



# PARKLAND NEWS SPECIAL EDITION

Pride - Achievement - Character - Excellence - Respect - Success



## JANUARY 2011

*GYPSD Main Areas of Focus: Improving Student Learning, Building Leadership Capacity & Succession Planning and Improving External and Internal Communications*



Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better

~Pat Riley

### Principal's Greeting

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a great start so far in 2011. At Parkland Composite High School, we are rapidly approaching the end of Semester One as our hardworking students prepare for final examinations. Since half of the 2010 - 2011 school year is almost over, we wanted to share information about various initiatives and events that have happened at Parkland Composite. Several P.C.H.S. Departments have submitted school news articles since the beginning of the school year. This collection of articles is included in this special edition parent newsletter.

Parents of Grade 10 P.C.H.S. students will be receiving Accountability Pillar Surveys from Alberta Education this month. Please take the time to fill out these surveys and mail them back to Alberta Education in the addressed, stamped envelopes provided to you. Results of these surveys are used to determine how we are doing in a number of areas. If you are uncertain about an answer to a survey question, please leave the question blank rather than checking "Don't Know" as the "Don't Knows" count as a negative against the school. Another option would be contacting us as we are always happy to provide further clarification about P.C.H.S. programs and initiatives. As always, parents are encouraged to visit our P.C.H.S. website at: <http://parklandcomposite.ca/> to stay informed about new developments and upcoming events.



Our school continues to offer comprehensive, broad ranges of programs in grades 9 to 12 including: Drama, Music, Fine Arts, Fashion, Building Construction, Construction Technology, Mechanics & Fabrication, Media & Film Studies, Cosmetology & Salon Academy, Foods, Photography, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Work Experience and Information Technology. In addition to numerous other electives as well as a French Immersion Program developed at PCHS, our Parkland Athletic Club offers an extensive range of superior extracurricular programming.



We continually strive to bring Alberta Education Programs of Study alive for our students through such means as videoconferencing and innovative real-life applications. Our pupils have informed us that being able to watch live open heart surgery via 3-V while speaking with the surgeons in real time as they perform these delicate operations are incredible learning opportunities. PCHS students have a lot of fun participating in

other unique activities like dissecting squids to gain a better understanding of biology and launching rockets to measure speed and trajectory.

Early Dismissal Fridays every week means that our Professional Learning Teams can meet for part of the regular school day,



allowing teachers and educational assistants to collaborate and plan creative ways to enhance student programming. We truly believe all students can achieve within a safe, caring, inclusive and collaborative community. We take pride in assisting our students become productive global citizens and use a variety of means to prepare our students for the "World of Work".

We truly hope you enjoy the informative articles provided in this newsletter!

~Mr. D. Amiot

### Building Student Leadership

The month of October was a very busy for one for staff and students at P.C.H.S. The month began with Awards Night on October 1<sup>st</sup> and was well attended by students, parents and staff. Everyone enjoyed an evening celebrating the accomplishments and hard work of P.C.H.S. students from the 2009/2010 school year. Great job!!!

The next big event occurred on October 5<sup>th</sup> when the Absolute Leadership Group attended P.C.H.S. From taking hundreds of students to engage in humanitarian relief work to presenting a message of hope to hundreds of thousands, each year Absolute continues to empower a generation to live with purpose - and to change their world. Staff and students were entertained by the rock group Aberdeen, as well as Mr. Grabowski, Mrs. Ahlf and Mrs. Kelly who gracefully performed in front of the entire school. The presentation also included information on bullying, suicide and Hero Holidays. The morning was a valuable experience for everyone involved and the students and staff left the gym energized.



On Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> Parkland staff and students had a special day to wish Jessie Lilly luck on her Amazon expedition. The day had a "Jungle Fever" theme and staff and students were encouraged to dress in their "jungle gear" to show their support for Jessie. We also had a special cake at lunch, made by Senior Foods, which was large enough to feed the entire school! You can find more information about Jessie's expedition at: <http://impossible2possible.com/amazon/home>

Many of the staff and students at Parkland were involved in a busy and competitive volleyball season attending numerous tournaments and travelling throughout Alberta. The staff and students at Parkland were treated to seeing the Senior Girls team play against Scona in front of the entire student population and



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members of the Pinegrove Panthers teams. Our Pacer Senior Boys team and Mr. Maris were in Hawaii and finished their first



tournament with a very impressive second place finish. The Senior Boys thoroughly enjoyed the rest of their trip. To end off the month of October, our newly formed student group-S.A.B.A (Students Against Boring Activities) put on a Halloween

Extravaganza with contests for best costumes and room decorations. It was an exciting and fun-filled way to wrap up a hectic month at P.C.H.S.

~Submitted by the P.C.H.S. English Department

### Student Learning Opportunities

Parkland Composite High School promotes many "Student Learning Opportunities" for our students in grades 9 to 12.

