



# Phoenix Post

Volume 5, Issue 3

December 2011

## Don't forget to register for Session 3

Check the website for a complete list of the exciting classes and get your registrations in. The instructors are already planning for the new set of classes.

## SURVEYS

Alberta Education will be sending out surveys to you in January.

Remember, YOU are the primary educator of your children and when you answer the questions, keep in mind that you are HOME SCHOOLING. The survey reflects how good a job we each are doing!

## Changes:

We are adding to the Firebird Library. We now have a fireplace in there and a forest! We hope this changes the NOISE level in the space and creates a quiet space for students (and parents) to work in. We would still like some display cases to section of the two areas. If you know of someone who might have some available for donation, please let us know!

## CONTEST

Read this newsletter and bring in the tear slip for a chance to WIN three (3) scholastic books from our selection at the school.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Turn into the front desk!  
Contest expires Jan 15, 2012

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Contest
- 2 Our Children, Our Future
- 3 Kinder Corner / You Know You're...
- 4 Teen Corner
- 6 A Few Links
- 7 Check out the Creation Studio



Check out our fun hands-on classes in the Creation studio

## Our Children, Our Future: Getting it Right – PROPOSED EDUCATION ACT

With the change in government, our new Education Minister – Thomas Lukaszuk – wanted to make sure that the proposed Education Act would meet the future needs of Albertans. So Albertans across the province were asked to participate in another series of one-day consultations.

Phoenix participated in the Calgary session hosted Dec. 1, 2011 at the Coast Plaza Hotel. We represented several groups – non-profit stakeholders, home schoolers, private schools and our own interests.

The day opened with greetings from the organizer, the new minister and the deputy minister. The legal department gave a presentation on how legislation is created and how it becomes law – a very lengthy process. Then we met the other people at our table – we were lucky to have two home school students from Roots at our table, in addition to a public school principal, an education activist, someone from a parent council organization and myself – 6 participants in total.

We were asked to respond to a series of questions regarding the following 4 areas:

1. Creating caring, respectful and safe schools (**Inclusion**: building an inclusive education system, free of bullying, where every student feels as if they belong).
2. Making learning relevant for all students (**Curriculum**: moving towards the vision of an educated Albertan, meeting the needs of learners in the 21st century).
3. Keeping students engaged in learning (**Teaching and Leadership** and **Research**: taking an evidence-based approach to engaging students in their learning).
4. Setting students up for success in life (**FNMI Success**, high school completion, offering a continuum of supports and services so that all students can experience success in the education system).

The discussion was lively and spirited. The thoughts from the participants were recorded on large posters. These were collected at the end and analyzed by the department. The emerging themes were:

- that education is about more than preparing our children and youth for work. It must encourage learners to discover and pursue their passions; make successful transitions to adulthood; and create life-long learners who contribute to healthy, inclusive communities and thriving economies.
- Opportunity: Learners are exposed to rich learning experiences that enable them to discover their passions and achieve their highest potential.
- Fairness: Learners have access to the programs, support services, and instructional excellence needed to achieve desired outcomes.
- Citizenship: Learners have pride in their community and culture. They have a sense of belonging and work to improve both the community and the world.
- Choice: Learners have a choice of both programs and methods of learning.
- Diversity: Learners' differing needs, cultures, and abilities are respected and valued within inclusive learning environments.
- Excellence: Learners, teachers, and governors achieve high standards.

Sincerely,

Diana Stinn

## Kinder Corner

Winter is here and the Kindergarten class will be busy completing 'Winter' related activities throughout December. We are now half way through our Letterland alphabet program and the students are starting to sound out and print short vowel words that have the letters 'a' through 'l' in them! Our numeracy unit of developing number sense to 10 will be complete this month. In Phys. Ed. we will be playing simple team games like Dodgeball, Duck, Duck, Goose and Wild Horse Roundup. On December 16th any families who are interested may join the rest of the school for a Christmas Party from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Our Winter Break is from December 19th - 31st with Kindergarten starting up again on January 3rd.

