

VAL MARIE SCHOOL

Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER IS HERE AND WITH IT, ALL THE EXCITEMENT THAT THE HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVE SEASON BRING! WHILE THERE MAY NOT BE A CHRISTMAS CONCERT THIS YEAR, THERE ARE LOTS OF SEASONAL ACTIVITIES AND FUN PLANNED. THE SCC WILL ONCE AGAIN BE PROVIDING A CHRISTMAS MEAL ON DECEMBER 11TH FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, BUS DRIVERS AND THE ELC WITH TURKEY AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS. A FULL LIST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

VAL MARIE SCHOOL HOSTED THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR FROM NOVEMBER 6-10TH. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE BOOK FAIR, TO THE VOLUNTEERS THAT WORKED A SHIFT, AND TO THE SCC FOR HOSTING A BAKE SALE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOOK FAIR WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS THE COST OF SHIPPING THE BOOKS. IN TOTAL, THERE WAS JUST OVER \$1100 IN SALES WHICH EARNED OUR SCHOOL ABOUT \$150 IN REWARDS FOR OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY. A VERY BIG THANK YOU GOES TO JANUARY LEGAULT FOR ORGANIZING, SETTING UP AND RUNNING THE BOOK FAIR!

NOVEMBER WAS ALSO BUSY WITH OUR SCHOOL HOSTING TWO SENIOR VOLLEYBALL GAMES HERE IN VAL MARIE AND CO HOSTING BOYS PROVINCIAL VOLLEYBALL IN PAMBRUN GYM. PIERCE'S TEAM ENDED THE TOURNAMENT WITH AN EXCITING BRONZE MEDAL WIN. WITH VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALLY FINISHED, BASKETBALL HAS ALREADY BEGUN. SCHOOL CURLING AND PIANO LESSONS WILL ALSO BEGIN AFTER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION HAS STARTED FOR THE GRADE 9 STUDENTS AND RUNS DURING LUNCH HOUR UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY. WHEN WE RETURN FROM HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE TWO SHORT WEEKS BEFORE FINAL EXAMS BEGIN FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND K-12 REPORT CARDS WILL BE GOING OUT ON TURNAROUND DAY, JANUARY 31ST.

THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES BEFORE THE BREAK IS DECEMBER 22ND AND CLASSES WILL RESUME ON MONDAY JANUARY 8TH. IT IS MY SINCERE WISH THAT YOU HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
MRS. SUSAN LEGAULT.**



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Mr. Davis ~ November 13

Sally Cairns ~ December 26

Shelby Laturnus ~ December 26

Ashlyn Mything ~ December 31

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
THAT SUPPORTED OUR
BOOK FAIR & BAKE SALE. WE
RAISED \$274.00 & \$152.65 IN
SCHOLASTIC REWARDS TO
ORDER EDUCATIONAL
SUPPLIES FOR CLASSROOMS.



HI! MY NAME IS DREW BAILEY AND I AM THE CAREER COUNSELLOR FOR CHINOOK SCHOOL DIVISION. I WAS BORN IN GRAVELBOURG AND RAISED IN CABRI, SASKATCHEWAN. I GRADUATED FROM CABRI HIGH SCHOOL IN 2002, AND THEN RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA, MAJORING IN MATHEMATICS AND MINORING IN GENERAL SCIENCE. I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED ALL OF MY YEARS OF TEACHING; MY MAIN TEACHING EXPERIENCE BEING IN CABRI, NEW ZEALAND, AND SWIFT CURRENT.

I LOVE TO TRAVEL, AND SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM MY ADVENTURES HAVE BEEN BLACKWATER RAFTING AND BUNGEE JUMPING IN NEW ZEALAND, TREKKING TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO IN TANZANIA AND GOING ON SAFARI IN THE SERENGETI AND MAASAI MARA IN KENYA.

