COUGAR NEWS

March 15, 2019 | No. 07 | Clavet School

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

Although we had an unseasonably warm start to winter weather, I'm afraid my memory is clouded by all of the bitterly cold weather that we experienced through February and early March. This year we experienced both a record number of bus cancellation days due to cold weather, and a record number of consecutive bus cancellation days due to cold weather. The loss of instructional time has caused our teachers to re-evaluate the most important ideas in their respective teaching areas and to find ways to help the students learn those concepts with less time. Thank you to the teachers for their commitment and flexibility.

We are looking forward to hosting the Region 11 Drama Festival on April 11-13 for the first time. We have seven schools participating, with ten plays being rehearsed, performed and adjudicated. Please watch the announcements for opportunities to participate in the event.

We are also looking forward to seeing a lot of our parents and students out for the spring interviews. This is a great opportunity to refocus on school academic goals. It is also during these interviews that we begin to make programming plans for next year. This is more applicable to our grade 9-11 students who may want to discuss options for the math pathways they will be selecting for next year. Please be sure to discuss the options with your child's math teacher.

The recent decision by the Ontario government to ban cell phones in schools beginning next school year has highlighted the topic once again. I have been reassured that we are on the right track, based on the professional and public comments around the proposed Ontario ban. We have been very pleased with the student and community response to the new cell phone rules that we put in place this year for students in PreK – Grade 9. Our expectation is that students in these grades do not use cell phones unless directed by a teacher for an academic purpose and under the teacher's direct supervision. Our teachers continue to speak to the students about the responsible use of cell phones and integrate the benefits of the technology into their lessons when appropriate. We have noticed some recent lapses in judgement from the students on when they can and should be using their phones. Please engage your child in a discussion about their cell phone use. This is another area where the strength of impact on changing student behaviour will be enhanced if we are delivering a consistent message from both the school and the home.

Enjoy the spring. Let's hope for a slow and steady melt.

CLAVET PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Clavet Pre-Kindergarten program for three and four year old children runs Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm. Applications are available at the office or on our website. Children must be three years old by September 1st. Please call the office at 306-933-1022 or email christine.findlater@spiritsd.ca for more information.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Please watch our website www.spiritsd.ca/clavet for upcoming information on our Kindergarten Open House; registration forms are available at the office and on our website.
If you have questions or concerns about your child starting kindergarten, please call or email Tracy Fitzsimmons at 306-933-1022 or tracy.fitzsimmons@spiritsd.ca

ATTENDANCE

Please call the office with any student absence, in the event that your child's teacher is away we will have the information at the office.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Please book your Parent Teacher interviews online at clavetschool.coconutcalendar.com. Interviews are Wednesday, March 20 5:30-8:00 pm and Thursday, March 21 3:30-6:00 pm.

coconut CALENDAR

SR DRAMA

Sr. Drama is hard at work practicing two plays, a hilarious comedy called The Wooer's Woods and a more serious play, Flaky Lips! Both plays will be performed at the school Friday, April 5th for our Dinner Theatre.
Sr. Drama is hosting Regionals this year! A first for Clavet School. We will hosting 8 schools with a total of 10 plays!! Should you wish to come and watch some top performances The Wooers's Woods is scheduled to perform at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 11. Flaky Lips will be performed on Friday, April 12th at 7:00 pm. There will be other plays as well, so it is an excellent evening of entertainment! The cost at the door is $5.00 per evening. Hope to see you there!!

COUGAR NEWS
DATES TO NOTE

MARCH 18	**K-9 REPORT CARDS**
MARCH 20	**GR 1-12 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS 5:30-8:00**
MARCH 21	**GR 1-12 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS 3:30-6:00**
MARCH 23	**OPTIMIST BAND FESTIVAL**
MARCH 22-25	**PROVINCIAL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS**
MARCH 29	**NO SCHOOL – DAY IN LIEU**

COMMUNITY NEWS

BAND PROGRAM

The Prairie Spirit School Division along with your schools Administration Team has created an Instrumental Music Program in your school as a way to teach the music portion of the Arts Education Curriculum. This program provides instrumental instruction to all students in grade 5 and 6. Many families choose to purchase or rent instruments but there are always students for whom this is a barrier to participation. The Music Ed team is committed to providing access to all students and while we have purchased many instruments in the past few years, with our current increase in numbers we have a critical need for additional instruments.

We are looking for donations of wind instruments including Flutes, Clarinets, Alto Saxophones, Tenor Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, and Baritones/Euphoniums.