In January, our Literacy topic will be 'Community Helpers' and 'Transportation'. In Math we will be studying 2 dimensional shapes and 3 dimensional objects. In Phys. Ed. we will be adding Creative Movement and Dance to our favorite gym activities. During the first two weeks of January, I will be meeting individually with all parents to complete the first term progress reports. We will look at work the children have been doing at home with parents as well as activities completed at school.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holiday. See you all in 2012.

Ms Shelley, Kindergarten Teacher

## FUNDRAISING

**SHOP AND SUPPORT** gift cards is an ongoing program.

Families purchase gift cards for their favorite retailers from the school and we receive a percentage of the value. Orders take 2-3 days to come in and must be paid in advance. Our goal is to raise \$5-10,000 annually. Anyone placing a \$100 order is automatically entered into a draw for a free Phoenix class. Please see Karen Jackson for details.

## You Know You're A Homeschool Mom When...

You get to change more than diapers, you get to change their minds.

When a child busts a lip, and after seeing she's okay, you round up some scotch tape to capture some blood and look at it under the microscope!

You find dead animals and actually consider saving them to dissect later.

Your children never ever leave the "why?" stage.

When your teenager decides to take one community college course, and comes home and asks you why the teacher wrote "A+" on his paper. (A+)

You ask for, and get, a copier instead of a diamond tennis bracelet for your wedding anniversary.

Your kids think reading history is best accomplished while lying on the floor with their head resting on the side of their patient dog.

Your husband can walk in at the end of a long day and tell how the science experiment went just by looking at the house.

You never have to drive your child's forgotten lunch to school.

The only debate about the school lunch program is whose turn it is to cook.

You can't make it through the grocery produce department without asking your preschooler the name and color of every vegetable.

## Phoenix Newsletter Advertising

Guidelines and Pricing – Karen Jackson

**Ad Size - Single Issue** - Business Card \$15.00 - Quarter Page \$20.00\* There are six issues a year.

**Deadline:** for the next issue is the 10<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 2008

**Format:** Please submit all ads in either PDF or Word format. **Color:** All ads will be printed in black and white.

**Approval:** Phoenix reserves the right to not publish any ad that is not appropriate to the school, its families or students.

**Payment:** Is due upon submission of the ad. Please send your payment in as soon as possible. Your ad cannot be added to the newsletter until it has been paid for. You will be sent a receipt.

*Thank you for soaring with us! We hope your ad helps you fly higher and succeed in your business venture.*

### Need a Speaker?

We'd be delighted to come out to your group and talk about home schooling, special needs, and our school.

Contact us at 403-265-7701 for more info

### Teen Corner

In this section each newsletter I would like to include an article of some kind from one of our teens. It can be a book review, a movie review, a video game review or a piece of their choice (suitable for printing of course). If you are interested in submitting an article please let me know. Karen.

# This space could be yours!



Advertise your business in our newsletter. Reasonable rates! This newsletter goes out to our 4 students and their families. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter Feb.1 with the next newsletter due Feb.15

Did you get a copy of our Annual Education Results Report?

You can download from the website or call and we will mail one out to you!

# Join us for REVITALIZE DAY on February 3, 2012

We will have  
Fee: Varies according to session  
Lunch: \$5.00 Babysitting available

## 10am - 12pm Food Works! – MJ - #2317

**Where:** Kitchen

**Description:** Join our energetic Learning Coach, MJ for a morning in Katie's kitchen. Explore quick fixes which are given a modern twist, joined by simple but satisfying flavor combinations and how healthful food affects your student's learning potential. Limit 8 Fee: \$10.00 plus \$10.00 food (no discounts)

## 10am - 11am Independent Child = More Me Time - #2318

**Where:** CL6

**Description:** Explore ways to help your child become a more independent learner so that you can have more free time to do the things you love to do. Fee:\$5.00 (no discounts)

## 11am - 12pm Relax With Art (Adult) - #2319

**Where:** CL6

**Description:** Come and enjoy an hour of oral storytelling, drawing and bees wax modeling. It's a great way to revitalize yourself. You'll also learn fun ways to integrate the arts into your Language Arts program. Discover how these activities can foster the creative writing process. We'll explore simple strategies to engage your child in learning that involves the head, heart and hands. So join us for a relaxing, yet informative session that combines children's literature and art. Fee:\$5.00 (no discounts)

