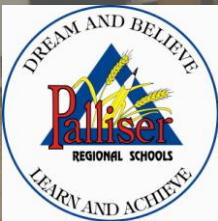


Annual Education Results Report 2007-08



For further information, please see our
website at: www.pallisersd.ab.ca

***“Together we will ensure learning success for all
students to develop their unique potential as
caring citizens in a changing world.”***

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2007-08

Message from the Board Chair



The Annual Education Results Report for Palliser Regional Division for the 2007-08 school year was prepared under the direction of the Board, in accordance to the responsibilities specified in the *School Act*, the *Government Accountability Act*, the Policy on Annual Education Results Reports and the provincial government's accounting policies. The results are used to the best of our abilities to make continuous improvements by developing strategies for 3-year education plans to ensure that all students have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

This has been an exceptional year for Palliser Regional Schools. Our professional staff, support staff, volunteers and administration continued to strive for a level of excellence which provided opportunities for every child to be successful. The Accountability Pillar document for Palliser issued by Alberta Education indicates that the system is providing excellent opportunities for students in all areas. Of the 20 accountability pillars, Palliser had a rating of Excellence or Significantly Improved in 19 of those areas. This is one of the best in the province. This

document is available on the website (<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/docs/library/AP%20Overall%20Summary%20October%202008.pdf>) and can be perused by the public.

Under the capable direction of our Superintendent/CEO, Kevin Gietz, and Associate Superintendents Barbara Gammon (Learning Services), Kevin Garinger (Human Resources & Technology) and Laurie Marston (Business Affairs), the operation of Palliser Regional Schools has had an exceptional year. Our administrative and office staff, and maintenance and transportation staff is also commended for their hard work and dedication. Commendations are also extended to Dr. Garry Andrews, retired Superintendent, who has provided guidance on several issues over the past year.

Highlights for the year include:

- The centralized staffing and financial model that was adapted a few years ago is proving to be more successful than we had hoped, and many other rural jurisdictions are looking to follow our example. This model supports needs-based staffing and considers the unique needs of each classroom, rather than providing staff based on the number of students registered.
- Palliser has met Alberta Education's average class size guideline of 17.0 students for Grades 1-3, which was an area of concern the previous year. In addition, it should be noted that our average high school pupil-teacher ratio is 18:1, well below the provincial guideline of 28:1. These are exceptional class sizes and are reflective of the increased programming for small rural high schools.
- Contractual negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees resulted in an harmonious settlement which will extend for 4 years. All other employees received a percentage increase equivalent to the settlement reached with teachers last year; the exception was bus drivers, who saw adjustments to bring their salaries in line with neighbouring jurisdictions.
- We have entered into a new era in educating our Low German-speaking students in Barons, where we have reopened the school with 112 students. For these students, many of whom have English as a Second Language, this provides the opportunity to receive an education while respecting their language and culture.
- The mobile Career and Technology Studies labs are finished and have been set up in Vulcan and Coalhurst for the first semester of the 2008-09 school year.
- The \$13 million modernization of Picture Butte High School is well into the planning stage, with work beginning early next year.
- The establishment of band programs at our smaller schools has also enhanced the learning opportunities for our students.
- Enrolment in the district has increased, in part, due to the addition of the three additional alternative Christian schools in Calgary.
- The Board is continuing the practice of off-site meetings to form closer relationships with our municipal and community partners.
- We are also aware that we have a number of future retirements pending, as we have more than 30% of the staff eligible for retirement in the next 5 years.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the past year and are committed to working with our education partners to ensure continued success. Please visit our website for copies of this and other Palliser reports (www.pallisersd.ab.ca). As well, if you have not received copies of your school's Annual Education Results Report and would like a copy, please contact your principal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Don Zech'.

Don Zech, Board Chairperson

Trustees



Colleen Deitz
Ward 2
Subdivision 1



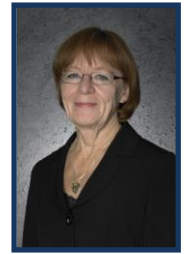
Jean Mrak
Ward 1
Subdivision 2



Robert Strauss
Ward 2
Subdivision 2



Joe Watson
Ward 1
Subdivision 4



Esther Willms
Ward 1
Subdivision 1

Message from the Superintendent of Schools

During the 2007-08 school year, Palliser Regional Schools has continued on a learning journey to create a great school system. This work was recognized by the division receiving recognition for significant improvement in 19 of 20 areas measured by the Minister's Excellence in Leadership Recognition Awards. This year's Annual Education Results Report highlights many examples of excellence in Palliser. Recognizing that excellence begins with quality leadership, Palliser was pleased to hold our first Leadership Team Retreat. The retreat followed an "open spaces" format which resulted in an open dialogue encouraging members of the Leadership Team to explore areas for focus to make Palliser Regional Schools more effective for the children and their families we serve.

Palliser Regional Schools continues to put students first in its evolution from being a good school system to being a great school system. We have expanded programming in several schools, reopened Barons School as an alternative program, received approval to open an outreach school in the Town of Picture Butte, and received approval to proceed with a long-awaited modernization of Picture Butte High School.

Students are Palliser Regional Schools' priority. This priority is reflected in the benefits that elementary and secondary students are realizing through the One-To-One Mobile Computer Project in Coalhurst. In addition to reducing class sizes, Palliser has reached three of the four provincial class size guidelines. And in its inaugural year, the Beginning Teacher Induction Program has provided supports to new teachers, enhancing their first-year teaching experience and building a foundation for success in their teaching careers.

Late in the year, the Board of Trustees finalized agreements to add three new alternative Christian schools to Palliser Regional Schools beginning in 2008-09. We are proud to have these schools join our system and to offer their students the benefits of being part of Palliser Regional Schools.

Our school review process was successfully carried out this year at Kate Andrews High School, Coalhurst High School and Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School. The review teams are continuing their work this year to focus on key areas identified in the reviews.

Congratulations to those students who experienced academic, sports and extra-curricular excellence over the past year. Several Palliser teams and individual students achieved success at local, regional, provincial and national levels, and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

In closing, I thank our Board of Trustees for guiding our journey and working tirelessly to support the Palliser educational team, including our parents and volunteers. We strive to seek their input and feedback as we continuously seek to improve our students' educational experience. Our guiding question for all of our employees and stakeholders continues to be, "Is this the best decision for our students?"

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent of Schools

Senior Administration



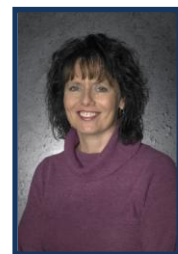
Barbara Gammon
Associate Superintendent
(Learning Services)



Kevin Garinger
Associate Superintendent
(Human Resources & Tech.)



Laurie Marston
Associate Superintendent
(Business Affairs)



Mary Ann Sorge
Executive Assistant/
Communications

Highlights



Accountability Pillar Overall Summary Annual Education Results Reports - Oct 2008 Authority: 2255 Palliser Regional Division No. 26

Goal	Measure Category	Measure Category Evaluation	Measure	Palliser Regional Div No. 26			Province			Measure Evaluation		
				Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 yr Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Yr Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All	Safe and Caring Schools	Excellent	Safe and Caring	89.8	86.0	85.7	85.1	84.2	83.9	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	Student Learning Opportunities	Excellent	Program of Studies	74.1	69.5	69.2	79.4	78.5	77.8	Intermediate	Improved Significantly	Good
			Education Quality	91.0	86.6	86.9	88.2	87.6	87.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
			Drop Out Rate	3.6	3.4	3.1	5.0	4.7	5.0	High	Maintained	Good
	Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	Acceptable	High School Completion Rate (3 Yr)	81.9	79.4	79.3	71.0	70.4	70.0	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
PAT: Acceptable	80.5		79.2	79.0	75.8	75.9	76.7	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes	Student Learning Achievement (Grades 10-12)	Good	PAT: Excellence	18.4	17.2	18.0	19.5	19.4	19.3	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable
			Diploma: Acceptable	92.7	90.0	90.5	85.0	85.4	85.2	Very High	Improved	Excellent
			Diploma: Excellence	33.8	24.3	25.4	22.3	23.3	23.1	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	55.0	56.4	54.3	53.5	53.7	53.2	Intermediate	Maintained	Acceptable		
	Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Good	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	43.9	43.3	39.8	38.2	37.2	35.4	High	Improved	Good
Transition Rate (6 Yr)			61.1	59.2	59.5	60.3	59.5	57.1	High	Maintained	Good	
Work Preparation			84.7	78.8	77.1	80.1	77.1	76.4	High	Improved Significantly	Good	
Goal 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible Jurisdiction (Ministry)	Parental Involvement	Excellent	Citizenship	83.0	77.3	77.6	77.9	76.6	76.2	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
	Continuous Improvement	Good	Parental Involvement	82.6	80.7	76.3	78.2	77.5	77.2	Very High	Improved Significantly	Excellent
			School Improvement	79.5	75.2	73.3	77.0	76.3	75.7	High	Improved Significantly	Good

Goal	Measure Category	Measure	Palliser Regional Div No. 26			Province		
			Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 yr Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Yr Average
ACOL Measure	ACOL Measure	Satisfaction with Program Access	71.3	69.8	70.0	69.2	68.2	68.0
		In-service Jurisdiction Needs	75.3	74.2	72.8	80.4	78.8	77.8

Notes:

- 1) Student Learning Achievement: PAT Values reported are weighted averages of PAT Acceptable and PAT Excellence results. Courses included: ELA (Grades 3, 6, 9), Math (Grades 3, 6, 9), Social Studies (Grades 6, 9), Science (Grades 6 only), French Language Arts (Grades 6, 9), Français (Grades 6, 9).
- 2) Student Learning Achievement: Diploma Exam Values reported are averages of Diploma Acceptable and Diploma Excellence results, weighted by the number of students enrolled in each course.
- 3) Overall evaluations can only be calculated if both improvement and achievement evaluations are available.
- 4) The ACOL measures are not evaluated as they are not part of the Accountability Pillar and are included only to enable inclusion in the AERR and 3-Year Education Plan reports.
- 5) Data values have been suppressed where the number of students is less than 6. Suppression is marked with an asterisk (*).

