

The New Heights Times

Read all about it ...

The Principal's Message

Katie Blasetti

You may be thinking that it's a Winter Wonderland out there and loving the snow and the pretty lights. Or you may be thinking that you're mad because it took an extra hour to get home on the icy roads, your fingers are freezing because you had to scrape the windshield (and you lost your mittens), and mostly you're mad because you just stepped in melted snow from your boots and now have a wet sock. Regardless of your feelings about Winter; it's here! And it's a cold one so far!

The 3rd Annual Bake Sale and Silent Auction was on one of the coldest, messiest days so far! A huge thank you to all parents and staff who attempted the drive to support the school, whether you made it out of your driveway or not! For those who did make it out, it was a fun day of eating baking, bidding on items, and drinking hot chocolate.

Thank you to Anton, Ayden, Nicole, and Ben for making it out for their bake sale shifts. And a BIG thank you to Max S. for filling in and taking extra shifts for those who were stuck at home. Just seeing the parents, staff, students, and friends of New Heights coming together for this event (on the day of, throughout the week, and with preparations before) has been an incredible encouragement to the school. Great job New Heights!

*** IMPORTANT DATES:**

- December 17 - Westjet Ticket Raffle Draw!
- December 18 - Last day of classes before break
- January 04 - Home Program back in school
- January 05 - Preschool & School Age classes resume!
- January 12 - PAC Meeting (7pm)
- January 14 - F.O.P. Day (no regular preschool classes)

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December 2009

The newsletter is
available online!
www.newheightscalgary.com

Update from the PAC:

Becki Mravunac

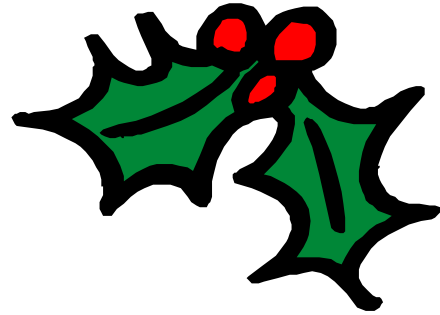
Unfortunately, we couldn't fool Mother Nature into thinking it wasn't December! Due to an unexpected snow storm on the day of our **3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser & Silent Auction**, as anticipated, we had a rather low turnout for the event. It was still an exciting day for those of us that managed to dig ourselves out of meter high snow drifts and brave the icy roads!

Despite the terrible winter weather that weekend, the event is still turning out to be a success! We decided to extend the silent auction for the week that followed! We had some serious bidding competitions going on (haha) which was very beneficial to the school. We're still awaiting a final tally, but, a tentative total for the silent auction came to just over \$3000! That doesn't include proceeds from the bake sale, 50/50 draw AND the popular Westjet raffle ticket sales! Sales are still going strong for those and the final draw will be held on Thursday, December 17th. Good luck to everyone who was lucky enough to get raffle tickets!

Any bake sale items that were left over on the day of the event, were generously donated to the Mustard Seed on behalf of New Heights.

A **BIG THANKS** to all of the volunteers, including school staff, who worked behind the scenes and everyone who came out to help for the event! Without all of you, we couldn't have done it! Take a bow!

The next PAC meeting is **Tuesday, January 12th** at 7pm. We hope you'll join us!



Miss Reenie's Preschool Classes:

December is busy in our preschool classes! We've learned the letters H and J, and have enjoyed playing in the gym, especially jumping onto a beanbag and playing parachute games. (Ask your child about the games "Wrap the present" and "Cat and Mouse".)

In the first week of January, we'll be learning "Kk". Watch for a calendar and note next week, to find out the other letters we'll study in January.

Afternoon parents, please remember to send an item that starts with the week's letter on the first day of the week.

Merry Christmas, everyone! Have a wonderful holiday!

Holiday Funnies for you!