I ALSO ENJOY SPENDING TIME OUTSIDE WITH MY HUSBAND AND KIDS, CULLEN AND CAMERON, HIKING; BIKING; SWIMMING AND CAMPING; AS WELL AS READING AND PLAYING SPORTS.

I AM EXCITED TO CONTINUE MY PASSION FOR HELPING STUDENTS IN THIS NEW ROLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RELATIONSHIPS I WILL BUILD HELPING STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR FUTURE GOALS AND SUPPORTING THEM IN MAKING THOSE GOALS A REALITY!

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 22 ~ LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY 8 ~ WELCOME BACK STUDENTS & STAFF

JANUARY 31 ~ NO SCHOOL SEMESTER TURNAROUND DAY,

K-12 REPORT CARDS EMAILED OUT

FEBRUARY ~ 8 SKI TRIP GRADES 5-12

FEBRUARY 19-23 ~ FEBRUARY BREAK



DECEMBER

FUN!

[AT]VAL MARIE SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS HAT AND SHIRT DAY

DECEMBER 8TH WEAR A FESTIVE HAT AND/OR SHIRT TO SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS COLOURS

DECEMBER 15TH WEAR CHRISTMAS COLOURS TO SCHOOL THAT DAY. ALSO OUR BIRD COUNTING DAY, SO BRING YOUR EAGLE EYES AND WARM CLOTHES!!

CANDY CANE HUNT

DECEMBER 21ST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL ORGANIZE A CANDY CANE HUNT FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS!

PYJAMA DAY

DECEMBER 22 WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS THEMED OR COZY JAMMIES TO SCHOOL!

SCC CHRISTMAS MEAL

FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

DECEMBER 11TH [AT] NOON WEAR FORMAL (FANCY) ATTIRE TO SCHOOL THAT DAY

KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

DECEMBER 19TH K-4 HEAD TO SWIFT FOR THEIR KINDNESS CAMPAIGN. BE SURE TO BRING THEM A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR DONATION!

EVENING FOR THE BIRDS

DECEMBER 21ST
K-4 WINTER DISPLAY
12-1PM AND 6-8PM



GRADE 5-12 TRIP TO MARY'S LABYRINTH @ THE CROSSING

AS PART OF TAKE ME OUTSIDE FOR LEARNING DAY, STUDENTS FROM GRADE 5-12'S GOT THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF VISITING THE CROSSING AND SEEING MARY'S LABYRINTH, ONE IN A SERIES THAT STRETCHES ACROSS THE GLOBE THAT FORM THE LEGACY LABYRINTH PROJECT. WHAT'S EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE IS THAT THIS PHENOMENON EXISTS RIGHT HERE IN OUR HOME COMMUNITY. A BIG THANK YOU TO SUSAN HOWARD FOR HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND AND EXPERIENCE THE MEDITATIVE AND SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS MARKED BY A COLLECTION OF 500 HAND CHOSEN STONES.



WRITER'S WORKSHOP

THE GRADE 5-9 ELA WOULD LIKE TO THANK JUDITH WRIGHT FOR COMING TO OUR CLASS AND HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND THE "BUILDING BLOCKS" OF A SHORT STORY. JUDITH IS A PUBLISHED WRITER WITH AN AMAZING BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND TALENT. THE MIDDLE YEARS ARE KEEN WRITERS AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY SOAKED UP HER HELPFUL IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.