## 12:30pm - 2:30pm How to Talk so Kids Will Listen . . . - #2321

**Where:** CL6

**Description:** When I'm upset or hurting, the last thing I want to hear is advice. That kind of talk only makes me feel worse than before. But let someone really listen and give me a chance to talk more about what's troubling me and I begin to feel less upset, less confused, more able to cope with my feelings and my problem. The process is no different for our children. Let's explore this great how-to book together and improve our listen skills so kids will learn to talk to us and share their problems! Every participant will get a copy of the book. Fee: \$20.00 (No discount)

## 12:30pm - 1:30pm Nail Care and Hand Spa - #2322

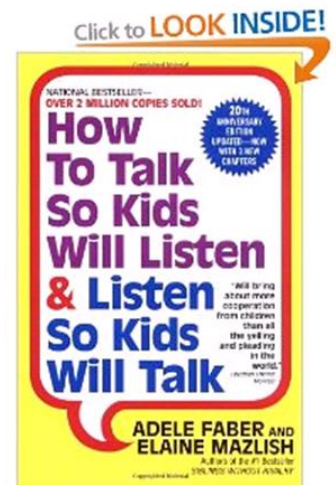
**Where:** CL15

**Description:** Take an hour to care for your hands – the hands that care for so many others – That make food, tuck kids in, wipe away tears! Fee: \$5.00 (no discounts)

## 1:30pm - 2:30pm Fun and Games - #2323

**Where:** CL14

**Description:** Fun and Games Need to have some fun while showing off your knowledge and competitive nature. Join this session for a "HOLLYWOOD SQUARES" type game that will test your general knowledge. The game will be played in a team format. There will be room for 2-3 teams of 3-4 players each. Start putting your team together now. Prizes!!! Your host and moderator will be Michael Cranley. Fee: \$2.00 each towards a prize for the winning team! Sample Question – What date is the first day of summer in Australia? (no discounts)



**Sat Feb 18, 2012**

## 10am - 11am Science Fair Registration and Orientation (ALL) - 2510

**Where:** CL6

**Description:** Open to ALL students! Present a science project in the form of a report, display board, and models that your student has created. We will have 3 divisions - Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11, Ages 12+. Parents, staff and judges will offer comments and feedback to students on their project. Minimum 20 participants required. Your fee includes:

- Orientation Session (Feb 18, 2012)
- Space rental for event (April 7, 2012)
- 3 X 8 table and two chairs Refreshments
- Thank you gifts for judges
- Participate ribbon for ALL students
- \$20.00 Gift Card Prize for Best Ages 6-8,
- \$30.00 Gift Card Prize for Best Ages 9-11
- \$50.00 Gift Card Prize for 12+



Today will be an orientation session to help students pick a project, understand what they must do and how the event will run. The SCIENCE FAIR will take place on April 7, 2012 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Fee: \$40.00

(This fee can be eliminated if we can find sponsorship for the event. The budget for this event is \$1000.00. Do you know someone who might be willing to become our sponsor? Or partial sponsor? Please have them contact Diana Stinn for more information.)

## Lady Bug News



Come to preschool for fun, games and learning. Our preschool caters to 3-4 year olds that are potty trained. We have gym time and or outdoor time. We strive to make preschool a nurturing and fun environment. If you think this sounds like something your child would enjoy please sign up with Sandie at the front desk.



## A Few Links

These are just a few of the many hundreds of links you will find out there. If you know of a great link on the net that you'd like to share let us know.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing) - very interesting typing program for kids

[www.coolmath-games.com](http://www.coolmath-games.com)

[www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)

[www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)

Interesting site for parents

[www.superteacherworksheets.com](http://www.superteacherworksheets.com)

[www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)



# 10 Rules to Reverse the Email Spiral

## 1. Respect Recipients' Time

This is the fundamental rule. As the message sender, the onus is on YOU to minimize the time your email will take to process. Even if it means taking more time at your end before sending.