What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has No L (Noel)

Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

So he can hoe hoe hoe

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

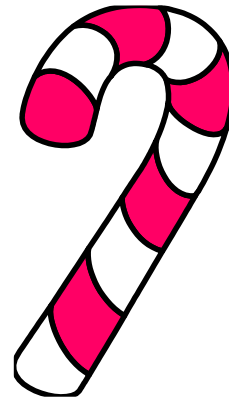
Frostbite

What did the ghost say to Santa Claus?

I'll have a boo Christmas without you....

How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

Fleece Navidad!



Miss Jewel's Preschool Class:

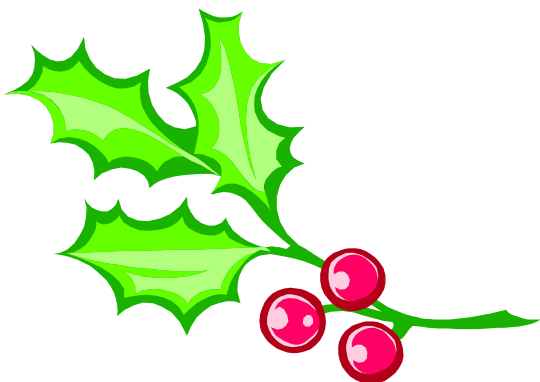
This month in preschool, we have been focusing on our December theme. The stories of the month are "Spot's Christmas" and "Ring the Bell". The kids like playing their musical bells along with us! In keeping with the holiday spirit, we've been making holiday crafts, singing and listening to holiday music - which the children seem to really enjoy.

We also have a new addition and we'd like to welcome Kenneth to our preschool class!!!

Enjoy your holidays and take time to remember the *reason for the season*. We'll see you in the new year!

Happy Holidays!

Miss Jewel & Miss Becki



Ms. Irwin's Junior Class:

It is hard to believe it's almost Christmas! We have a new student in our room and are now officially full!

Everyone has been putting in a great effort on the basics of reading and math. As well, we have looked at where we are in the world and have been studying the weather and how it affects plants, animals and people. (We have certainly had a great opportunity to observe some of the extremes in weather, especially recently, and we've learned about tornados and hurricanes too). Music with Miss Anna has been a very active and fun learning experience and our morning wake-ups with Jenn have been a great hit. All and all it has been a very productive first term.

Everyone has been working hard and we are all ready for a well-deserved break.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to a great new year.

P.S.

Our class is still hoping for donations of Legos, K'nex, games and puzzles that you might be tired of or have outgrown. We would also like to provide a home for a small aquarium (10-15 gal.) if anyone has one they are no longer using.

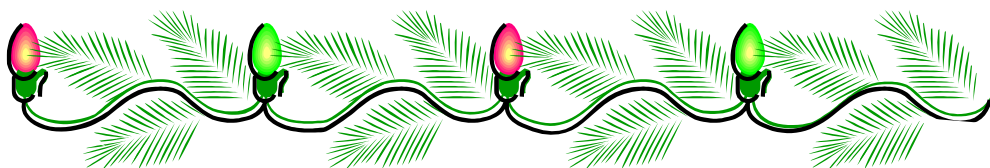
Ms. Irwin & Mrs. Lopes

GUESS WHO? Game ... ANSWERS!

Did you match the CLUE with the correct New Heights staff member?

Jane Wilde ----- I once spent 3 1/2 months walking across Europe.
Alison Black ----- My brother and I recently got matching tattoos!
Kiely Sarsfield ----- My job as a dancer was to make others get up and "boogie"!
Carrie Anderson ----- I broke my ribs while mountain climbing! OUCH!
Angie B. ----- I ran alongside Rick Hansen during his "Man in Motion Tour".
Katie Blasetti ----- I accidentally caused a giant tree to catch on fire! OOPS!
Becki Mravunac ----- I share a birthday with my father, sister & the family dog!
Anna Spencer ----- I performed as a talented trapeze artist in shows!
Jewel Irving & Becki M.----- I LOVE chocolate!

Thanks for playing along and guessing! Stay tuned for more trivia contests ...