P.C.H.S. offers a variety of options & courses: Forensics, Legal Studies, Outdoor Education, PE, Construction, French Immersion, Knowledge & Employability, Guitar, Band, Calm, Drama, Photography, General Psychology, Information Technology, Media Studies, Accounting, Mechanics, Salon, Cosmetology, Art, Work

Experience, Registered Apprentice Program, Fitness, Community Health, Foods, Fashion, AISI, First Aid, WHMIS Training & 3V classes where students were able to observe the Tyrell Museum, Open Heart Surgery & Squid Dissection. P.C.H.S. offers sports teams: Volleyball (Junior, Junior Varsity, Senior), Basketball (Jr, JV, Sr), Badminton, Rugby, Track & Field, & Cross Country Running.

Other extracurricular activities available at P.C.H.S. are: School Plays, Rock and Roll Night, Band Recitals, Red Brick Art Shows, Citadel Club, Yearbook, School Newspaper & Zumba Aerobic Classes (open to everyone after school), and the P.C.H.S. Student Tour 2011 (Italy & Greece).

P.C.H.S. offers terrific students assemblies & special days: Wildlife Day (December 2<sup>nd</sup>), Career Day (November 16<sup>th</sup>) Assemblies featuring "Dare to Care" & FNMI (November 8<sup>th</sup>). Awards Night took place October 1<sup>st</sup> with approximately 250 awards given for academic and outstanding achievement awards.

Parkland Composite High School is proud to offer a variety of courses, sports teams, extracurricular activities, assemblies, special days and field trips.

~Submitted by the P.C.H.S. Math Department



### Safe & Caring Initiatives

This fall has been an exciting time at Parkland Composite High School. Our Halloween celebration was a great success with room decorating, a dance off and prizes for individual and group costumes. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, P.C.H.S. hosted Mr. Dwayne Peace from the *Dare to Care* organization.

After an assembly for the whole school in the morning, Dwayne met with a small group of students in the afternoon. The Dare to Care program fits in well with Parkland's efforts to eliminate bullying and other dangerous behaviours from the school and, in turn, create an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. P.C.H.S. also hosted Mr. Don Burnstick, a native comedian, who shared his uplifting personal story with our students. Our Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 10<sup>th</sup> was especially poignant with veteran Geoff Tilby sharing his experiences with the students. The ceremony also included representatives from The Royal Canadian Legion Joe Wynne Branch 51, Edson Air Cadets, Edson Drum and Bagpipe Band and featured readings by P.C.H.S. students. November 15-19 was Canada Career Week and the LINKS department hosted over 20 representatives from post-secondary institutions on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Twenty P.C.H.S. students traveled to Edmonton on November 19<sup>th</sup> to take in the Canada Career Week Fair at



Northland's Agricom. Bullying Awareness Week was November 22-26 and culminated in our annual Pink Breakfast with staff making and serving pink pancakes to an army of pink t-shirt clad students. The Eagle radio station Breakfast Crew broadcast live from the event. On the sports front, our volleyball teams were very busy,

participating in numerous tournaments including our own IGA Classic, the Jr. High league championship (GYAC), zones (with P.C.H.S. hosting Senior Boys Zones) and the Senior Boys team earning a berth in the Provincial tournament for the first time in 27 years. Our wrestling program is underway and our basketball teams have been established.

~Submitted by the P.C.H.S. LINKS Department

### Enhancement Programs and Palisades Programs

Parkland Composite High School will be very busy throughout the month of January as we will be wrapping up our first semester. Students will be focused on review throughout the month in preparation for their final exams which start as early as January 12<sup>th</sup> for English 30 students. Officially the last day of regular classes is January 24<sup>th</sup> and final exam week runs from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. February 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of classes for Semester Two.

Parkland is proud to celebrate a successful first semester filled with meaningful learning experiences. Teachers, students and parents worked together to ensure success for all participants. Students enrolled in our Wildlife class had the opportunity to



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participate in Wildlife Day and take a field trip to the Palisades Center to experience a hands-on learning environment. Our Physical Education classes spent a day at the curling rink and really enjoyed this program enhancement. Parkland also offers many video conference sessions to accompany and enrich regular classroom activities such as learning physics with the Tyrell Museum, participating in squid dissections and watching a live open heart surgery. Our CTS department is also busy at work; come visit our salon and enjoy a service. Our drama classes are hard at work preparing for their performances in the second semester. Parkland offers many sports teams and basketball season is here. Our numerous teams, basketball and wrestling, are participating in tournaments almost every weekend. Come cheer them on! Parkland students did their part over the Christmas season and collected food for the food bank drive. Students had a great time building structures from their food bank items and were happy to donate to those in need. First semester was a huge success and we expect even greater things to come in Semester Two.



*Physics 30 Class Food Structure for the Edson Food Bank*

- Jan 4                Legal Studies Field Trip to Provincial Court
- Jan 7-8            Senior High Basketball Tournament at  
Whitecourt
- Jan 8                JV Basketball Tournament at Barrhead
- Jan 14-15         Grade 9 Basketball Tournament at Grand  
Trunk High School
- Jan 14-15         JV Basketball Tournament at Lacombe
- Jan 21-22         Grade 9 Basketball Tournament in Hinton
- Jan 25-31         Exam Week
- Jan 29-30         P.C.H.S. Senior High Basketball Tournament
- Feb 1                First Day of Classes for Semester 2

~Submitted by the P.C.H.S. Science Department

# We Appreciate the Support of our PCHS Parents!