## 2. Short or Slow is not Rude

Let's mutually agree to cut each other some slack. Given the email load we're all facing, it's OK if replies take a while coming and if they don't give detailed responses to all your questions. No one wants to come over as brusque, so please don't take it personally. We just want our lives back!

## 3. Celebrate Clarity

Start with a subject line that clearly labels the topic, and maybe includes a status category [Info], [Action], [Time Sens] [Low Priority]. Use crisp, middle-free sentences. If the email has to be longer than five sentences, make sure the first provides the basic reason for writing. Avoid strange fonts and colors.

## 4. Quash Open-Ended Questions

It is asking a lot to send someone an email with four long paragraphs of turgid text followed by "Thoughts?". Even well-intended-but-open questions like "How can I help?" may not be that helpful. Email generosity requires simplifying, easy-to-answer questions. "Can I help best by a) calling b) visiting or c) staying right out of it?!"

## 5. Slash Surplus cc's

cc's are like mating bunnies. For every recipient you add, you are dramatically multiplying total response time. Not to be done lightly! When there are multiple recipients, please don't default to 'Reply All'. Maybe you only need to cc a couple of people on the original thread. Or none.

## 6. Tighten the Thread

Some emails depend for their meaning on context. Which means it's usually right to include the thread being responded to. But it's rare that a thread should extend to more than 3 emails. Before sending, cut what's not relevant. Or consider making a phone call instead.

## 7. Attack Attachments

Don't use graphics files as logos or signatures that appear as attachments. Time is wasted trying to see if there's something to open. Even worse is sending text as an attachment when it could have been included in the body of the email.

## 8. Give these Gifts: EOM NNTR

If your email message can be expressed in half a dozen words, just put it in the subject line, followed by EOM (= End of Message). This saves the recipient having to actually open the message. Ending a note with "No need to respond" or NNTR, is a wonderful act of generosity. Many acronyms confuse as much as help, but these two are golden and deserve wide adoption.

## 9. Cut Contentless Responses

You don't need to reply to every email, especially not those that are themselves clear responses. An email saying "Thanks for your note. I'm in." does not need you to reply "Great." That just cost someone another 30 seconds.

## 10. Disconnect!

If we all agreed to spend less time doing email, we'd all get less email! Consider calendaring half-days at work where you can't go online. Or a commitment to email-free weekends. Or an 'auto-response' that references this charter. And don't forget to smell the roses.

## Thank you!

We would like to take this time to thank all our amazing and generous parents and sponsors . . . I will apologize if I have missed your contribution. Please let me know so I can add you to the website and newsletter next month.

- Katie's Kitchen – Franczak Family (Board)
- O' Meeting Room – Paul O'Gorman (Friend)
- Mosquito Refueling Station – Mosquito Society of Calgary
- Firebird Library – Pilling Family (Board)
- Sewing Machines – Gilbert Family (Instructor)
- Board Room Table - Tanya (Neighbor)
- Mixer for kitchen – Mary Beamish (Grandparent)
- Kinder Room - Corsair Design (Grandparent)
- Coffee Machine – Webb-Harris Family (Family)
- Use of Wagon and Tents – NWMP Commemorative Society (Friend)
- Use of Tipi – Webb-Harris Family (Family)
- Renos and Repairs – the DADS!!!

You all make Phoenix a better place to be and learn!  
Homeschoolers helping homeschoolers!



**Math @Home**

**Pennies in the Pot**  
Start the game with 25 pennies. Each player takes a turn rolling a single die and picking up the number of pennies he or she rolls on the die. To pick up the last pennies, however, the number on the die must match *exactly* the number of pennies that remain. When there are no pennies left in the pot, the player with the most pennies is the winner.

© Copyright EducationWorld.com

“quoted”

“If you hold a cat by the tail  
you learn things you cannot learn any other way.”  
Mark Twain

## Check out the Creation Studio



The Wild West has  
been a rousing  
success!

Check back in  
January for Space!!!!

Get better soon, Ms. Jessica!