Any and all donations to our program are greatly appreciated, and will enrich the music lives of our students for years to come. Please contact the Administration Assistant at your school if you are able to help

School Community Councils

A primary link between the home, community and school

Our School Community Council (SCC) supports student learning success and well-being and encourages parent and community involvement in the school. Prairie Spirit School Division believes that involvement with SCCs is a rewarding and meaningful activity for parent and community members. If you would like to make a difference at our school, please consider running in the upcoming SCC election. Parents and members of the community are eligible to run for the local SCC.

Our SCC election will be held _____May 15, 2019____

Please contact the school office for more information and for nomination forms.

PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION
Learners for Life

Successful schools don't just happen.
They need parent and community involvement!

What exactly is the SCC?

The purpose of the Council is to serve in an advisory capacity. The council will receive information about the school and advise and support the development and delivery of the School Plan for Improved School Learning.

CLAVET SCC

Our Mission is: T*o involve family and community in supporting the learning success and well-being of our students and children.*

The Clavet School Community Council:

- *Aligns itself strategically with school, division and provincial goals and initiatives.*
- *Focuses on student learning and well-being.*
- *Is inclusive of the community and representative of all the students in the school.*
- *Encourages awareness of global learning opportunities.*
- *Is accountable, transparent and responsive in its relationship with parents, the school, and the community.*
- *Honours the right to privacy of individuals and treats all information they are privy to with appropriate discretion and sensitivity.*
- *Develops shared responsibility for learning success and well-being of children and youth.*
- *Encourages and facilitates parent and community engagement in school planning and improvement processes.*
- *Provides guidance and direction from a lay perspective to the school, the Board and community organizations and agencies.*

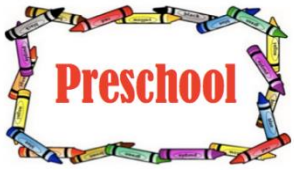
Our next SCC meeting will be held on April 17, 2018 at 5:00pm
All who wish to attend are welcome
Our AGM and elections will be held on May 15, 2019 at 5:00pm

Join the SCC Reminds group to get text about school events and information.

HOW? Please join by texting the code @clavets to the phone number 902-816-0752. Then follow the instructions texted to your smart phone.

STOP? You can always stop receiving texts if you choose.

CLAVET PRESCHOOL



Clavet Co-operative Preschool registration for the 2019/2020 year is April 17th, 9:30-11:30 am and 7-9 pm at the Clavet Community Hall. Call Chelsey at 306-292-8121 for more information. You can also check out the Preschool website at www.clavetcooppreschool.com

STUDENT SAFETY

For Clavet Composite School, part of Prairie Spirit School Division, the safety of our students is our top priority. Our school partners with parents and caregivers to support and protect our students. There has been a lot of attention on the news and through social media recently about online safety for youth. Parents and caregivers may have concerns and questions about keeping children safe online.

There are a number of strategies in place in our school and in our Division to protect and prepare our students with regards to digital citizenship and online safety. Led by our Division's Caring, Healthy and Safe School team, these strategies include:

- IT Department monitoring internet usage in Prairie Spirit schools, with a focus on security and privacy
- Students learning about digital citizenship through the Saskatchewan curriculum
- Sharing Media Smarts information with parents and guardians, as they are a trusted resource regarding digital and media literacy

RCMP ONLINE SAFETY MESSAGES

The following online safety messages for students and parents/guardians are provided by the Saskatchewan RCMP:

Students:

• Be careful of giving out too much personal information and remember that the information that you put on your profile can be seen by everyone, even if your account/profile is set to private. Your personal information/image(s) may be used in ways that you never intended.

• Photos posted online are not private property and anything you upload online can be shared by others, potentially with thousands of people, within hours of your posting. It's also easy to alter an image using photo editing software.

• Remember that once you post something online, you can't control who that information is shared with – and removing it from wherever you posted it doesn't permanently remove it from the internet.

• Tell someone, like a parent, guardian or trusted adult, if something online is making you concerned or uncomfortable. Your safety is important and an adult will be able to provide you with guidance.

Parents and guardians:

• Take an interest in what your children are doing online.

• Talk openly with your children about online safety and educate them on the risks of online interactions.

• Activate the protection features of websites and software your children use. There are tools available through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to help you manage your children's online experience (e.g., appropriate websites, amount of time spent online, who can and cannot contact them). It might also include other security features, such as pop-up ad blockers.