Report Generated: Sep 21, 2008
Locked with Suppression for Oct 2008

Report Version 1.0
Data Current as of Aug 29, 2008

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary
Source Data Reference
Annual Education Results Reports - Oct 2008
Authority: 2255 Palliser Regional Division No. 26

Goal	Measure Category	Measure	Current Result	Previous Year Result	Previous 3 Year Average	Achievement Standard Years	Data Updated
Goal 1: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All	Safe and Caring Schools	Safe and Caring	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
		Program of Studies	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
	Student Learning Opportunities	Education Quality	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
		Drop Out Rate	2006/2007	2005/2006	School Years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Mar 1, 2008
		High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	2006/2007	2005/2006	School Years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Mar 1, 2008
Goal 2: Excellence in Learner Outcomes	Student Learning Achievement (Grades K-9)	PAT: Acceptable	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Aug 23, 2008
		PAT: Excellence	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Aug 23, 2008
		Diploma: Acceptable	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Aug 29, 2008
		Diploma: Excellence	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Aug 29, 2008
		Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	2006/2007	2005/2006	School Years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Mar 1, 2008
	Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship	Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	2006/2007	2005/2006	School Years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Mar 1, 2008
		Transition Rate (6 yr)	2006/2007	2005/2006	School Years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006	2000/2001 to 2002/2003	Mar 1, 2008
		Work Preparation	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
		Citizenship	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
		Parental Involvement	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
Goal 3: Highly Responsive and Responsible Jurisdiction (Ministry)	Continuous Improvement	School Improvement	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
		Satisfaction with Program Access	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008
	ACOL Measure	In-service jurisdiction Needs	2007/2008	2006/2007	School Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	Aug 23, 2008

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Measure Evaluation Reference

Annual Education Results Reports - Oct 2008

Authority: 2255 Palliser Regional Division No. 26



Achievement Evaluation

Achievement evaluation is based upon a comparison of Current Year data to a set of standards which remain consistent over time. The Standards are calculated by taking the 3 year average of baseline data for each measure across all school jurisdictions and calculating the 5th, 25th, 75th and 95th percentiles. Once calculated, these standards remain in place from year to year to allow for consistent planning and evaluation.

The table below shows the range of values defining the 5 achievement evaluation levels for each measure.

Measure	Very Low	Low	Intermediate	High	Very High
Safe and Caring	0.00 - 77.62	77.62 - 81.05	81.05 - 84.50	84.50 - 88.03	88.03 - 100.00
Program of Studies	0.00 - 66.31	66.31 - 72.65	72.65 - 78.43	78.43 - 81.59	81.59 - 100.00
Education Quality	0.00 - 80.94	80.94 - 84.23	84.23 - 87.23	87.23 - 89.60	89.60 - 100.00
Drop Out Rate	100.00 - 9.40	9.40 - 6.90	6.90 - 4.27	4.27 - 2.79	2.79 - 0.00
High School Completion Rate (3 yr)	0.00 - 56.75	56.75 - 62.66	62.66 - 73.87	73.87 - 81.47	81.47 - 100.00
PAT: Acceptable	0.00 - 64.03	64.03 - 75.85	75.85 - 83.54	83.54 - 87.39	87.39 - 100.00
PAT: Excellence	0.00 - 10.76	10.76 - 14.27	14.27 - 20.37	20.37 - 25.05	25.05 - 100.00
Diploma: Acceptable	0.00 - 71.88	71.88 - 82.15	82.15 - 87.66	87.66 - 90.28	90.28 - 100.00
Diploma: Excellence	0.00 - 7.37	7.37 - 15.75	15.75 - 21.31	21.31 - 24.53	24.53 - 100.00
Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)	0.00 - 31.10	31.10 - 44.11	44.11 - 55.78	55.78 - 65.99	65.99 - 100.00
Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate	0.00 - 20.69	20.69 - 26.29	26.29 - 33.96	33.96 - 46.47	46.47 - 100.00
Transition Rate (6 yr)	0.00 - 41.60	41.60 - 47.36	47.36 - 57.37	57.37 - 63.73	63.73 - 100.00
Work Preparation	0.00 - 66.92	66.92 - 72.78	72.78 - 77.78	77.78 - 86.13	86.13 - 100.00
Citizenship	0.00 - 66.30	66.30 - 71.63	71.63 - 77.50	77.50 - 81.08	81.08 - 100.00
Parental Involvement	0.00 - 70.76	70.76 - 74.58	74.58 - 78.50	78.50 - 82.30	82.30 - 100.00
School Improvement	0.00 - 65.25	65.25 - 70.85	70.85 - 76.28	76.28 - 80.41	80.41 - 100.00

Notes:

- 1) For all measures except Drop Out Rate: The range of values at each evaluation level is interpreted as "greater than or equal to" the "Low" value, and "less than" the "High" value. For the Very High category, values range from greater than the "Low" value to 100%.
- 2) Drop Out Rate measure: As "Drop-out Rate" is inverse to most measures (i.e. Lower values are "better"), the range of values at each evaluation level is interpreted as "greater than" the "Low" value and "less than or equal to" the "High" value. For the Very High category, values range from 0% to less than or equal to the "High" value.

Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Measure Evaluation Reference

Annual Education Results Reports - Oct 2008
 Authority: 2255 Palliser Regional Division No. 26



Improvement Table

For each jurisdiction, improvement evaluation consists of comparing the Current Year result for each measure with the previous three-year average. A chi-square statistical test is used to determine the significance of the improvement. This test takes into account the size of the jurisdiction in the calculation to make improvement evaluation fair across jurisdictions of different sizes.

The table below shows the definition of the 5 improvement evaluation levels based upon the chi-square result.

Evaluation Category	Chi-Square Range
Declined Significantly	3.84 + (current < previous 3-year average)
Declined	1.00 - 3.83 (current < previous 3-year average)
Maintained	less than 1.00
Improved	1.00 - 3.83 (current > previous 3-year average)
Improved Significantly	3.84 + (current > previous 3-year average)

Overall Evaluation Table

The overall evaluation combines the Achievement Evaluation and the Improvement Evaluation. The table below illustrates how the Achievement and Improvement evaluations are combined to get the overall evaluation.

	Achievement				
	Very High	High	Intermediate	Low	Very Low
Improvement					
Improved Significantly	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Improved	Excellent	Good	Good	Acceptable	Issue
Maintained	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Issue	Issue
Declined	Good	Acceptable	Issue	Issue	Concern
Declined Significantly	Acceptable	Issue	Issue	Concern	Concern

Category Evaluation

The category evaluation is an average of the Overall Evaluation of the measures that make up the category. For the purpose of the calculation, consider an Overall Evaluation of Excellent to be 2, Good to be 1, Acceptable to be 0, Issue to be -1, and Concern to be -2. The simple average (mean) of these values rounded to the nearest integer produces the Category Evaluation value. This is converted back to a colour using the same scale above (e.g. 2=Excellent, 1=Good, 0=Intermediate, -1=Issue, -2=Concern).

We Can Take Pride in Many Other Accomplishments

- **Accountability Pillar results.** Palliser has been recognized for significant improvement in 19 of 20 categories for the Minister's Educational Leadership Recognition Awards (MELRA). Seven areas were identified as excellent, including: Safe and Caring; Education Quality; High School Completion Rate; Diploma: Acceptable; Diploma: Excellence; Citizenship; and Parental Involvement.
- **Establishment of district-wide professional development days.** The allocation and designation of shared professional learning time provided the opportunity for all teachers in the district to participate simultaneously in common-themed learning activities. Areas of focus included assessment for learning and integration of technology.
- **Continuing success of Student Services.** As noted in the Organizational Review, the current Student Services model was praised by administrators and supported by our special education parent survey results.
- **Palliser system growth.** Agreements were entered into with three additional Christian alternative programs in Calgary, adding 1700 students to the Palliser enrolment. The Palliser senior administration team effectively transitioned nearly 150 new employees with the addition of these programs.
- **Organizational review and restructuring of the division leadership team.** With the addition of three new schools, there was recognition that the division leadership team needed expansion to meet increased demands. Directors positions were created in Curriculum and Student Services; frontline positions expanded in the following areas:
 - Career and academic counsellors;
 - Family school liaison counsellors;
 - Early literacy specialist;
 - Technology integration specialist; and
 - Administrative support in the areas of Human Resources and Learning Services.
- **Leadership team focuses on district needs.** As recommended in the Organizational Review, a Leadership Team Retreat, including Central Office administrators, Board trustees and school administrators, was held prior to the end of the school year. The purpose of this retreat, facilitated using the Open Spaces format, was to review and confirm our mission, vision and goals and to identify current issues. Participants were encouraged to take ownership in leading a solution-focused approach to the identified issues. A follow-up retreat of Central Office leaders was held in August to develop action plans for each responsibility area.
- **New curriculum implementation.** Palliser has adopted a cohort approach to implementing new curricula. The members of the cohort participated in intensive training and classroom practice, deepening their understanding and facilitating their support of fellow colleagues implementing the new curriculum. This approach has resulted in enthusiasm and excitement to implement the new mathematics curriculum, as teachers truly understand the impact it will have on student learning.
- **Initiation and expansion of the Low German Mennonite alternative program.** This program began in the fall in the Nobleford Community Centre with one teacher. The LGM community was so supportive of this program, it expanded rapidly during the year so that by May 2008, it was moved to Barons School with four teachers.
- **Initiation of the Beginning Teacher Induction Program.** This program was initiated to support the needs of beginning teachers in order to increase retention and support student learning. The program was very successful and plans were put in place to expand the program in the 2008-09 school year.
- **Priority schools improve.** Two schools previously designated as priority schools saw dramatic improvement in the learning achievements of their students. One school used effective assessment for learning practices within a professional learning community to achieve this change, while the second school restructured their pyramid of interventions to ensure students' learning success.
- **CTS facility expansion.** To expand programming opportunities for students in Grades 10-12, the division celebrated the fruition of their efforts with the arrival of two mobile CTS labs in the jurisdiction at the end of the school year.

- **Approval for the Picture Butte High School modernization.** Following the feasibility study completed the previous year, the district received approval to modernize Picture Butte High School. Planning for this major construction project will continue over the 2008-09 school year.
- **Technology infrastructure expansion.** The Palliser Board supports classrooms becoming 21st century learning environments where the tools of technology seamlessly support teachers and students. The division has dedicated significant infrastructure dollars to support this vision. Over the school year, Palliser digitized approximately 75 classrooms in order to meet the integrated technology outcomes, enhancing the learning of our 21st century students.
- **Establishment of a Technology Advisory Committee.** A Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) has been developed, including stakeholders from schools, Central Office and trustees, in order to review and implement a plan for the direction of technology within Palliser.
- **Implementation of a common district-wide student information system (SIRS).** In order to increase communication between schools, Central Office and parents, a system-wide student information system has been implemented.

Refer to Appendix B for the numerous successes celebrated through the Palliser Regional Schools website and local media during the 2007-08 school year.



What Do Our Parents and Students Think?

