



J.T. Foster Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2011

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Queen's Ball



Queen Jaymee McMasters and Best Escort Daniel LaCoste, assisted by the other Royalty, are setting a fine example of leadership at Dance and Etiquette practices on Tuesday and Thursday nights this fall.

Queen's Ball Fashion Show is Tuesday, October 18, 2011. Come see our 12 couples strut their stuff on the catwalk, featuring clothes from Cowboy Country Clothing.

Queen's Ball will be starting a fundraising project after the Show, so keep a lookout for details!

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School Fees for the 2011-2012 School Year

Invoices will be sent home **October 6th**.

Please be advised that **extra-curricular sports and field trips** are not invoiced with school fees this year and will be billed and collected from the team coaches. **Cheques are payable to J.T. Foster School**. These trips will only be possible on a "user pay" basis. More information will be provided to students as the situations arise. ****Each Jr. and Sr. Sports team is responsible for covering the costs of their league and zone fees, ref and score keeper fees, bussing, and uniform etc.** These costs will be divided equally among the team members or by fundraising.



School Pictures

Sr. High School photos will be taken on October 6th in the Concession area. Bring your smiles!

J.T. Foster Parent Council AGM

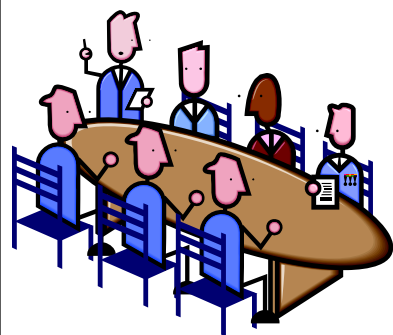
Meeting and Elections

Date: October 5th

Time: 7:00pm

Place: J.T. Foster—Library

Please plan on attending!



Principal's Message – October 5, 2011

Thanksgiving falls a bit early this school year and perhaps that is what has prompted me to reflect on the many things we can be very thankful for at JT Foster.

I'm so thankful that I have returned in my second year to a school that is showing very significant improvement in almost all measurable areas. We have just received our June PAT exam results and I'm pleased to report that JT Foster's grade nines had a very successful year last year, the percentage of our students achieving acceptable standard was notably above provincial average in three of the four PAT subjects, and only a slight percentage below in the other. Similarly, our diploma results from last year show considerable improvement over the 2009-10 school year. Although these measures are only one piece of data in a very complex and large process of assessment, they do indicate we seem to be on the right track and that our work as a school community to improve our math results is showing dividends. I am thankful for the commitment of parents, students and staff to make this happen.

I am thankful to be in a school where improvements in programming and our work to broaden student choice are beginning to reap benefits for students and the school alike. By adding shop courses, providing student leadership opportunities, offering academic credits through travel club study, improved monitoring of distance learning and work experience credits, we have dramatically improved the number of credits our students are earning towards their graduation. In short more of our students are completing more courses successfully. In 2009-10, our Senior High School students earned on average 35.85 credits, below the LRSD divisional average of 36.28 and among the lowest of all division high schools. For 2010-2011, our students earned on average 40.19 credits, highest in the division with the exception of the Outreach schools and well above the divisional average of 37.99. This means our students are placing themselves in far better position for graduation, are keeping open far more career and education options and truthfully, it also means more dollars per student for us to provide programming.

I am thankful that although we are in definitely lean times economically in education, our improved credit earning will leave us in a better budgetary situation than we had originally predicted, although we still have work to do to bring our deficit back to zero.

I am thankful to be in a school with such an active program for our students. A brief look back at my school calendar shows September averaged four events per day in our school for every school day, not to mention field trips, student leadership trips and weekend tournaments. I am thankful that with a small staff of 11 teachers and 6 support staff, that we are able to offer sports, extracurricular and cultural programs that match many larger schools.

I am very thankful for the many, many parents who work to help us in so many ways, from volunteering coaching to driving to working on Queen's Ball to chaperoning dances; we simply couldn't provide our sports and extra-curricular programming without you. We struggle at times to have enough students to fill certain teams, as I was personally disappointed that despite 3 meetings and 4 attempted practices, we had only 7 students sign on for flag football, but I'm so thankful we have dedicated groups like the Athletic Board, School Council and Student Union, who have volunteered their time and efforts to promote sports and other programs in our school. Much of this work is behind the scenes and not very glamorous. In many small schools it is far easier to criticize other people's efforts and complain about the lack of programs than it is to pitch in to work and help out and I am thankful that our community is not like that.