• Get to know the online environments your children use and teach them how to deal with inappropriate material.

• Be informed about the latest methods children are using to communicate and what they're up to when they're at a friend's house.

• Keep an eye on the sites they're visiting by keeping the computer in a common area like the kitchen.

• Report anything suspicious or concerning that your child encounters online - contact your local police service or RCMP Detachment.

Clavet School Nutrition Program

Mar 2019

Good nutrition supports healthy learning!!

Healthy choices in the Servery

Monday/Tuesday:
Homemade Soup (Beef Barley, Chicken Noodle, and others), Wraps and Sandwiches (Chicken, Ham, Egg Salad, Turkey) $2 each or 2 for $3

Daily:
Grilled Cheese with Real Cheddar $1
Frozen Yogurt $2
Flavoured Water $1
Various Healthy Snacks $1

Chili-on-a-bun Periodically for Special Occasions

The servery is open five days a week with low cost healthy snacks and sandwiches for high school students.

Thanks to the Grade 1/2 class for making a thank-you poster for President's Choice Children's Charity

President's Choice CHILDREN'S CHARITY
Helping kids do anything™

THANK YOU Volunteers!

A huge thanks to our staff, student and parent volunteers who make our nutrition program possible.

Home & School CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

March 2019

Sponsored by your School Community Council

SHORT NOTES

Display schoolwork

Saving work your youngster brings home is one way to show her that school is important to you. Consider creating a hallway gallery of framed papers and artwork, or store her work in a coffee-table binder. *Tip:* Take photos of her sculptures, dioramas, and other 3-D projects. Display the photos, or add them to her binder.

A list-making habit

Get your child in the routine of making checklists in a student planner or notebook. Suggest that he write down tasks in the order he needs to complete them. Encourage him to check off each item as he tackles it—he will enjoy a sense of satisfaction as his list grows shorter.

Promote a work ethic

A good work ethic, or a belief in the value of hard work, will make your youngster better at any job she undertakes. Develop this trait by giving her regular chores like taking out the recycling or sweeping the floor. Then, let her know how her contribution makes a difference. ("The kitchen looks nice and tidy thanks to you!")

Worth quoting

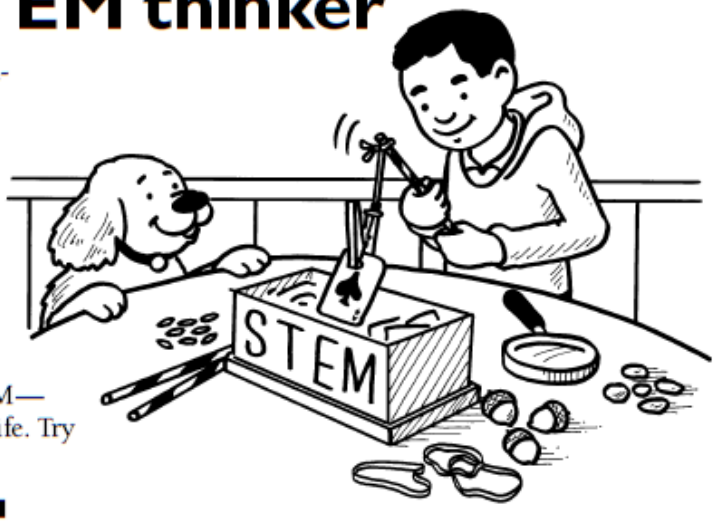
"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" *Dr. Seuss*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: "I pass before the sun but make no shadow. What am I?"

A: The wind.

Be a STEM thinker



With science, technology, engineering, and math jobs in demand, STEM is a hot topic these days. Being a curious, critical, creative thinker who can solve problems will help your child do well in STEM—and in every area of life. Try these ideas.

Wonder out loud

Bring out your youngster's natural curiosity by discussing what you're curious about. ("I wonder why rainbows are curved and not straight.") Then, he could experiment to find out. Perhaps he'll create his own rainbows using a flashlight, a mirror, and a pan of water.

Make a "tinker box"

Your child will use critical thinking skills by tinkering with natural objects and loose parts. In a shoebox, let him collect items like pebbles, acorns, seeds, straws, rubber bands, and clothespins. He could add new objects as he finds them. Maybe he'll design a "claw machine" that picks up small objects or examine an acorn under a magnifying glass.