Provincial Survey Data

Business Plan Goal 1: High quality learning opportunities for all

Outcome: Schools provide a safe and caring environment for students.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students who agree that students are safe at school, learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others, and are treated fairly at school.

	Results				Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	93.9	94.2	93.7	96.9	
Province	92.3	92.9	92.6	93.1	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	81.8	83.5	85.2	88.6	
Province	79.9	82.1	81.7	83.2	
Students					
Jurisdiction	79.0	81.1	79.2	83.8	
Province	77.2	78.5	78.5	79.1	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	84.9	86.3	86.0	89.8	87.0
Province	83.1	84.5	84.2	85.1	

Comments on Results:

Providing a safe and caring environment for students has remained front and centre for all staff within the jurisdiction, reinforced by our theme for the 2007-08 school year: **Fostering A Student-Centred Culture**. As noted in last year's AERR, Palliser continues to request each school include in their school plan a goal targeting a safe and caring environment for each student.

Palliser's framework of administrative procedures to support positive student behaviour and safe school environments provides a foundation, but keeping school-wide plans active requires ongoing collaboration and discussion. A stakeholder advisory committee comprising trustees, division office senior administration and all school administrators was reactivated to support school communities in their work to implement positive strategies that will continue to reduce the incidence of bullying but broaden to develop our students' positive social character and citizenship attributes. This committee met in February to share strategies schools were implementing to continue reinforcing our foundational belief that a safe and caring environment is a necessary prerequisite for learning and contributes to the development of citizenship in our students. Our division priority to ensure students experience emotional success was a major topic during the Leadership Team Retreat in May. Further strategies were discussed and shared at that time.

In the fall, a group of interested educators from across the division attended the National Character Education Conference (NCEC) in Ontario. Their attendance and subsequent sharing at the stakeholder

advisory meeting sparked interest in expanding and initiating school-based strategies to reinforce the critical importance of safe and caring environments, specifically through character and citizenship education, highlighting student leadership activities. After the Palliser delegation heard Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson at the NCEC, she was invited to our jurisdiction to visit schools and speak to students and staff.

The Teens Helping Teens Peer Mentorship Program continued to provide positive role models and supports to youth in five of our communities. Our ongoing partnership with Lethbridge Regional Police Service, through the Assisted Learning Environment Response Team (ALERT), also contributed to this important safe school environment outcome.

Key members of our Palliser Team have participated with the University of Lethbridge Cyber Advisory Committee and provided internet safety training for students, parents and staff.

Finally, during our School Review Process, the school review teams highlight and reflect the school culture as described by students, parents and staff with recommendations for continuous improvement.

Outcome: The education system meets the needs of all K-12 students, society and the economy.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.

	Results				Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	72.1	75.4	72.9	80.0	
Province	83.6	85.2	85.7	86.4	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	66.1	68.6	71.7	74.4	
Province	75.0	76.6	76.9	77.6	
Students					
Jurisdiction	64.7	67.2	63.8	68.1	
Province	71.5	72.6	72.9	74.1	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	67.6	70.4	69.5	74.1	71.0
Province	76.7	78.1	78.5	79.4	

Comments on Results:

Continued efforts to ensure a broad program of studies is offered across the division, particularly in our small rural schools, is being recognized by students, parents and staff. Specifically, students benefited from increased access to band opportunities at an additional four schools: Arrowwood, Milo, Sunnyside and Vulcan Prairieview Elementary. During the 2007-08 year, band programming was offered at seven Palliser schools.



Busing students to larger communities to access CTS options is another continuing strategy. Preparations continued this year with community partners as the mobile CTS facilities neared completion. These facilities will add to our expanding program of studies in the next school year.

A Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was re-established to support improved technology outcomes for students. A highlight this year was the full implementation of the One-to-One Project at Coalhurst Elementary and Coalhurst High Schools. Another highlight was extending the classroom beyond the walls of the school through the effective use of videoconferencing. Examples include students observing surgeries, discussions with acclaimed authors, interaction with the Royal Tyrrell Museum , and discussions with the NASA team.

Further discussions with students need to be held, as they continue to express concern that their options are limited.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the overall quality of basic education.

	Results				Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	93.9	96.0	94.1	97.2	
Province	93.9	94.9	94.7	94.9	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	78.3	79.7	82.0	86.2	
Province	78.9	81.6	81.8	83.0	
Students					
Jurisdiction	85.6	87.9	84.4	89.5	
Province	85.6	86.6	86.4	86.68	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	85.9	87.9	86.8	91.0	88.0
Province	86.1	87.7	87.6	88.2	

Comment on Results:

Improving communication about student learning among teachers, parents and students is an ongoing priority addressed through assessment for learning practices and grade level of achievement sharing, and formalized through the development of recent administrative procedures. Additionally, teachers have participated in professional learning groups focused on curriculum areas of the program of studies. These activities all promote and support improved relationships for and about learning.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students satisfied with access and timeliness of services for students in schools (e.g., academic counselling, library services, and supports for students with special needs).

	Results				Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	78.3	76.1	75.4	79.0	
Province	70.0	71.5	72.0	73.4	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	56.0	52.4	56.5	57.1	
Province	54.9	56.9	55.9	56.5	
Students					
Jurisdiction	78.6	79.4	77.5	77.7	
Province	76.7	77.1	76.8	77.7	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	71.0	69.3	69.8	71.3	N/A
Province	67.2	68.5	68.2	69.2	

Comments on Results:

Palliser continues to provide comprehensive support services to children and students with identified special education needs. In February 2008, Schollie Research and Consulting conducted a survey of parents of students with special education needs ranging from mild to severe, as well as the gifted. Overall, parents reported a 92% satisfaction rating with the programming and the progress of their children. Parents of students with severe special education needs reported 95% satisfaction.

Special education reviews were completed as one component of the school review process at Coalhurst High School, Kate Andrews High School and Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School this past year. These schools developed action plans to address specific special education recommendations in the reviews.

Palliser participates in three student health partnerships – the Calgary SHP Independent Schools Advisory, the Chinook Country SHP and the Westview SHP. Student health needs are addressed through a range of strategies by these partnerships. Staff shortages in the speech, occupational and physical therapy services in the Westview Student Health Partnership have resulted in an emphasis on parent and staff capacity-building models rather than direct service models. To support the emotional and social needs of students, funding from the partnerships contributes to the division's family school liaison counselling team. Provincial survey results from Palliser parents in the Westview SHP indicate 100% satisfaction that the student health services needed were available and improved their child's ability to be successful in school. Teacher results were as positive as parents regarding whether the student health services improved students' ability to be successful, but were only 71% satisfied that the health services needed were available in a timely manner. The Chinook Country SHP results are only available in an aggregated format inclusive of all jurisdiction partners. While 80% of the parents were satisfied that the health services their child needed were available, just 68% of teachers shared that view. Parents and teachers had very similar satisfaction ratings of 77-78% that the health services had improved their child's ability to be successful in school programs.

A career and academic counsellor pilot project was initiated, providing a full-time non-certificated staff member to serve Grades 9 -12 students at Coalhurst High, Kate Andrews High, Noble Central and

Picture Butte High Schools. The success of this pilot has resulted in an expansion of the career and academic counselling team for the 2008-09 school year.

Moving to a centralized budgeting model has provided library staff at all schools.

Outcome: Children at risk have their needs addressed through effective programs and supports.

- Annual dropout rate of students aged 14 to 18.

	Results					Target
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Jurisdiction	5.3	3.1	2.6	3.4	3.6	3.0
Province	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.7	5.0	

Comments on Results:

Palliser's philosophy and practice has been to provide effective supports to children and students using an early intervention model. This means providing prevention and intervention services, as well as support services leading to school completion including:

- Family school liaison;
- Preschool services;
- Early literacy intervention to children and students at promise from kindergarten to Grade 2;
- First Nations and Low German-speaking Mennonite community liaison services to students and their families;
- Establishment of an alternative school program for Low German Mennonite students;
- Outreach school programs available to high school students in two of our larger communities, Coaldale and Vulcan;
- Increasing CTS opportunities; and
- Home schooling opportunities.

Achieving class size targets supports teachers as they strive to build closer relationships with their students and their families. Teachers across the division, including our beginning teachers through the induction program, are encouraged and supported to differentiate curriculum to ensure learning success for each student, with pyramids of intervention established to provide additional support as needed.



		2007-08 Targets	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	2002-03 %
3-Year	Palliser	83.0	81.9	79.4	77.6	80.8	83.6
	Province		71.0	70.4	70.4	68.9	67.3
4-Year	Palliser	84.0	82.8	83.0	83.1	86.5	84.1
	Province		76.3	76.2	75.1	73.2	72.1
5-Year	Palliser	86.0	84.7	85.4	89.8	86.5	83.5
	Province		79.5	78.6	77.4	75.4	75.1

Palliser trustees and staff take pride in the continuing improvement in high school completion rates, reflective of our many proactive strategies described previously. The work of Palliser staff is strongly supported by the expectations from our parents and communities that high school completion is important for future success.

Business Plan Goal 2: Excellence in student learning

Outcome: Learners demonstrate high standards.

- Diploma examination participation rate: percentages of students who take four or more diploma exam courses.

Results					
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Jurisdiction	52.8	49.6	56.8	56.2	55.0
Province	51.4	52.4	53.5	53.7	53.6

Comments on Results:

Although our diploma exam participation rate has declined, it remains above provincial average. School communities remain committed to ensuring students complete courses facilitating access to post-secondary learning opportunities.

Outcome: Learners are well prepared for lifelong learning.

- Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that high school graduates demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning.

Results						Target
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers						
Jurisdiction	85.4	73.4	72.6	70.6	78.3	
Province	75.9	73.7	74.2	74.1	73.8	
Parents						
Jurisdiction	56.4	48.7	56.1	62.0	68.5	
Province	53.2	55.1	57.9	57.1	59.5	
Overall						
Jurisdiction	70.9	66.0	64.4	66.3	73.4	67.0
Province	64.5	64.4	66.1	65.6	66.7	

Comment on Results:

Our improved and continuing strategies to communicate effectively with parents has contributed to the increasing alignment between teacher and parent satisfaction that our graduates have developed the tools necessary for lifelong learning. Teachers have always worked hard to ensure students have the knowledge, skills and attitudes but we have not always been as effective including parents as key stakeholders in the process.

- High school to post-secondary transition rate within four and six years of entering Grade 10.

	Results					Target
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Within 4 years:						
Jurisdiction	35.5	45.1	32.5	48.6	44.3	50.0
Province	32.8	34.0	37.0	39.5	40.7	
Within 6 years:						
Jurisdiction	57.5	57.6	61.7	59.1	61.1	60.0
Province	51.5	54.4	57.5	59.5	60.3	

Comment on Results:

Our students, their families and our communities value post-secondary education opportunities for their children. Geographically, Palliser students benefit from proximity to both college and university opportunities, and our staff, both certificated and non-certificated, model the importance of lifelong education to their students, as many are involved in continuing post-secondary opportunities.



