

# Athena Consolidated School Newsletter

November 28, 2011

## Give Your Child "Just Right" Books as Gifts

Buying books for your child to read is not like buying clothes. Parents often purchase items that their children will "grow into". When choosing books for at-home reading, select ones that your child can read now. Children need the enjoyment and satisfaction that come from being able to read "just right" books fluently and independently. They, of course, benefit from hearing more challenging books read aloud to them.

from p 819 Trehearne, Miriam, Lynne Hemming Healy, Gloria McBain, Mary MacGregor, and Shelly Pynoo. Language Arts: Grades 1-2 Teacher's Resource Book. Toronto: Nelson, 2004. Print.

## Professional Development Day

Our staff had a very rewarding professional development day last Friday. The first part of the morning was focussed on setting a school literacy goal based on our provincial assessment results. After a morning break, elementary teachers and educational assistants had an opportunity to focus on our school's Data Wall and Book Room. The junior high teachers analysed our grade 6 provincial data results and created a literacy goal for themselves. In the afternoon the superintendent shared the Western School Board's Literacy Action Plan with Somerset, Athena and Queen Elizabeth schools.

## Athena Christmas Concert

Our Annual Christmas concert will be held on December 7th. This year we have decided to have two public performances in an effort to alleviate some of the overcrowding we have experienced in the past. The afternoon performance will start at 1:00 p.m. and the evening performance will start at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to enjoying this wonderful celebration with you!

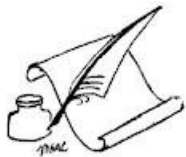


To the parents of our grade four students:

We have finished our milk carton castles! They will be on display in the front lobby of the school for the next week. Feel free to stop in and take a peek!

## DID YOU KNOW?

That one of our Athena students is a published poet? Josie Williams has had her poem "Everything Seasonal" published in a World Poetry Movement Anthology called Stars in our Hearts. Josie's impressive accomplishment is an inspiration for all young aspiring poets! Way to go, Josie!



## Ms. Schurman's Medley of Subjects

Grade 7 Science – we completed our unit on Ecosystems and have started our unit on Pure Substances and Mixtures by looking at different states of matter and particle theory.

Grade 7 Social Studies – we are still exploring the topic of Empowerment and are now concentrating on economic issues and next will be looking at political empowerment. We hope to fit in a visit to Province House to enhance the outcomes involved in this section.

Grade 8 Science – we have finished the unit on Water Systems. Our student teacher, Melissa Thompson has started our next unit on Fluids.

9A Language Arts – The students impressed me with the effort they put into their children's book project and we can't wait to read them to our Reading Buddies in Mrs. Burke's class. We have started the Nelson Literacy 9 unit on It Takes Courage. This is also being led by our UPEI student teacher, Ms. Thompson.

#### Scholastic Book Fair

Last weeks Book Fair was another huge success! We earned over \$2000.00 to be used towards new resources in our library. Thank you to all Athena families for supporting this fund-raiser and to Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Bernard, and Mrs. Buckle who helped set up and pack up the books. Congratulations to Hannah Young, who won \$25 worth of books for herself and \$25 worth of books for her classroom. There were many other books and posters awarded as prizes too.



#### Emergency Location Sheets

Thank you to all the parents that have filled in the "Emergency Locations Sheets" for inclement weather. For any who has not completed these forms, it is essential that you do so. We are requesting that you fill in at least two names of alternate drop off locations. Some people are saying there is always someone home, but we have found out in the past that a storm can blow up suddenly, buses will be called in and parents are not always home. Also, we ask you to speak to your child about what they are to do in case of an unexpected closing so that they understand fully what will take place. This can be very traumatic for the children and there are often many tears and no one we can reach. As well, some parents are asking us to phone them if school is closed. With the large number of students we have we cannot possibly do that. We are asking that you listen to the radio in the mornings, so you are aware of any impending bad weather. All early school closings will be announced on the radio. When asking for the alternate drop off location we are assuming that your child knows that the regular drop off location is not a good one for that day. Otherwise, the bus driver will drop off the students at their normal spot and the walkers will go to their regular places.

#### **Annual Christmas Turkey Dinner**

Our Annual Christmas Turkey Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The cost of this meal will be **\$5.50** per student. The meal will include a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, dessert and a milk. Orders need to be placed with your home room teacher no later than Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Note: The cafeteria will not be selling any other food items or drinks on this day.**

#### Christmas Bake Sale

There will be a Christmas Bake Sale on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:15 a.m. All items will sell for .50 cents each. Parents will have stations set up through out the school where students can purchase baked goods. We hope to have a large selection of goodies available to everyone. Parents who have volunteered to send in goodies are asked to pass them in at the office by 9:00 a.m., on Thursday. If any parent would like to donate, a bake good or another treat, to this cause your thoughtfulness would be much appreciated!