Peppermint Hot Cocoa Recipe

Ingredients

- 3 peppermint stick (4 1/2')
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup powdered non-dairy creamer
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa

Instructions

Place peppermint sticks in airtight bag, beat to a powder with a mallet.

Combine peppermint with sugar, creamer and cocoa.

Add 1/4 cup mix to 3/4 cup boiling water for each serving.

Store remaining mix in a jar or airtight bag.



Home Program:

Hello families and friends of New Heights!

As the Christmas holidays are coming up very soon, we just want to remind all home program families and staff that home program starts up on January 4, 2010 - one day before the school reopens! We wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a happy new year! Enjoy the snow!

The Whirl Pool

"Come on wake up we're almost there", I moaned.

Josh was shaking a bit harder than necessary. I sat up and looked out at the lake. It was a deep sapphire blue and I could just make out the sails of boats coasting on the water. My friends and I traveled on a road trip from Calgary to the Okanogan. We had stopped at several towns along the way. The Okanogan was the last stop before we headed back. I was excited about going because of the myth of the Ogopogo, the prehistoric water beast in the Okanogan.

Four hours later, we had pulled into our cabin made of old logs. It was painted red which was peeling. It had a dock where you could launch boats. Josh had suggested that we take the boat out a little ways and use the scuba equipment to dive off of it, then have dinner on the porch. Ralph and I thought that sounded good, so we went and changed into our swim trunks and got our boat off the roof of the car and into the lake. We sailed out a little and took turns diving off the boat, first Ralph, then Josh, and then it was my turn. As I plunged into the water, I felt the many tickles of bubbles on my skin, then I went down until very little light penetrated the inky blackness. I turned on the flash light, that worked under water and shone the beam into the area surrounding me. I saw a couple fish swim by and then I saw something else swim past the side of me. I turned the beam toward it and saw a snake like body. I was so freaked out by the darkness, this just made it worse. I kicked up toward the surface as fast I could. When I reached the boat I had yelled for Josh and Ralph to help me out of the water.

"What's up?" said Josh. "Ya look like ya saw the Ogopogo". "I don't know what I saw", I said. "This lake might have eels, that's probably what you saw" said Ralph.

"I don't know, it would have to be a pretty big eel" I replied.

The next day we went sailing again and I had convinced myself that the thing I saw was a big eel and it wasn't a problem. I dove again. I used the flash light, but something had been different. There was no longer the abundance of fish, not like last night.

Suddenly, I had a strange sense of déjà-vu. I saw something out of the corner of my eye, a giant body of a snake with the head of a horse, scales all over its body, ranging from dark black to green and brown. It had

CONTINUED ...

It made a noise like a horse's whinny and a hiss like a snake. Suddenly, it dove below me. It circled around and around, faster and faster and then I was in a swirling tube of water. The monster -most likely the legendary Ogopogo - had made a whirl pool and I was being sucked down towards its gaping mouth full of rows and rows of sharp teeth. I was paralyzed by fear. I couldn't move, it was like I was outside of my body and I was watching myself drown all at the same time. I saw Josh dive in and I wanted to scream "NO", but I couldn't. Fortunately, Josh saw the whirlpool and the monster. He got Ralph to start the motor. The creature was startled at the noise. It appeared to think for a second, then it came toward me, jaws gaping. Josh grabbed the harpoon and dropped it down toward me. I suddenly snapped out of my paralyzed state. Josh dropped a spear gun toward me into the whirlpool, which was now subsiding. I grabbed onto it and aimed for the creature's mouth. My arm stretched as far as I could and I swam toward the monster. As the monster closed its mouth on my out stretched arm, I pulled the trigger. I heard a screech of pain which came from the creature. As soon as the great beast let go of my arm, I rushed up toward the surface. I was alive!

PROLOGUE

My friends took me to a hospital and I had to have my hand operated on. I had lost a lot of blood, but I didn't die. To this day I can't swim anywhere, if I can't see the bottom. I wonder why???

By Max Sargent