MY TIME WITH PONTIEX PREDATORS HAS BEEN THE BEST THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE. PLAYING VOLLEYBALL WITH THE PEOPLE I NOW CALL THE BOYS HAS BROUGHT SOME GREAT MEMORIES. WE PLAY OUR BEST WITH LOTS OF SUPPORT. WE HAD A HOME TOURNAMENT WHERE WE PLAYED CONSISTENTLY IN THE ROUND-ROBIN BUT ONLY LOST TO FOX VALLEY. IN THAT TOURNAMENT, WE MADE THE FINALS WHERE WE MET FOX VALLEY AGAIN AND GOT REVENGE BY WINNING GOLD. JUST RECENTLY PONTIEX HOSTED 2A BOYS VOLLEYBALL PROVINCIALS. THIS WAS A BIG DEAL FOR MOST BOYS BECAUSE OF A FIRST EXPERIENCE AT PROVINCIALS. BEING THE HOST TOWN YOUR TEAM AUTOMATICALLY GETS IN. BUT WE EARNED OUR WAY THROUGH TOUGH BATTLES THE WHOLE SEASON AND EARNED OUR PROVINCIAL SPOT BY GETTING SECOND PLACE AT REGIONALS. FRIDAY AT 10:45 WE HAD FANTASTIC OPENING CEREMONIES THAT GOT EVERYONE HYPED UP. SO WE GO INTO OUR FIRST GAME AT 1 PM IN PONTIEX EXCITED BUT NERVOUS, WE PLAY MUENSTER. IT WAS A HARD-FOUGHT FIRST GAME BUT WE PULLED THROUGH WINNING TWO SETS AND TAKING THE GAME. THAT WAS A GOOD START TO THE DAY FRIDAY. WE HAD A CLOSE ONE BUT ENDED UP LOSING AGAINST WILKIE AND SASKATOON CHRISTIAN LATER IN THE DAY. SATURDAY THE BOYS ARE BUZZING. WE ARE HUNGRY TO CONTINUE PLAYING, WE NEED TO WIN THIS GAME IN ORDER NOT TO GO HOME. THE GAME IS AGAINST MEATH PARK AT PAMBRUN. WE START THE GAME LOSING BY A SOLID 10 POINTS IF NOT MORE WE ARE KINDA OF FALLING APART BUT OUR COACH CALLS A TIMEOUT AND JASPAR SAYS "DO YOU GUYS WANT THIS TO BE OUR LAST GAME". THE BOYS STILL WANTED MORE SO WE QUICKLY GOT OUR RHYTHM BACK AND CAUGHT UP AND WON THE FIRST SET 25-19. THE SECOND SET WAS THEN AN EASY WIN FOR US. THE NEXT GAME IS THE QUARTER-FINALS ALSO KNOWN AS THE CROSSOVER GAME. WE THEN PLAYED BIRCH HILLS RIGHT AWAY WHO WERE SECOND IN THEIR POOL. WE LOST THE FIRST SET AND GOT A LITTLE DOWN THINKING ABOUT GOING HOME BUT WE WEREN'T DONE YET. WE TOOK THE SECOND SET AND THIRD SET KNOCKING THEM OUT AND KEEPING US IN PROVS. NEXT UP WAS THE SEMI-FINAL WHERE THE WINNER WENT TO THE GOLD MEDAL GAME AND THE LOSER TO THE BRONZE. WE PLAY SASKATOON