

WAS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Principals' Message:

I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Heather Schmitke, as the new WAS principal. She assumed her duties on November 1st as half time principal and half time district AISI facilitator.

My role is now assistant principal/AISI coordinator for the remainder of the current school year. I encourage you to stop by and meet Mrs. Schmitke when you are in Cardston and/or invite her to attend some of your community meetings and activities.

You will find that she is pleasant to work with and well qualified for this position. Her previous assignment was at the Cardston High School as a classroom teacher, counselor and special education coordinator.

Thank you for supporting our programs and policies and for being so devoted to the education of your children. I have enjoyed working with all of you.

Best wishes,
Randy Broadhead



“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”
- Margaret Fuller

MEMO

To: All WAS Parents and Students
From: Randy Broadhead & Heather Schmitke
Re: Extra-Curricular Programs
Date: November 6, 2009

One of the unique strengths of the WAS learning community is the number of parents who are willing to help organize educational enrichment activities for students. Some do so on a volunteer basis and others collect fees for their services.

The WAS administration recognizes the value of these programs and their potential for enhancing a student's individual education plan and does not try to interfere with nor regulate them. When possible we do help provide facilities and assist in the scheduling and correlation of these activities.

These extra-curricular programs cannot be used to replace the curricular requirements of a distance learning student's program plan, but can contribute to the quality of their learning logs and educational portfolios. An appropriate balance between curricular and extra-curricular programs can only be achieved through regular consultation with your child's teacher.

There have been specific questions asked about the newly formed Cardston Commonwealth Academy and their relationship with the Westwind Alternate School. They are essentially the same as other self-organized parent groups, but are attempting to develop a more formal organizational structure.

At the present time we are providing meeting rooms for them at the Cardston campus on a trial basis until January. Because this is not a WAS program, all questions or concerns should be directed to Mr. Milo Holthe (milo@greenbuilt.ca) or a member of the CCA executive.



REMEMBRANCE

New Principal's Message:

I am very pleased to be working at Westwind Alternate School...so far it has been a very exciting experience for me. The students that I have seen are impressive and the teachers and staff are exceptional.

Experiences that I have had include teaching and counseling at Cardston High School since 2001, including coordinating the special education program there. As well, before starting at CHS I taught for a year for Rocky View Virtual School.

WAS provides many diversified opportunities for student learning that benefit many different types of students within the division. I look forward to getting to know the students and families that are learning through the alternate school environment.

Heather Schmitke

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
WE SHALL NOT SLEEP,
THOUGH POPPIES GROW
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS

We are pleased to announce that the WAS provincial achievement test results for 2008/2009 showed improvement in participation rates as well as the number of students who achieved the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence.

The WAS staff extends congratulations to all students who diligently prepare for these exams and encourage you to keep practicing on the Exam Bank. We express our appreciation also to the parents for supporting this assessment process.

