, yoga, music and Letter of the Week. We will also be spending time in Sarah's Primary class as we build some social interaction skills.

As most of you know, Sheetal is away for several weeks getting married.

Congratulations to Sheetal and her family! We have Lanna Code in the class as a replacement. Welcome Lanna!



Update from PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! To start off 2011, here's a brief update from PAC:

Our **Pot-luck PAC Skating & Sledding Party** is on **Saturday, January 29th** at the Shaganappi Community Center! Come out for some hot chocolate & family fun! Everyone invited!

One other important note:

Our **Casino** is on February 14 and 15 at the Deerfoot Casino. We *really* need everyone's help for this as we require about 42 volunteers to work various positions and shifts! (Unfortunately, we're short 20 volunteers so your help is very important - especially, if we want the opportunity to participate in future casinos. They only happen once every 18 months and have the potential to earn a lot of money for the school! Please contact Mike Grovue at mgrovue@telus.blackberry.net to volunteer. THANK YOU!

School requests that were recently approved & funded by PAC:

- Autism Conference in Edmonton on March 5/6: 2 staff members x \$315 = \$630 registration fee (plus accommodations and gas)
- Boot Trays for the foyer: 4 boot trays x \$10
- Videocamera for observation, tracking and assessment: approx. \$300
- OT supplies: Inclined mat for the gym (\$600) and replace tunnels (2 x \$20)
- OT programming supply: Xbox Kinect (\$300) and fitness/sport games. (Note: This is for approved OT activities with students only...it is for motivating daily exercise and activity)

Yours truly,

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

* Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 8th at 7:00pm**. Everyone is welcome!

“11 New Activities to Try in 2011”

Program Information Sessions and Coffee Time!

The therapy team at New Heights invites all parents out to one of two sessions held at the school on Thursday, January 20th, 2011. Come out and learn about a variety of programs and opportunities available in the community this semester. Jen Loewen, Occupational Therapist, will be providing families with information about programs that could benefit your child!

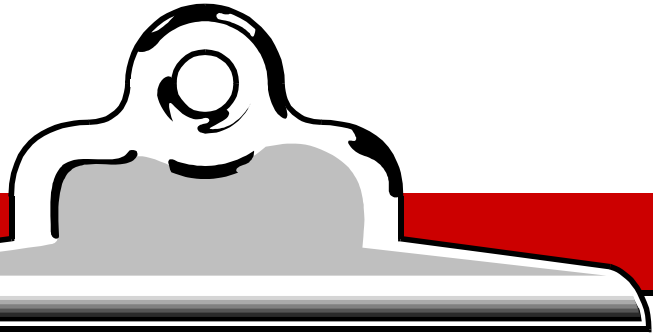
After the brief session, coffee and treats will be served. This time is dedicated to parent networking and discussion. Members from the psychology team will be available to answer any questions parents may have. Two sessions will be held that day to accommodate work schedules for parents- **2 pm** and **7 pm**. This is a great opportunity to learn and connect with others who share some of the challenges of parenting. Come out and join us!

Please RSVP with the main office by Tuesday, January 18th. You can email new.heights@newheightscalgary.com or call 403-240-1312.

Message from the Psychology Team:

The Psychology Team at New Heights would like to remind parents of the ongoing support available on Wednesdays at New Heights. Parents, siblings, and students can meet with the team for consultation, therapy or to brainstorm answers to challenges faced at home. Appointments are available from 10 am to 3 pm every Wednesday. Please call the school, or email Jennifer Mensink at jmensink@cbe.ab.ca to book an appointment. Hope to hear from you soon.





Wish List

If you or your business can supply the school with any of the following items, please contact the office.

~~We'd gratefully accept donations of these items!~~

~~THANK YOU!~~

- ~~- (6) Blankets *~~
- ~~- (6) Buckets (trash can sized) *~~
- ~~- Dishrack *~~
- ~~- Suit of Armour (only need to borrow) *~~
- ~~- Suitcase *~~
- ~~- Globe *~~
- Snowshoes
- Beanbag chairs
- Paper shredder
- 12" Paper trimmer
- Exercise/Fitness Balls
- Hand weights

* Item that has been most RECENTLY added to our "Wish List".

EXTRA! EXTRA! ...
Hot off the press - this just in!

**The Home Program would
like to wish everyone a**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

~ Jane & Betty

An update on the
***KaBoom! Imagination
Playground:***

We look forward to the
arrival of our playground
pieces in mid-February
2011! We will keep you
posted!

GREAT JOB! ...

Congratulations
to one of our
Senior Class
students, **Anton
G.**, who recently
got his *Learner's
Licence!* Way to
go Anton! We
knew you could
do it and we're
so very proud of
you.

Congratulations to Ms. Alex Contreras
(Senior Class Team Teacher) on the birth of
her baby girl, Noa!

Noa was born on January 2nd, 2011
weighing 6lbs 14ozs.

Mom, Dad and baby are healthy and happy.
We look forward to the return of Ms.
Contreras at the end of February!