CHRISTIAN A POWERHOUSE TEAM THAT HAS WON 5A TOURNAMENTS WITH HALF THE TEAM BEING RECRUITED TO THE HUSKIES. WE WERE JUST PLAYING FOR FUN BUT STILL TRYING AND ENDED UP LOSING BUT NOT TERRIBLY. THE BOYS WERE STILL ECSTATIC AT MAKING THE BRONZE GAME WHERE WE WERE UP AGAINST OUR RIVALS MOOSE JAW CORNERSTONE BACK AT PONTIEX. THEY TOOK FIRST PLACE FROM US AT REGIONALS SO WE WERE HUNGRY TO BEAT THEM. WE HEAD BACK FROM PAMBRUN TO PONTIEX WHERE THE ENERGY IS UNMATCHED WITH THE WHOLE TOWN CHEERING FOR US. WE HAVE FRIENDS, FAMILY, COACHES, THE SENIOR GIRLS' PONTIEX TEAM, AND EVERYONE CHEERING FOR US. WE START OUR WARMUP AND EVERYONE IS GOING CRAZY. THE WHOLE TEAM WAS GETTING ALL THEIR SMASHES AND HYPING EACH OTHER UP AND IT WAS A GREAT FEELING. WE WENT INTO THE FIRST SET STRONG WITH LUIGI GETTING A FEW HITS STRAIGHT DOWN AND PAST BLOCKS. WE WERE UP 7-2 THEN 16-5 AND THE ENERGY WAS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER. WE FINISHED THE SET SWINGING AND WON WITH A DOMINATION OF 25-7. NOW WE KNEW WE COULDN'T LOSE ENERGY BECAUSE OTHER TEAMS HAVE COME BACK BEFORE AND TOOK TO A THIRD SET AND WON SO WE KNEW WE HAD TO STAY UP. THE SECOND SET WAS STARTED AND WENT BACK AND FORTH WITH POINTS UNTIL WE STARTED TALKING AND WERE EVENTUALLY UP 18-14. THEN I START SERVING. I WAS JUMP FLOAT SERVING ROCKETS DEEP. I GOT 4 SERVES IN A ROW UNTIL A TIMEOUT FROM CORNERSTONE WAS CALLED. I THEN GO TO GET ANOTHER 2 SERVES MAKING THE GAME 21-15. NOW IT WAS BACK AND FORTH BOTH TEAMS TIPPING OVER I SET JASPAR UP AND HE HITS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE DOUBLE BLOCK. WE SOON WERE 24-19 GAME POINT. THIS WAS WHEN I WAS FEELING THE WIN. I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE GAME TO A THIRD SET. JASPAR TOSSES THE BALL WITH SPIN MAKES CONTACT AND PUTS IT STRAIGHT INTO THE CORNER OF THE COURT, AN ACE. WINNING US THE BRONZE MEDAL IN PROVINCIALS AND ACHIEVING MY SENIOR GOAL OF GETTING MY SCHOOL A BANNER. AN EXPERIENCE I CAN NEVER FORGET AND THE BEST THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE MAKING MEMORIES WITH NEW PEOPLE.