Promote problem solving

Treat everyday problems as learning opportunities. Say the TV remote won't work, even though you just replaced the batteries. Have your youngster think of solutions and test them. He might check that the batteries are inserted correctly, try batteries he's sure are fresh, or turn the TV off and on again.♥

Parent-child chats

Regular conversations with your youngster keep the two of you close—and build her language skills. Here are suggestions for making chats more meaningful.

- **Phrase questions thoughtfully.** Questions that require more than a one-word answer will lead to more informative answers. Try "What made you laugh today?" rather than "Did you have a good day?"
- **Show you're paying attention.** It's easy for busy parents to respond out of habit without focusing on what youngsters are really saying. Instead, look your child in the eye, and stop to consider her words. She'll know that what she has to say matters to you.♥

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Learning to be patient

Patience is a skill that can be learned. Kids who develop it tend to have greater self-control and even do better in school. Foster patience in your youngster with these tips.

Live in the moment. Encourage your child to enjoy what's going on right now, rather than looking forward to what will happen next. For example, she could look out the window at the sunset while she waits for you to get off the phone. Or if she's having trouble falling asleep because she can't wait to visit her friend tomorrow, she might focus on how warm and cozy she feels in her bed now.

Enjoy the payoff. Have your youngster think of something that took her a while to master, such as learning to read music. Then, remind her of how good she felt when she succeeded. Share an example from your life, too. *Idea:* Let her take on an activity or a project that requires patience, like growing a plant or putting together a jigsaw puzzle.♥

Top tips for standardized tests

How can you help your child do well on standardized tests? Consider this advice from teachers:

- "Emphasize effort rather than scores. Your youngster will feel more confident and relaxed on test day if he knows that doing his best is what counts the most."
- "Have your child do any practice tests or packets that the teacher sends home. Ask him about the material, and look over the work to be sure it's complete."
- "Make sure he gets enough sleep, at least 9–11 hours, each night. He'll be more alert and focused during the test."
- "Give your youngster a balanced breakfast on test day so he has energy and isn't distracted by a growling stomach. Whole-wheat toast, fruit, and yogurt make a brain-boosting combination."♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

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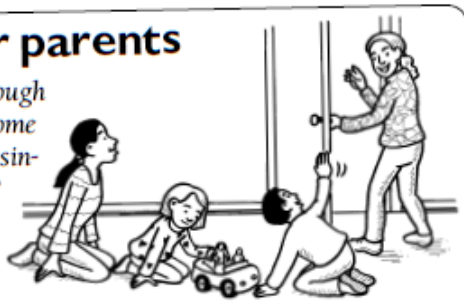
Q & A: Autism: Support for parents



Q: *My daughter has autism, and although she's making good progress, she has some behavioral challenges. I'm a working single parent—how can I handle the demands?*

A: To take the best care of your daughter, you need to also take care of yourself. If possible, try getting up before she does. Take a warm shower, and enjoy a cup of tea. You'll feel calmer and ready to start the day on a positive note, which can help her behave better.

Also, look for people who will stay with your child while you recharge. You might run errands or try a new hobby. Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they're able to help or know anyone who can.

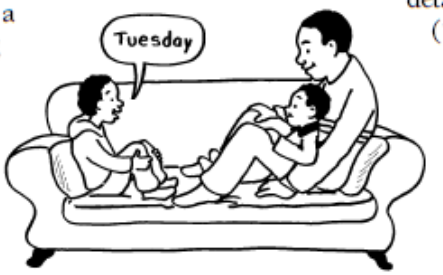
Finally, consider joining an autism support group. Connecting with other parents who face similar challenges will make you feel less alone, and you'll get information and advice for helping your daughter. Check online, or ask your child's doctor for referrals.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER: Pump up your memory

A good *working memory* lets your youngster switch back and forth between tasks and do work that involves more than one step. Sharpen his memory with these activities.

Story chain

Build a "repeating story" by remembering what everyone before you has said. One person starts with a sentence like "I'm riding a ____ to the ____," filling in the blanks. ("I'm riding a kite to the moon.") The next person repeats the sentence and adds his own sentence. Continue until someone skips a sentence, says them out of order, or can't remember one.

The last time I...

When was the last time you used a ruler or saw frost on a window? This game strengthens your child's power of recall. Take turns calling out a question, such as "When did you last eat an egg?" To answer, everyone needs to think about details and context. ("We had tacos in school on Monday. So it must have been Tuesday, when I got the salad bar and put hard-boiled egg slices on my lettuce.")♥