Outcome: Learners are well prepared for employment.

- Percentages of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.

	Results				Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	90.8	86.0	86.0	92.8	
Province	89.1	89.5	89.2	89.3	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	67.4	61.0	71.6	76.6	
Province	60.8	64.6	65.1	70.9	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	79.1	73.5	78.8	84.7	80.0
Province	74.9	77.1	77.1	80.1	

Comments on Results:

The continuing remarkable improvements each year on this outcome are the result of our efforts on several fronts: improved communication with parents; highlighting in a variety of publications the achievements and accomplishments of our students; participation in educational partnerships with Chinook Regional Career Transitions and CAREERS, the Next Generation; and student participation in regional and provincial skills competitions. We anticipate our recent recognition of outstanding past graduates through

the Palliser Wall of Fame will inspire students to believe that school is preparing them to meet their aspirations and goals.

Outcome: Learners are well prepared for citizenship.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students who agree that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.

Results					Target 2007-08
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	90.7	92.1	90.7	95.3	
Province	89.5	90.3	89.9	90.6	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	72.0	72.3	75.3	80.3	
Province	70.3	72.4	72.6	74.7	
Students					
Jurisdiction	69.0	70.1	66.0	73.3	
Province	66.1	67.6	67.1	68.5	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	77.2	78.2	77.3	83.0	79.0
Province	75.3	76.8	76.6	77.9	

Comments on Results:

Teachers and parents report high levels of satisfaction in the preparation of students for citizenship. The student response suggests there may be a lack of understanding of what “active citizenship” means. Efforts will be made to purposely identify examples of active citizenship in daily school life.

Through AISI, there has been a division-wide focus on the development of citizenship and character education. Examples of student participation in citizenship activities this year include:



- County Central High School participation in provincial and national student leadership conferences, and students from Coalhurst High, R.I. Baker Middle and Picture Butte High Schools attended a youth conference in Medicine Hat – “Building Leadership for Action in Schools Today.”
- The achievement of Low German Mennonite students winning first place in an essay competition on multiculturalism sponsored by the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association;
- Widespread continuing support for raising funds for cancer research through participation in the Terry Fox Run, as well as the CIBC Run for the Cure;
- “Citizenship Begins at Home” – students at Heritage Christian Academy volunteered their time on a Saturday for a work and clean-up bee at their school;
- High school youth volunteer their time to support younger students in an after-school Teens Helping Teens Peer Mentorship Program in Picture Butte, Coaldale, Nobleford, Coalhurst and Vulcan;

- Annually, students participate in and support Remembrance Day services with their music and dramatic talents; and several school participated in local, provincial and national competitions sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion;
- Brant Christian, Heritage Christian and Jennie Emery Elementary Schools all supported the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse;
- Coalhurst High School students raised funds for World Vision;
- Sunnyside School partners with the Alberta Rose seniors lodge; and
- Alternative Christian schools participate in missions to Mexico and Central America.

Please review our Palliser Schools News 2007-08 (Appendix B) for further examples of citizenship activities.

Business Plan Goal 3: Highly responsive and responsible jurisdiction

Outcome: Improved results through effective working relationships with partners and stakeholders.

- Percentages of teachers and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.

Results					Target 2007-08
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	83.7	84.5	89.2	91.5	
Province	87.0	87.6	87.1	87.5	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	62.6	65.3	72.2	73.7	
Province	65.2	68.1	67.9	69.0	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	73.2	74.9	80.7	82.6	82.0
Province	76.1	77.8	77.5	78.2	

Comments on Results:

The jurisdiction has a high expectation that teachers establish effective working relationships with parents. As schools implement Administrative Procedure #361: Communicating Student Achievement, increased parental involvement in their child's education has been a welcome outcome. Our Administrator Leadership Program, as well as our Beginning Teacher Induction Program, reinforce the critical importance of good relationships and open communication with parents.

Outcome: The jurisdiction demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement.

- Percentages of teachers, parents and students who indicate that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same in the last three years.

Results					Target 2007-08
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	73.8	75.6	73.4	78.4	
Province	73.1	75.7	74.5	75.6	
Parents					
Jurisdiction	65.8	67.5	80.6	81.3	
Province	70.9	75.4	75.1	75.9	
Students					
Jurisdiction	73.2	78.6	71.5	78.7	
Province	77.9	79.5	79.3	79.5	
Overall					
Jurisdiction	70.9	73.9	75.2	79.5	76.0
Province	73.9	76.9	76.3	77.0	

Comments on Results:

Improving results are the result of efforts on many fronts. Of particular note is the school review process initiated in 2005-06. These school reviews, based on our Effectiveness Model (Appendix A attached), used student, parent and teacher focus groups, as well as classroom observations, to provide commendations and recommendations to school administration and staff. The Superintendent and his leadership team visited schools to review school plans and outcomes.

The completion of a second year of inservice modules for leadership development and the correlates of effective schools by administrators at the school and district level provided a forum for discussion of strategies to improve student learning.

- Percentage of teachers who agree that professional development opportunities made available through the school jurisdiction are focused on jurisdiction priorities, effectively address their ongoing professional development needs, and contribute significantly to their professional growth.

Results					Target
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Teachers					
Jurisdiction	70.9	73.3	74.2	75.3	80.0
Province	76.5	78.3	78.8	80.4	

Comments on Results:

A division-wide PD committee was established, which provided a greater voice for teachers to direct their learning priorities in support of student success. Our teachers continue to access the professional learning opportunities provided by the Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortia (SAPDC) in such areas as curriculum implementation, assessment for learning, and technology integration.

A focus in Palliser has been on learning from experts within. This has been accomplished through supporting the development of collaborative learning groups on division-wide PD days. Our AISI team leaders and lead teachers are to be commended for sharing their expertise on specific topics with their colleagues. Our division assessment specialists worked with lead teachers to provide workshops across the division focused on assessment for learning. These lead teachers were then available in their school communities to continue to build capacity for understanding and implementing effective assessment practices. In keeping with our Vision Statement, our staff is engaging in continuous professional learning and improvement.



ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS 2007-08

Alberta Education requires that school jurisdictions report provincial achievement test results based upon a cohort group. The “cohort group” is defined as the overall potential student population (excluding home schooled students) enrolled in a particular grade (i.e., Grade 3). Included in this population are not only those students who wrote the test but also ungraded or special needs students in the applicable year of school (i.e., third year of school), those students who may have written only part of the exam, students who were absent when the test was administered or special education students exempted from writing the examination.

GRADE 3—Results for All Students in Grade (“The Cohort”)

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	85.0	83.7	84.5	80.4	87.6	87.9	83.8
	Province		80.1	80.3	81.3	82.2	81.7	80.6
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	20.0	12.8	19.6	12.1	16.1	18.7	15.4
	Province		16.1	17.7	14.1	16.2	15.1	16.0
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	84.0	80.1	83.6	79.4	82.8	85.1	82.0
	Province		78.7	79.4	81.4	80.0	81.4	80.2
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	21.0	18.9	19.9	19.9	28.8	23.9	20.7
	Province		23.9	23.3	27.1	26.2	27.2	24.8

Palliser students continue to achieve above the provincial average at the acceptable level, while continuing to welcome a more diverse student population, particularly English language learners.



GRADE 3 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS PARTICIPATION RATES						
	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Palliser	92.9	95.0	92.5	93.6	96.9	93.8
Province	89.8	90.1	90.6	90.2	90.6	90.2
Grade 3 Mathematics						
Palliser	93.3	94.7	93.2	93.3	96.5	94.0
Province	90.5	89.9	90.2	93.3	91.3	90.6
Grade 3 Achievement Tests Overall						
Palliser	93.1	94.9	92.9	93.5	96.7	94.2
Province	90.2	90.0	90.4	91.8	91.0	90.7

GRADE 3—Results for Students Who Actually Wrote

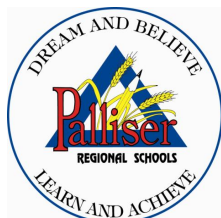
		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	85.0	90.0	84.5	86.9	93.6	90.7	89.3
	Province		89.1	80.3	89.8	91.1	90.2	89.4
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	20.0	13.8	19.6	13.1	17.2	19.3	16.4
	Province		17.9	17.7	15.6	18.0	16.7	17.7
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	84.0	85.9	83.6	85.1	88.8	88.2	87.2
	Province		87.0	79.9	90.2	88.5	89.2	88.5
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	21.0	20.3	19.9	21.4	30.9	24.7	22.1
	Province		26.4	23.5	30.1	28.8	29.9	27.4

GRADE 6—Results for All Students in Grade (“The Cohort”)

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	88.0	90.2	87.5	83.5	78.9	81.6	87.1
	Province		81.1	80.3	79.0	77.3	79.1	80.1
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	18.0	20.5	17.3	17.3	14.4	20.6	18.4
	Province		21.0	19.8	15.9	15.5	15.5	17.5
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	77.0	80.4	76.2	74.3	81.2	81.0	77.5
	Province		74.6	73.3	74.5	77.6	77.8	74.6
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	13.0	15.3	11.9	15.1	14.4	21.8	14.4
	Province		15.9	14.4	15.3	18.0	20.9	15.3

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
SCIENCE								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	78.0	80.9	77.5	82.6	83.9	80.7	80.4
	Province		74.8	74.7	77.7	79.6	80.1	76.0
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	22.0	21.1	21.0	27.7	21.1	20.6	23.5
	Province		24.1	26.8	28.1	26.4	26.5	26.1
SOCIAL STUDIES								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	84.0	81.9	83.6	78.4	80.1	79.7	81.7
	Province		77.9	77.0	78.2	78.1	78.3	77.9
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	16.0	18.7	15.5	21.9	20.5	17.4	18.9
	Province		23.8	22.7	23.2	21.8	20.2	23.0

Once again, students in Grade 6 scored above the provincial average in all subjects at the acceptable level, and we are celebrating continued improvement in the standard of excellence.