~PIERCE



NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

- Make a gratitude jar
- Create watercolor resist leaves
- Watch a movie inside a blanket fort
- Have a family pajama day
- Have a family game marathon
- Prepare homemade gifts for family and friends
- Go on a nature walk
- Create a thankful wall
- Fall-inspired art activity
- Have a family puzzle night
- Read books about gratitude together
- Have an indoor scavenger hunt
- Build a homemade bird feeder
- Make an act of kindness
- Have a fall picnic



Val Marie School
2023

Annual Kindness Campaign

K-4 Class will be collecting Food Bank Items until **December 18th** at the school

Specific Items needed by the Food Bank

- juice boxes
- 1L juice
- canned evaporated milk
- boxed macaroni & cheese
- all canned vegetables except corn
- canned fruit
- Fruit cups/apple sauce
- all types of soup and broth
- canned meat and fish
- soda crackers
- hamburger helper
- sidekicks (noodles or rice)
- boxed instant potatoes
- stove top stuffing
- diapers size 3, 4, 5, 6
- shampoo/conditioner or 2in1
- deodorant
- body wash
- bars of soap
- dish soap
- laundry soap

How to Reduce Holiday Stress in Children



Stick to their usual routine as much as possible



Make sure they get outside



Don't overschedule



Make time for peace and quiet

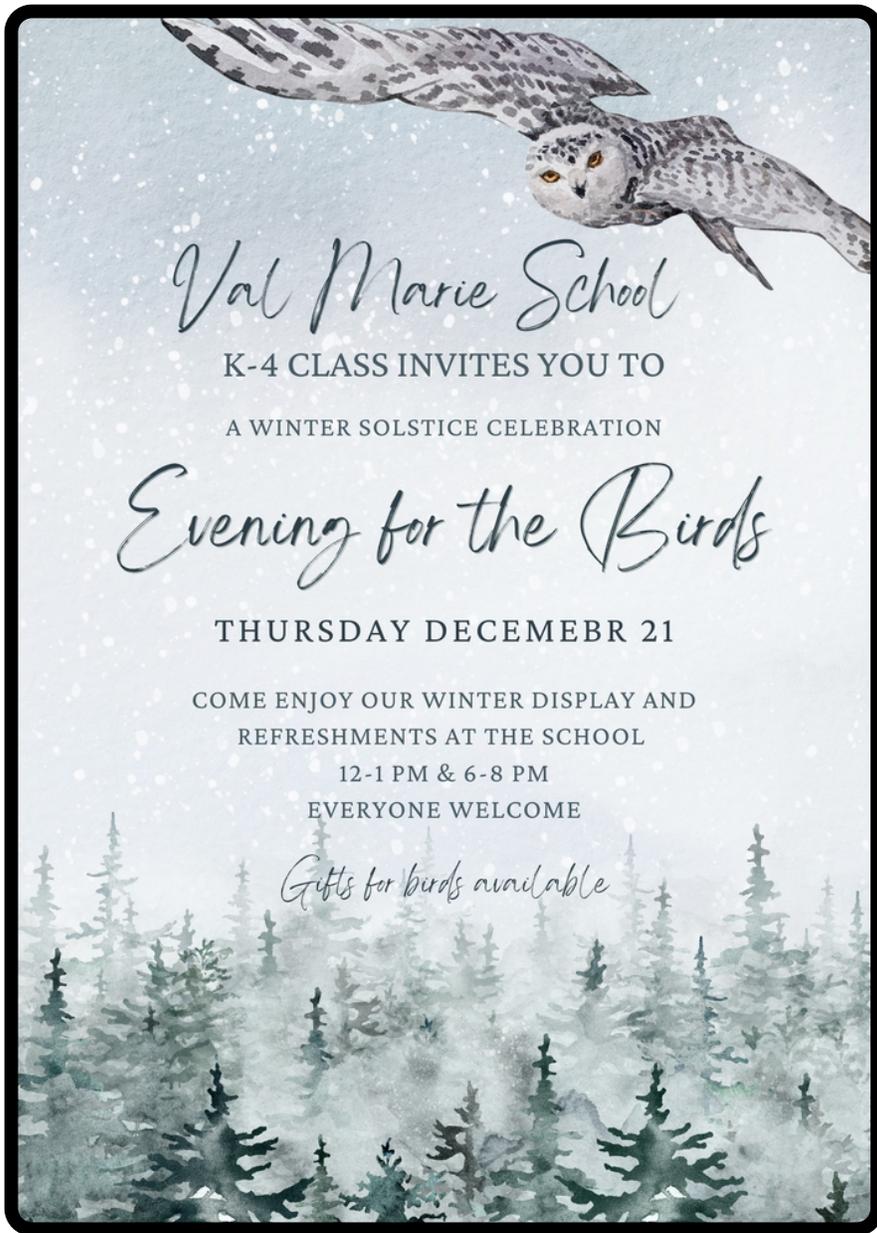


Remind them the holidays are about gratitude and kindness



Manage sugar intake





EVENING FOR THE BIRDS
DEC 21 12-1PM AND 6-8PM
EVERYONE WELCOME!
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
HAVE DONATED ITEMS TO
HELP BRING THIS EVENING
TOGETHER: CAIRNS FAMILY,
MCGUIRE FAMILY,
BEAUCHAMP FAMILY,
PAULETTE LEGAULT

FILL YOUR FEEDERS! VMS IS PARTICIPATING IN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ON DECEMBER 15TH

STARTED IN 1900, THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) IS NORTH AMERICA'S LONGEST-RUNNING CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT. PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 2000 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE PARTICIPATE IN THE CBC EACH YEAR.



Donate your recycling to

We're
hosting a
DROP & GO
virtual bottle
drive

Val Marie
Grads
2024

All you have to do is



Val Marie Grad 2024



Your containers will be counted and 100% of the proceeds will go towards

The graduation ceremony