



# The New Heights Times

*Read all about it ...*

## *The Principal's Message*

Katie Blasetti

Welcome to the New Year! Returning to school in January is always an exciting time, as staff and students come back refreshed and with a renewed focus and energy.

IPP Reviews are coming in at the end of the month. The process will look a little different than previous years. We will be sending home a detailed review of how the goals for your child are coming, including any suggested changes and improvements. There will be no scheduled meeting, but if there are questions or concerns at this point in time, please contact your classroom teacher to set up a time to meet.

A student's best success in school depends on active participation between students, parents, and teachers. We thank our parents and families for the open communication so often offered, along with the support and challenges you bring to help build a unique and effective program. We've started the journey and we continue the climb, as daily we reach new heights. Keep up the great work!

"Coming together is a Beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is Success". (Henry Ford)

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## January 2010

### **\* IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 18 - F.O.P. Day (NO preschool classes)

January (end of month) - IPP Reviews

February 11 & 12 - Teacher's Convention (No school)

February 15 - Family Day (School closed)

February 16 - F.O.P. Day (NO preschool classes)

**PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

The newsletter is  
available online!  
[www.newheightscalgary.com](http://www.newheightscalgary.com)

## Update from the PAC:

*Becki Mravunac*

To summarize what we discussed at our last PAC meeting ...

Our Fall Fundraiser - despite the winter storm, was quite a success! In total, we raised just over \$7000!

We discussed how the monies would be spent and after voting on several fund requests, it was decided that a portion will go towards educational seminars that are a HUGE asset to teachers and teacher assistants. This, in turn, will be a benefit to our children!

We will also use a small portion of the funds for specialized classes, miscellaneous supplies and advertising - including an ad in brochures for the upcoming "Old Timer's Hockey" game at the Saddledome! It's always a big event and we could attract interest from a broad range of people by placing an ad in their brochure!

We also discussed possible future fundraisers. One will be a "Girl's Night Mini-Spa" event just before Mother's Day and the other will be at Schanks - likely in April. Both events will offer a ton of fun and more details will follow shortly!

Cindy Schnee is taking care of magazine subscriptions on behalf of New Heights. This has been an ongoing fundraiser that everyone can participate in, simply by ordering a magazine subscription! They make great gifts and the list of magazines is endless so there really is something for everyone! The kids love magazines, too. So, if you're interested in placing an order, please contact the school and we'll put you in touch with Cindy.

The **next PAC meeting** is **Tuesday, February 9th** at 7pm. Come out and hear what's happening!



### Miss Reenie's Preschool Classes:

We're excited to be back at school after our holidays. In January, we're reading a small rhyming story called Millions of Snowflakes. We count snowflakes, learn rhyming words, identify body parts and act out the story. We've also enjoyed singing a snowflake song that Miss Angela made up just for us!

In the afternoon class, the children are going to take turns "reading" the story aloud to the class! We're very proud that we can do that for each other.

In both classes, we look forward to making snowmen – paper ones and maybe also a real one. This month, we're also learning the letters L, M, N and S.

Miss Reenie

## Intermediate Class Poetry!

Just before the Winter Break, the intermediate class finished a unit on poetry. The unit frustrated many of us to start - poetry is such a different way of thinking and writing and it doesn't always make sense. By the end of the unit, we were enjoying this creative way of writing, and experimenting with measure and rhythm.

Here is some of what we came up with:

*There once was a red man that swam,  
At a pool with his friend Sam,  
He splashed in Sam's face.  
All over the place!  
Sam just laughed, "He is such a ham!"*

*By Zane Stelmaschuk*

*There once was a lizard that flew,  
Once he got sick and got Swine Flu!  
To the doctor he went,  
And home he was sent,  
Where he made himself chicken stew.*

*By A.J. Parkes*



## Miss Jewel's Preschool Class:

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a good holiday with family and friends.

This month in preschool, we have been focusing on our January theme of snow and winter. We've been reading short stories about snowflakes and making various winter crafts. Gym is always a favorite activity with the kids, too!

We are getting back into a routine after the break and looking forward to the rest of the school year!

Miss Jewel & Miss Becki

## Ms. Irwin's Junior Class:

Wow, January already! I hope everyone had a happy and restful break. The junior class is back and ready for some new challenges. Students are continuing to work hard on the basics of reading, writing and math and some of our students are learning cursive writing. We are beginning a unit on the Polar Regions. We will be looking at the geography, the wildlife, and the people of the Arctic and Antarctic as well as exploring such concepts as light and shadows, hot and cold, etc. We look forward to many fun and interesting activities and much opportunity for learning.

P.S. Thanks to one of our generous families for donating an aquarium!

We are still looking for any Lego, K'nex, games or puzzles that you may not want now that new and exciting replacements have arrived over Christmas!

Ms. Irwin & Mrs. Lopes



### Home Program:

Jane Wilde and Betty Heung

We are happy to extend a warm New Heights welcome to our newest Developmental Assistant who has become part of our Home Program Team ... *Katie Canning!*

Home Program (403)250-1317

### Senior Class:

Carrie Anderson

Hi Ya All!

The senior room will be going into their new novel studies. The ones chosen are *Owls in the Family*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

If you have one of these at school or at home, we would love to borrow it. We would look after it, feed it and water it - ha,ha.

We would be very, very thankful!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Happy New Year to you all! Let's make this a grand one!

Carrie & the Senior Class



Happy New Year! As we work with your children to foster improved communication/relationship development skills, it's important to note that a lot of what we communicate is nonverbal communication!

Research tells us that 7% of a message we communicate is using words, 38% is vocal tone and 55% is facial expression and body language. If this is true, that means that 93% of a message is nonverbal communication!

How well does your child understand or use nonverbal communication?

At a young age, did/does your child use a limited range of conventional gestures & vocalizations? Often in the early stages of development, a child with ASD will rely on presymbolic gestures (i.e. leading, pulling, or manipulating another's hand). Conventional gestures may be delayed or absent (i.e. showing, waving, pointing and shaking one's head). It is also common for individuals with ASD to develop problem behaviours to communicate (i.e. screeching, hitting, and/or fleeing from an undesired activity) in order to protest, exert social control and to emotionally regulate. Later on in development, awareness of subtle intentions (i.e. use of sarcasm and other nonliteral meanings) may be compromised, especially in fast-paced social interactions. These children who develop verbal communication may then adhere to literal use and interpretation of words. They may also present with either monotone intonation patterns or unusual prosody and have difficulties using intonation cues to understand another's intentions.

So what can we do....

1. Label our own or others' use of nonverbal communication.
2. Label your child's use of nonverbal communication.
3. Help them put meaning to nonverbal communication.
4. Encourage them to try new ways of communicating nonverbally.

I challenge you to find fun ways of incorporating these ideas into your daily routines or activities!

Happy nonverbal communicating!!!

Astrid Simmermon, Speech-Language Pathologist