GRADE 6 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS PARTICIPATION RATES						
	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Palliser	96.3	95.8	93.7	94.6	94.0	95.0
Province	89.5	89.6	90.1	89.9	90.9	89.8
Grade 6 Mathematics						
Palliser	97.1	95.2	94.0	96.0	94.3	95.3
Province	90.0	89.5	90.2	90.5	90.7	90.2
Grade 6 Science						
Palliser	94.5	96.1	94.3	95.6	94.3	94.7
Province	89.0	88.6	89.5	90.3	90.8	89.4
Grade 6 Social Studies						
Palliser	95.7	95.9	94.0	95.3	94.0	94.9
Province	89.2	89.1	90.1	89.6	90.6	89.8
Grade 6 Achievement Tests Overall						
Palliser	95.9	95.8	94.0	95.4	94.2	95.6
Province	89.4	89.2	90.0	90.1	90.8	89.9

GRADE 6—Results for Students Who Actually Wrote

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	88.0	93.7	87.5	89.1	83.3	86.9	91.6
	Province		90.6	80.3	87.6	85.9	87.0	89.3
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	18.0	21.3	17.3	18.4	15.2	21.9	19.4
	Province		22.1	19.8	17.7	17.2	17.0	21.1
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	77.0	82.8	76.2	79.0	84.6	85.9	81.3
	Province		83.0	74.0	82.7	86.0	86.2	82.8
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	13.0	15.7	11.9	16.1	15.0	23.2	15.1
	Province		17.7	14.5	17.0	20.0	23.3	17.0
SCIENCE								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	78.0	85.6	77.5	87.6	87.7	85.6	84.9
	Province		84.1	75.2	86.7	88.0	88.3	85.1
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	22.0	22.3	21.0	29.3	22.1	21.8	24.8
	Province		27.1	26.6	31.4	28.6	28.8	29.2
SOCIAL STUDIES								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	84.0	85.6	83.6	83.5	84.1	84.8	86.1
	Province		87.3	77.4	86.8	87.0	86.4	86.8
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	16.0	19.6	15.5	23.3	21.6	18.5	19.9
	Province		26.7	22.3	25.8	23.9	21.7	25.6

GRADE 9—Results for All Students in Grade (“The Cohort”)

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	82.0	82.1	81.5	75.7	80.9	78.3	80.3
	Province		76.5	77.5	77.4	77.9	77.6	77.1
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	14.0	18.8	13.0	15.5	11.4	12.5	15.8
	Province		14.8	14.8	13.6	14.0	12.4	14.4
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	70.0	73.8	68.8	62.4	72.0	71.6	69.2
	Province		65.7	65.2	66.4	67.0	65.1	66.5
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	22.0	23.4	20.8	15.2	22.2	23.6	19.6
	Province		18.5	17.8	17.0	19.1	18.3	18.0
SCIENCE								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	68.0	75.2	67.1	65.8	68.4	64.8	69.7
	Province		69.3	68.8	66.7	66.9	65.8	68.8
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	14.0	12.8	13.7	10.7	8.5	8.3	12.7
	Province		13.0	14.6	13.5	12.9	12.1	13.7
SOCIAL STUDIES								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	70.0	72.2	69.5	67.1	74.2	70.1	69.8
	Province		71.7	70.6	71.9	70.6	72.4	71.9
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	16.0	15.8	15.2	16.3	16.5	16.0	15.7
	Province		18.9	19.0	19.0	18.5	20.1	18.8

GRADE 9 ACHIEVEMENT TESTS PARTICIPATION RATES						
	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Grade 9 English Language Arts						
Palliser	93.3	91.8	91.5	94.3	94.2	92.1
Province	87.7	87.9	87.7	87.4	87.3	87.8
Grade 9 Mathematics						
Palliser	92.6	91.4	91.1	95.6	93.8	91.7
Province	88.0	87.4	86.8	87.0	87.1	87.8
Grade 9 Science						
Palliser	93.0	91.2	92.9	95.9	94.8	92.1
Province	89.0	88.2	87.6	87.7	88.1	88.6
Grade 9 Social Studies						
Palliser	92.8	91.2	93.3	95.5	94.6	92.2
Province	88.9	87.8	88.0	87.3	88.0	88.6
Grade 9 Achievement Tests Overall						
Palliser	92.9	91.4	92.2	95.3	94.4	93.2
Province	88.4	87.8	87.5	87.4	87.6	87.7

Palliser has recognized improvements in the acceptable level of achievement in science and math so that students are achieving above the provincial average in all subjects.

In English language arts and mathematics, our students exceeded the provincial average for the level of excellence.

GRADE 9—Results for Students Who Actually Wrote

		2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
LANGUAGE ARTS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	82.0	88.0	81.5	82.7	85.8	83.1	87.1
	Province		87.2	77.5	88.2	89.1	88.9	87.9
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	14.0	20.1	13.0	16.9	12.1	13.3	17.1
	Province		16.8	14.8	15.5	16.1	14.2	16.4
MATHEMATICS								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	70.0	79.7	68.8	68.5	75.4	76.3	75.5
	Province		74.6	66.3	76.5	77.7	75.4	75.7
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	22.0	25.2	20.8	16.7	23.2	25.2	21.3
	Province		21.0	18.3	19.5	22.5	21.5	20.6
SCIENCE								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	68.0	80.8	67.1	70.9	71.3	68.4	75.6
	Province		77.9	69.6	76.1	76.5	75.2	77.6
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	14.0	13.8	13.7	11.5	8.9	8.7	13.8
	Province		14.7	14.7	15.4	14.5	13.6	15.4
SOCIAL STUDIES								
Acceptable Level	Palliser	70.0	77.8	69.5	72.0	77.7	74.1	75.6
	Province		80.7	71.4	81.8	81.1	82.6	81.1
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	16.0	17.1	15.2	17.4	17.3	16.9	17.0
	Province		21.3	18.7	21.6	20.8	22.6	21.3

STUDENT LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT (Grades K-9)

PAT Exam Aggregate Result Summary

(Results Based on Number Enrolled)

		2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Acceptable Standard	Palliser	78.2	79.2	76.0	80.3	79.2	75.6
	Province	75.4	75.9	76.9	77.0	77.5	76.5
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	17.5	17.1	17.9	18.4	19.2	18.0
	Province	18.9	19.5	19.1	19.4	19.5	19.3

Palliser remains focused on fostering a student-centred culture where each student experiences learning success in a supportive and caring environment. Our professional learning groups are discussing strategies to encourage our students to achieve at higher levels. School improvement strategies are emphasizing effective assessment for learning practices and differentiation of instruction, as well as technology integration, to engage, motivate and enhance learning opportunities for all students.

DIPLOMA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2007-08

Overall, the diploma examination results attained by Palliser students during the 2007-08 school year were excellent and continue to be a strength and source of pride throughout the division.

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS – STUDENTS ACHIEVING ACCEPTABLE STANDARD BASED ON NUMBER OF STUDENTS WRITING						
	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
English 30-1						
Palliser	93.3	93.6	96.6	94.7	91.4	94.4
Province	87.1	87.8	88.8	89.1	92.0	88.3
English 30-2						
Palliser	94.9	94.0	93.3	93.5	83.8	91.9
Province	88.9	88.7	83.9	89.4	85.2	88.1
Pure Math 30						
Palliser	86.9	83.1	97.5	84.0	85.0	85.9
Province	81.3	81.1	80.7	80.6	83.7	81.5
Applied Math 30						
Palliser	88.1	82.5	91.6	93.3	89.9	87.6
Province	76.3	77.6	76.1	87.6	85.5	80.9
Social Studies 30						
Palliser	91.8	91.2	96.3	92.1	85.6	92.6
Province	84.7	86.1	84.9	85.2	85.9	85.6
Social Studies 33						
Palliser	94.9	87.7	85.1	86.5	86.5	87.2
Province	85.3	84.8	80.9	85.1	82.9	84.4

	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Biology 30						
Palliser	89.4	87.1	80.0	85.8	89.2	84.7
Province	82.3	83.5	80.2	81.9	81.9	82.3
Chemistry 30						
Palliser	97.2	98.9	95.2	94.2	80.0	95.8
Province	89.2	89.3	89.0	88.1	85.7	88.6
Physics 30						
Palliser	100.0	90.3	86.2	95.0	93.5	93.0
Province	85.7	86.1	84.1	84.2	86.6	84.9
Science 30						
Palliser	95.0	100.0	93.8	100.0	84.6	97.9
Province	88.6	87.1	80.0	88.1	84.3	86.0

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS – STUDENTS ACHIEVING STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE BASED ON NUMBER OF STUDENTS WRITING						
	2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
English 30-1						
Palliser	17.1	20.9	20.5	17.8	12.3	18.9
Province	15.5	19.0	21.3	17.8	18.8	18.7
English 30-2						
Palliser	14.1	6.8	13.3	7.8	7.4	7.2
Province	8.8	9.7	8.3	10.1	7.1	9.3
Pure Math 30						
Palliser	31.1	16.1	38.5	27.7	29.0	22.4
Province	25.8	24.6	25.2	25.6	32.0	25.6
Applied Math 30						
Palliser	21.4	17.5	10.2	32.0	27.8	19.9
Province	10.7	12.1	11.8	21.8	14.3	15.2
Social Studies 30						
Palliser	32.8	25.7	33.3	24.5	23.0	26.0
Province	21.5	24.6	24.4	24.3	23.8	24.3
Social Studies 33						
Palliser	39.0	26.0	29.7	17.3	14.4	24.7
Province	18.9	19.6	19.7	17.6	15.0	18.7
Biology 30						
Palliser	37.5	20.1	18.0	25.7	22.5	21.8
Province	26.3	27.4	26.9	26.6	26.6	26.8
Chemistry 30						
Palliser	54.6	58.4	59.5	54.7	30.8	54.1
Province	39.2	37.9	38.5	33.4	27.9	36.1
Physics 30						
Palliser	91.2	38.8	13.8	43.8	45.7	40.3
Province	32.0	29.3	30.9	27.8	29.8	29.0
Science 30						
Palliser	45.0	20.0	12.5	40.0	15.4	24.2
Province	21.6	18.0	18.2	22.0	16.5	19.1

DIPLOMA EXAM RESULTS BY STUDENT WRITING MEASURE HISTORY

		2007-08 %	2006-07 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	Average %
Acceptable Standard	Palliser	92.7	90.0	90.4	90.9	86.9	91.0
	Province	85.0	85.4	84.7	85.7	85.8	85.0
Standard of Excellence	Palliser	33.8	24.3	26.0	26.7	21.7	27.8
	Province	22.3	23.3	23.0	23.0	22.2	22.9

RUTHERFORD SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY RATE

	2007-08 Targets	2007-08 %	2005-06 %	2004-05 %	2003-04 %	2002-03 %
Palliser	44.0	43.9	43.3	40.4	35.8	40.9
Province		38.2	37.2	35.3	33.8	32.5

The achievements of Palliser students result in access to the Rutherford Scholarship to assist in continuing their education at the post-secondary level.