Finally, I am thankful for the great start we have had to our school year. Schools have an atmosphere that you can feel and this year, I believe our staff, students and parents are set for great things and I'm thankful for the excitement I feel heading into the rest of the year.

I send my wishes for all the best to you and your family this thanksgiving. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Peter Weeks, Principal

September 27, 2011

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff:

Hello! I am **Brenda Schlaht**, and it is my pleasure to join the staff of J.T. Foster School as your new Family-School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC). This past August, I completed my Post Graduate Counselling Certificate from the University of Lethbridge. After fifteen years of teaching, I am enthused about my role change to that of a school counsellor.

As a first step in building our relationship, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. My husband and I purchased an acreage west of Nanton one year ago. After thirty years in Lomond, Alberta, where we raised our three children, we are delighted to call Nanton "home". In my free time, I enjoy hiking with my two dogs, assisting my husband with our cattle, writing plays and poetry, curling, singing, live theatre, and visiting family and friends.

As School Counsellors, our role is to *"provide services to all students within the school setting they serve. The Counsellor works in a pro-active capacity; guiding students in maximizing their potential is an overall program goal."* (Livingstone Range FSLC Handbook, p. 4). My philosophy is student-centered from a positive, strengths-based, creative approach. Often students come to school bringing outside stressors. For others, the school environment, itself, poses challenges. My goal is to empower students to address their problems and issues, develop skills to deal with them, and support them in making the changes that will lead to their success.

More specifically, my objectives are to:

- *enhance the students' sense of self-efficacy (self-worth)*
- *improve self-awareness through creative and emotional expression*
- *increase motivation and expectations*
- *assist students in creating strong character,*
- *promote good decision-making skills and healthy life skills,*
- *provide opportunities to practice new behaviours, and*
- *build positive relationships within the school, home, and community environment.*

Feel free to stop by my office (Room #17). I offer individual counselling, small group sessions, family sessions, and class presentations (Health, Fine Arts, CALM, etc.). I look forward to getting to know you, and am confident that through the collaboration between students, their families, and school staff, we can address the challenges that confront our youth. Building trusting relationships is the first step. - Brenda Schlaht



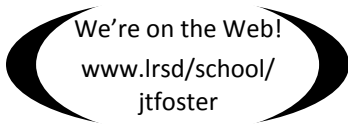
Livingstone Range
SCHOOL DIVISION No. 68

J. T. FOSTER SCHOOL

P.O. Box 610
2501—22 Street
Nanton, AB
T0L 1R0

Phone: 403-646-2264
Fax: 403-646-5758
E-mail: wrightl@lrsd.ab.ca

*Knowledge, Truth,
Excellence*



*Just a Reminder
There is no school
on October 10th
Happy Thanksgiving!*



Upcoming Important Dates

October 6th—Sr. High Photos AM
October 6th— School Fees go home
October 7th—No School PD Day
October 10th-Thanksgiving—No school

The Foods Lab is looking for large containers like ice cream buckets or large yogurt containers for food storage. If you have extras around your house please drop them off at the school. Thanks!

SPORTS

Volleyball

Grade 9 Jr. A Girls VB-practice Tuesday and Thursday
3:45pm to 5:00pm at JT Foster.
Grade 8 Jr. B1 Girls VB—practice Tuesday and Wednesday
3:45pm to 5:00pm at AB Daley.
Grade 7 Jr. B2 Girls VB-practice Tuesday and Thursday
3:45pm to 5:00pm at AB Daley.
Jr. Varsity Girls VB—practice Monday 3:45pm to 5:00pm at AB Daley.
Sr. Varsity Girls VB— practice Monday and Wednesday
3:50pm to 5:00pm at JTF.

Basketball

If there are any volunteers out there that would be interested in coaching, assisting, or managing Basketball for Jr. / Sr. Female and Male this season please contact Mr. Gammie ASAP at (403)646-2264. Thanks!

Congratulations to the Sr. Girls Varsity volleyball on your first place finish in Black Diamond, your 4th place finish in Claresholm and on leading the West Winds Volleyball League with a record of 6-0!

Please check the online athletic calendar and come out and support your JTF volleyball teams .

All PE students must be in their proper clothing by October 1st.

Students can purchase their PE T-shirt on line at www.yourschoogear.ca or through the office.

Concession News

The concession is open Monday—Thursday from 11:40am—12:10pm
Watch for pizza and sub lunches soon!