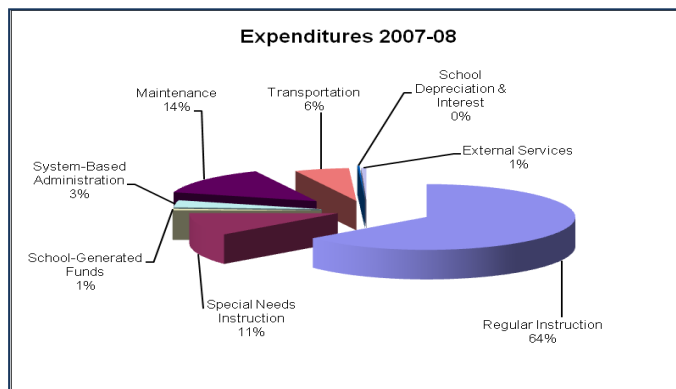
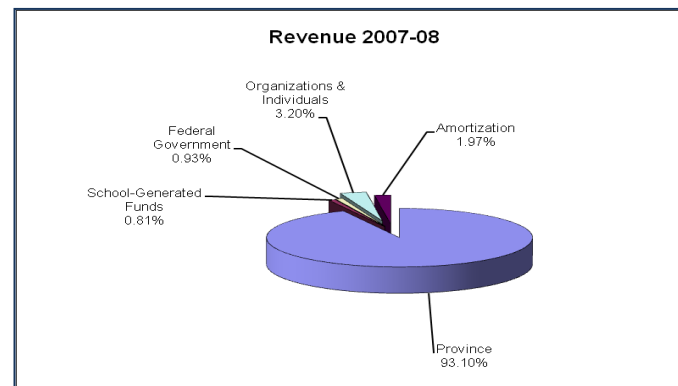
Future Challenges

- **Supporting the needs of our diverse school communities as we continue to add new schools both inside and outside our geographic area.** Palliser's rapid expansion has created opportunities to learn from our alternative school members and to explore new models of service delivery as we endeavour to meet the educational needs of all students.
- **Achieving the recommendations of the Organizational Review completed by ASBA.** As the new organizational structure is implemented, roles and responsibilities will continue to be defined, clarified and communicated to all stakeholders.
- **Setting the Direction for Special Education.** The province is currently engaging stakeholders in a process to revision the special education system. When the recommendations come forward, the school jurisdiction will need to develop a strategic plan to support students and staff in transitioning to the new model.
- **Retention of new teacher recruits and succession planning for professional staff nearing the end of their career.** An expansion to the Beginning Teacher Induction Program is planned for next year and an administrative mentorship program is under consideration. Continuing to partner with universities in the area of teacher recruitment is a Human Resources priority.
- **Evergreening technology hardware within a short time frame.** Development of the Technology Advisory Committee has been a successful endeavour of Palliser. TAC has developed a Technology Plan, which includes a roll-out of new equipment within the system over the next year. The current system is not able to support the software required to meet the needs of teachers and students.
- **Development of a new report card for Grades 1-9.** To support a learning environment based on the best professional knowledge and educational research, our school communities will participate in the development of a report card reflective of our assessment and grading practices.
- **Meeting Children's Services licensing requirements for preschools.** As Palliser provides preschool programs throughout our jurisdiction, we are mandated to meet the revised licensing requirements with regard to staffing ratios and qualifications.
- **Professional staff shortages.** The student health partnerships serving Palliser students continue to have serious difficulty recruiting staff in the areas of speech and language, occupational and physical therapy. Our jurisdiction is struggling to recruit a psychologist to serve the needs of our students in Calgary. Meeting teacher staffing needs in rural communities continues to be a challenge. Schools are experiencing increased difficulties finding substitute teacher.
- **Non-certificated staff shortages.** Staff shortages have been noted in such areas as school support staff and bus drivers. As the economy slows, this may be less of a challenge.
- **Meeting the professional development needs of staff while minimizing the impact on student learning.** Curriculum changes, integration of technology, strategies for inclusion, meeting the needs of beginning teachers are all worthwhile professional development opportunities that take teachers out of their classrooms.
- **Certificated and non-certificated staff evaluations.** With the addition of three new schools to Palliser for the 2008-09 school year comes the requirement to effectively evaluate these employees to determine their future with Palliser.

Board of Trustees Financial Report

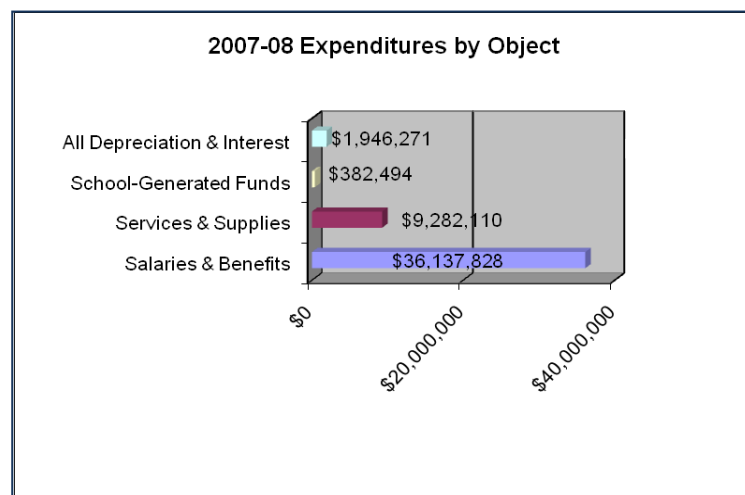
Revenue \$47,152,649

Province	\$43,899,024
School-Generated Funds	382,494
Federal Government	436,351
Organizations & Individuals	1,506,933
Amortization	927,847



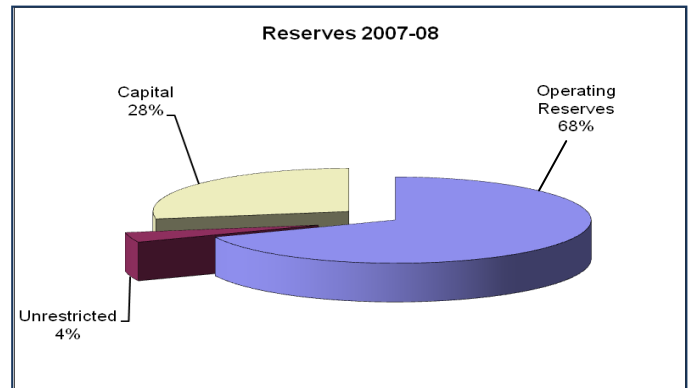
Expenditures \$47,748,703

Regular Instruction	\$30,485,462
Special Needs Instruction	5,370,225
School-Generated Funds	382,494
System-Based Administration	1,668,916
Maintenance	6,623,871
Transportation	2,834,625
School Depreciation & Interest	110,967
External Services	272,143



Reserves	\$4,107,774
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Operating Reserves	\$2,815,100
Unrestricted	152,186
Capital	1,140,488



2007-08 Deficit: \$596,054

NOTE: Detailed Audited Financial Statements are available by contacting Palliser Regional Division No. 26 or on the Palliser Regional Schools website at:

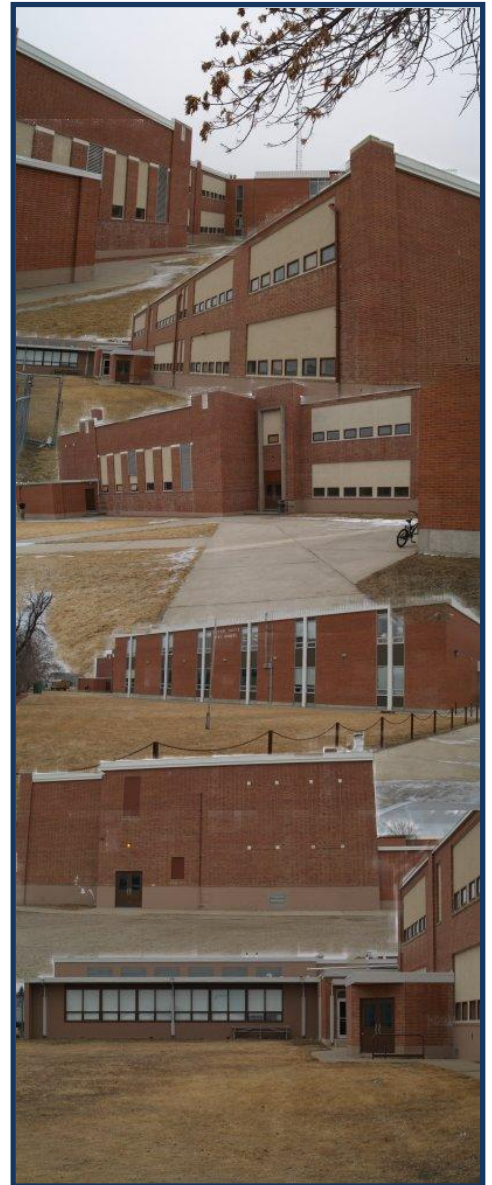
http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&Itemid=&gid=49&orderby=dmdate_published&ascdesc=DESC

Paper copies of the approved Audited Financial Statement are available for a small charge. For more information, contact James Richards, Director of Finance, Palliser Regional Schools at (403) 328-4111 (1-877-667-1234 toll-free).

Comparative information available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding/afs>.

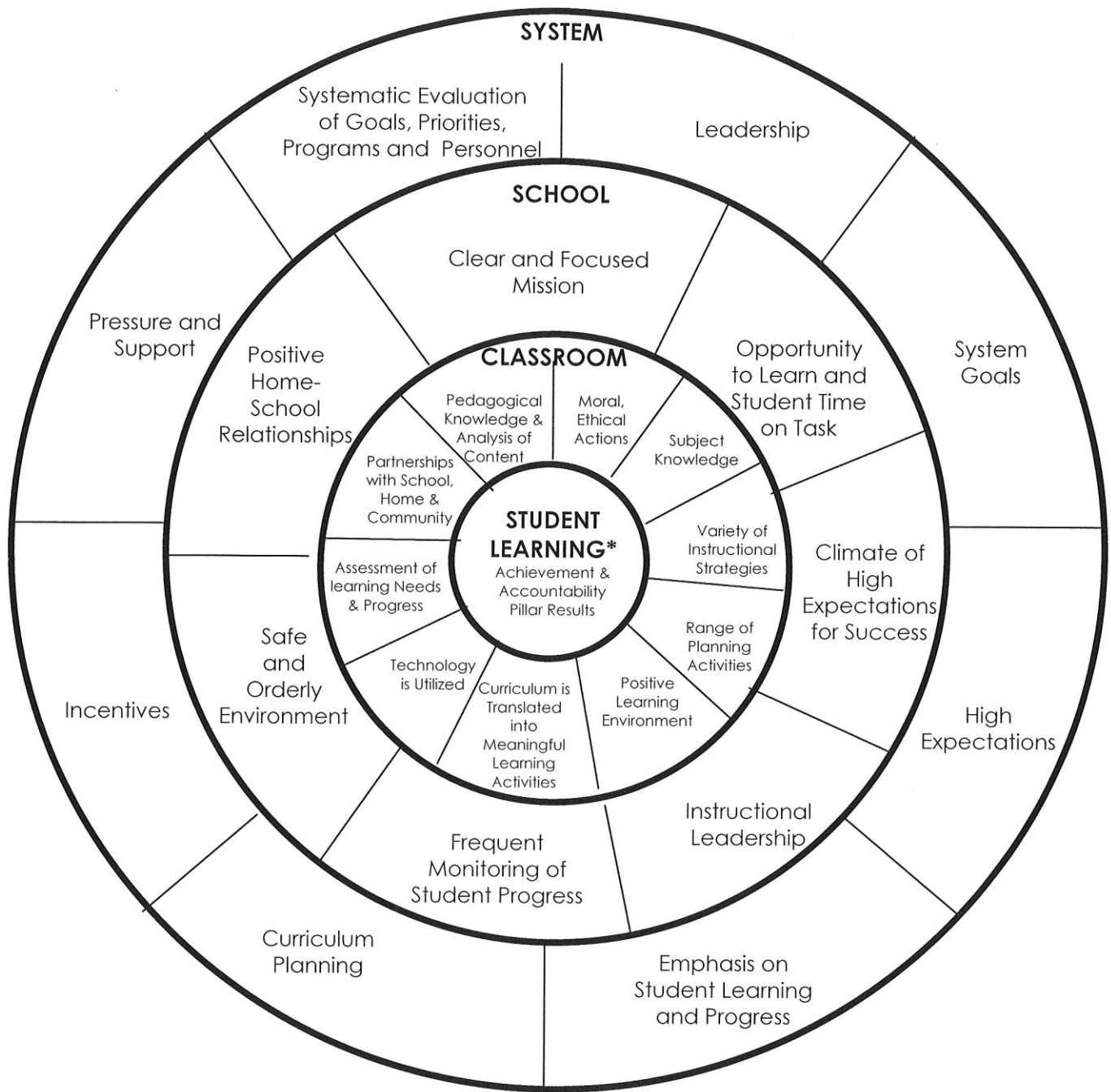
Capital and Facility Projects

- **Picture Butte High School Modernization Project** – In January 2008, Palliser Regional Schools was notified we would receive funding for its first priority under the 3-year Capital Plan: modernization of Picture Butte High School. Funding was awarded to modernize the school and create the appropriate-sized facility based on current and projected needs, which will significantly enhance the learning environment for students in the Picture Butte and neighbouring communities. In April 2008, we were advised that modernization funding in the amount of \$13.35 million is committed to the Picture Butte High School modernization project.



APPENDIX A

EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS MODEL



APPENDIX B

PALLISER SCHOOL NEWS 2007-08

September 5, 2007

HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT HERITAGE DAY

Nella Wolfe and Maria Dyck were recognized at the Heritage Day celebrations in Lethbridge on August 6th, 2007. Nella won the First Place Award for the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association's Essay Competition on Multiculturalism, for the Grade 7-9 category. Maria Dyck took second place in the same category. Both girls were honoured and given a monetary reward. Their teacher, Merena Johnson was awarded a plaque for her efforts in encouraging and guiding them.

Senator Joyce FairBairn, in her official opening of Heritage Day, quoted from Nella's essay, as did Mayor Tarleck in his opening address. Nella's essay was also printed in its entirety in the August 6th *Lethbridge Herald*. Congratulations on your accomplishment Nella and Maria!

September 7, 2007

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR GETS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Alison Stewart, on behalf of the R.I. Baker Middle School Choir is pleased to announce the commission of a special choral work composed by Dr. Howard Cable of Toronto. Through Ms. Stewart's association with Dr. Cable, he has offered his musical expertise to write a special piece of music for the choir. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for this ensemble and their performance in May/ June 2008 will mark its Canadian premiere.

Conductor, arranger, music director, composer, scriptwriter, radio and television producer, Dr. Cable has arranged music for groups including the Elmer Iseler Singers, Toronto Children's Chorus, Canadian Brass and Empire Brass. He has composed numerous scores for the National Film Board and Charlottetown Festival. He has served as principal pops conductor for several Canadian orchestras and appeared as guest conductor with orchestras across Canada and Japan. Over the course of his career he has directed over 2,000 radio broadcasts, and conducted and arranged for many of Canada's most celebrated television programs. For many years, he led the internationally renowned Howard Cable Concert Band. Cable has extensive experience as a music director and producer in a variety of venues -- Canadian National Exhibition, General Motors Showcase, Royal York Hotel, and on Broadway with New York theatre and studio productions. Dr. Cable is also known for composing the well-known theme to "Hockey Night in Canada" and his arrangement of our national anthem.

Ms. Alison Stewart and her choral ensemble look forward to receiving this commission and working with Dr. Cable.

PICTURE BUTTE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN JAMBOREE DAYS PARADE

Dorothy Dalglish and Picture Butte High School participated in the Jamboree Days Parade on August 18, entering a float that closely resembled a Palliser school bus! The float won 1st prize in the commercial float category. Staff and students joined in to help decorate the float, and several staff volunteered to walk the parade route along with Trustee Joe Watson and Dorothy Dalglish School Council Chair Don Boras. Children along the route were treated to candy handed out by the float participants!



PALLISER LAUNCHES NEW ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR LOW GERMAN MENNONITES

In response to an identified need in the district, Palliser Regional Schools will officially launch a new alternative program for Low German Mennonites beginning in the 2007-08 school year. The **Palliser LGM Alternative Program** will operate as a satellite campus of Huntsville School, and will be located in the Nobleford Community Centre. The Alberta curriculum will be offered to students from preschool to Grade 12 by a team of teachers and support staff familiar with the Mennonite culture. Bus transportation will be provided within the Nobleford attendance area. To register, or for more information regarding this new program, please contact Margaret Van Egmond, Principal, at 738-4522.

September 21, 2007

MILO COMMUNITY HOSTS TERRY FOX RUN

The Milo community held their 20th Annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 13th. They kicked off the run with the dedication of a plaque in memory of Mrs. Karen Forestell, who served as Milo School Principal for 10 years. It was an honour to have Karen's husband Paul there for the dedication. He also participated in the run. Thanks Mr. Forestell!!!

Rhonda Reisborough, representing the Calgary Terry Fox Office, gave a short speech. A crowd watched on as Nadine Bertschy, a Grade 4 student, had 10 inches of her hair cut for Wigs for Kids, a program that collects hair and makes wigs for children who lose their hair in cancer treatments. Over the past few years, 5 Milo School students have cut their hair in support of this great cause.

When the opening festivities had ended, away everyone went on a beautiful sunny day to complete the run down to Lake MacGregor and back, with participants ranging in age from 3 months to 80+. The run ended with a treat back at the school and then a barbeque for all participants. In all, the Milo community has raised \$12,607 to date. The week previously, Jim Piot, Principal of Milo School, challenged the students and the community, stating that if they raised a total of \$15,000, he would shave his head. Although the funds raised to date are \$2,400 shy of the \$15,000, Mr. Piot has extended the amount of time he will give students to raise the funds, and they are working furiously to raise that \$15,000. Joanne Monner, who coordinated the run, is ordering a Terry Fox toque to keep Mr. Piot's lid warm after it is shaved. The community is encouraged to call the Milo School (599-3817) and make a pledge. Thank you to all who supported this amazing event, including the participants, volunteers and, of course, those who generously pledged money for a very worthwhile cause!

DOROTHY DALGLIESH SCARECROW

Dorothy Dalgliesh School has entered its new student, Mary-Lou Dalgliesh, in the Picture Butte Home Hardware "Scarecrow Building for Charity" contest. Prominent in Mary-Lou's wardrobe is Palliser's motto and logo: Dream and Believe - Learn and Achieve. Stay posted for how Dorothy Dalgliesh does when they auction off the scarecrows at the end of October. All proceeds will be donated to the North County Food Bank in Picture Butte.



VULCAN PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GETS NEW PLAYGROUND

On Friday Sept. 7 and Saturday Sept. 8, a dedicated crew of volunteers turned up at Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School to help install a new Blue Imp playground. Working through rain and mud on Friday, the volunteers were happy to see the sun on Saturday for the final push. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everybody who poured concrete, raked gravel, made sandwiches and did whatever was needed to build the new playground for our children. A special thanks to the VPES School Council for organizing and funding the project!



October 1, 2007

MYRNA DEMBICKI TRAVELS TO GERMANY ON TEACHER EXCHANGE

It all started with a small ad in the ATA News about short-term teaching exchanges to Germany or Denmark with the organizational support of Alberta Education. Seven months later, Myrna Dembicki, a teacher at Coalhurst Elementary School, was on her way to Weisbaden, Germany, for a one-week exchange in July. While at the Pestalozzischule in Idstein, Germany, Ms. Dembicki participated in 'project week', taught a Grade 8 English class and observed a Grade 3 class. Ms. Dembicki's exchange partner, Doris Williams, will arrive in Canada October 6 and attend school at Coalhurst Elementary the following week. While the time involved for the exchange was small, the memories will continue to be large. Ms. Dembicki encourages interested teachers to watch for future ads about the exchange and apply to participate.

COMPTON PETROLEUM CORPORATION PARTNERS WITH VULCAN PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Compton Petroleum Corporation, a Calgary-based natural gas and crude oil exploration and development company, has generously donated \$15,000 to Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School for arts-related programs. Mr. Shain, Principal of VPES, on the advice of the School Council, has designated this funding for a set of African drums (djembe drums), visiting artist residencies and fine arts supplies.

Palliser Regional School and, in particular, Vulcan Prairieview Elementary students, thank Compton Petroleum and wish to recognize their commitment to the Vulcan community. Staff look forward to the partnership and the opportunity to provide a fine arts enriched program for their students. To find out more about Compton Petroleum you can visit their website at: <http://www.comptonpetroleum.com/index.php>

PALLISER REGIONAL SCHOOLS CANDIDATES FORUM

A "Meet the Candidates" night for the Palliser Regional Schools trustee election is planned for WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at R.I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale (2112 - 13 Street). This will be a forum for candidates and the public to discuss issues facing education today. Please enter through the front (east) doors of the school. Refreshments will be served following the forum. Admission is free!

KATE ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL STAFF PARTICIPATE IN CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure is an extraordinary single-day experience that unites more than 170,000 Canadians in over 50 communities across the country. Together, we're raising millions of dollars to fund innovative and relevant breast cancer research, education, and awareness programs in the communities where you live.



This year Kate Andrews sponsored a team of staff, parents, and students in the run. In addition, students and alumni from Kate Andrews were members of other teams.

Participants for this year included Lucy Johnson, Jodi Hiebert, Deb Hiebert, Lavonn Mutch, Stephanie Parker, Jason Schilling, Jean Spahmann, Raylene van Rijn, Mariah Horvath, Louellen McMullin, Brittany McCann, Taylor Chartier, Brittany Johnson, Sean Bryan, Chance Klassen, Nic Thiessen, Taryn Tamayose, Toni Piro, Rene Faubert, Magan Williamson, Larissa Wakeman, Korri Pickering, Colton Bodie, and Jason Wiens.

Colten Bodie finished the run in second place, with Jason Schilling ending up in third.

HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL ESTABLISHES SANDRA STRONKS MEMORIAL AWARD

In recognition of an outstanding bus driver who recently passed away, Huntsville School has established the Sandra Stronks Memorial Award, which will be presented to one student in the spring of each year and will recognize Safety and Citizenship on the Bus. Nominations will be made monthly by school bus drivers. Criteria for the nomination will be established by each driver, but certain baseline criteria will include:

- Students must ride in a safe manner.
- Students must be courteous, demonstrating respectful behaviour to the bus driver and fellow students

The award will be presented to the most frequently nominated student.

JENNIE EMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TERRY FOX RUN

On September 28, students at Jennie Emery Elementary School participated in the Terry Fox Run. Check out the picture gallery.

SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL GETS SPECIAL VISITOR

Sunnyside School had a very special visitor at their assembly on Thursday, September 27. Mr. Terry Fox (an uncle of the famous Terry Fox) came to the school to speak to the students about Terry's life as a young man. He told the students that, even as a small boy, Terry showed great determination and worked very hard to accomplish his goals. The Sunnyside students were thrilled to meet him and were very inspired for their Terry Fox School Run the next day. To make things even better, Mr. Fox showed up the next morning as a surprise to the students and parents and ran on the track with the entire school group! Sunnyside School raised their most ever for the Terry Fox Foundation- \$552.00.

BIOLOGY 20 FISH RESCUE - COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (VULCAN)

This year CCHS Biology 20 students participated in the annual Trout Unlimited Fish Rescue on the Bow River by Carseland. The students participate every year in this event and rescue on average 10,000 sport fish from the canals. These fish, if not attended to, would perish in the canals as cold winter temperatures come and the remaining water disappears. The students played an integral part in the species identification aspect of the study and their efforts were appreciated by the TU staff. The Biology 20 class is always welcome at the rescue and their contribution is an integral part of the ongoing Trout Unlimited inventory list of fish in Alberta. Great Job!



MR. G. LOSES HAIR FOR A GOOD CAUSE! (COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, VULCAN)



The entire student body and staff at CCHS participated in the Terry Fox campaign this year. Mr. Garinger challenged the student body and staff of County Central that if they could raise over \$4000 (which represented nearly \$14/student), the top sellers could take a turn shaving hair off his head. Not only did they meet the \$4000 mark, they exceeded the mark by nearly \$600 and all in only 4 short days of generating funds. It was quite a sight to see 300 students and staff members running or walking around the community of Vulcan. This year's Terry Fox Run was dedicated to Mrs. Karen Forestell, a long-time Principal in Vulcan County and previous principal to more than 2/3 of the students of County Central High School.



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION EVENINGS

Students and parents are invited to attend the annual Scholarship Information Evening. This event is hosted by Palliser high schools in conjunction with Chinook Regional Career Transitions for Youth.

During the evening we will cover how to search for available scholarships and tips to completing successful applications that will bring scholarship \$\$\$ to your pocket!

Kate Andrews High School (Computer Lab)

Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Picture Butte High School (Computer Lab)

Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

E-mail Sherryl Loman (sherryl.loman@pallisersd.ab.ca) for more information.

October 18, 2007

NEWS RELEASE FOR COALDALE & AREA PARENTS

**For more information regarding this illness, please contact Donna Strate,
Public Health Nurse, Chinook Health, at 345-3000.**

Today a high percentage of students at Jennie Emery Elementary School suddenly have taken ill with gastrointestinal illness, predominantly vomiting. The pathogens that cause these symptoms can be spread from person to person via contact with contaminated surfaces in the environment. (Check out the Hand Washing Techniques flyer provided by Chinook Health.)

As a result of this gastrointestinal illness, Chinook Health has advised us to close Jennie Emery Elementary School on Friday, October 19, 2007 for disinfecting and cleaning. Other schools will remain open on Friday.

Students that are ill with vomiting and diarrhea **MUST NOT** return to school until the symptoms have cleared up, as this illness spreads quickly. Chinook Health has provided a hand washing information sheet, which will be posted on our website (www.pallisersd.ab.ca) as a reminder that good hand washing technique is the best prevention measure.

Efforts are being made to transport students from Jennie Emery Elementary School home separately from other Coaldale schools. The school will be cleaned over the next few days, and regular classes will resume on Monday.

Our school division staff, in partnership with Chinook Health, is working to respond to the needs of your children. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent of Schools (Phone: (403) 328-4111)

Dr. Paul Schnee, Acting Medical Officer of Health (Phone: (403)388-6111)

For Friday, October 19, the Boys' and Girls' Club before/after-school program will be located at Nortondale Community Centre.

They will resume activities at Jennie Emery Elementary School on Monday, October 22.

UPDATE RE MILO COMMUNITY'S TERRY FOX RUN

Milo Raised \$15,000 + in their 20th Annual Terry Fox Run!!!! As promised, when the total monies raised hit \$16,147.00 in support of the Terry Fox Run, Mr. Piot, School Principal, bowed to pressure and had his head shaved. Local hair dresser Tracy Scattergood shaved Mr. Piot's head on Thursday, October 4th. Thank you Mr. Piot for your support and participation. You're a great sport!!!!



PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rutherford Scholarship is named after Alberta's first Premier and Minister of Education, Alexander Rutherford. The scholarship recognizes and rewards exceptional academic achievement at the senior high school level and encourages students to pursue post-secondary studies.

The scholarship has a maximum value of \$2,500 and is based on scholastic achievement in Grades 10, 11 and 12, with \$400, \$800 and \$1,300 awarded, respectively.

Picture Butte High School is proud to acknowledge the following 13 graduates of the Class of 2007 who earned a total of \$21,500 in Rutherford Scholarships.

Recipients of \$2,500 Scholarships

=====

Alan Asplund
Denae Baier
Kara Buekert
Raeanne Doerksen
Robbie Jakober
Ashlyn Vander Heyden

Recipients of \$1,700 Scholarships

=====

Justin Loman

Recipients of \$1,200 Scholarships

=====

JoAnne Cook
Laura Jensen
Landis Krahn

Recipients of \$800 Scholarships

=====

Yidong Han

Recipients of \$400 Scholarships

=====

Amanda Eriksen
Kaitlyn Hamza

Congratulations to Picture Butte High School student Robbie Jakober for receiving the 2007 EnCana High School Scholarship. This award is granted to a student who is pursuing post-secondary education in an oil and gas industry-related field (Engineering, Geology or Geophysics) through a degree, diploma or certificate program. Robbie will receive a \$10,000 bursary which will be disbursed in four annual payments of \$2,500.

COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VIDEOCONFERENCE WITH LONDON, ENGLAND

Markes Fredriksen's English 30 students are currently studying Shakespeare's *Othello*. Through the power of videoconferencing, students connected with Global Leap (www.global-leap.org), an international organization that assists classroom teachers connect globally with teachers, classrooms and curriculum experts. Students in Markes' English 30 class connected with Global Leap's Shakespeare expert in London, England to further their understanding of Shakespeare's *Othello* via video conferencing. Global Leap's Jerome Monahan led students through interactive activities, role plays and script readings and helped students interpret Act 2 of the play.

Markes was one of seven Palliser teachers that attended the provincial "Broadband Summer Institute" conference which focused on videoconference resources, applications and classroom connections. Currently Palliser has 14 videoconference suites in various schools throughout the district that can be utilized for classroom enhancement/connections, professional development, administrative purposes and also instruction. All but two Palliser schools have the technology and have the ability to connect with each other and around the world.

Over the past year, Palliser classrooms have made connections with content providers including: Tyrell Museum, Canadian Space Agency, Montreal Biosphere, University of Lethbridge, Galt Museum, and many classrooms and experts around the world. Videoconferencing technology has so much potential and enables teachers and students to connect with virtually anyone around the world from their very own classrooms. Palliser's Technology Integration Coordinator, Gord Smith, established a team of VC leaders representing each of Palliser's schools and regularly provides professional development and just-in-time support to teachers and students on a regular basis as they attempt to become more comfortable with this new medium of communications.

Many Palliser sites have already made big plans to utilize this technology within their classrooms over the next few months.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY"

On Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 Heritage Christian Academy will be having their first "School Improvement Day" of the year!! (Work bee, cleanup, etc.) Any staff and parents who can assist in making minor to major repairs and clean up around our school campus and encouraged to attend. Clean-up will start around 9:00 a.m. and they hope to finish by noon. Volunteers are invited to arrive a few minutes earlier and enjoy coffee and donuts. Anyone who wishes to help is asked to e-mail the school at info@hcacalgary.com or phone the office at 219-3201. Of course, you're always welcome to just "show up" and pitch in but responding will help to plan volunteer time most efficiently!

Thank you all in advance for your significant contribution in helping keep the Heritage Christian Academy facility in pristine condition!

If there are parents willing to organize childcare for this event please contact the school ASAP. Otherwise in order to be most productive, we are asking volunteers to leave elementary and preschool children at home.

PALLISER STUDENTS HAVE A "BLAST"

Mid-October, 9 students from Coalhurst High School, R.I. Baker Middle School and Picture Butte High School attended a youth conference in Medicine Hat. The BLAST program (Building Leadership for Action in School's Today) challenges youth in the schools to create a project that will get youth in their community to stop smoking, or stop youth from starting. The girls participated in the speaker sessions, and completed some team-building exercises including a climbing wall. Look for more news from us as the projects unfold.

ARROWWOOD SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN TERRY FOX RUN



The staff and students at Arrowwood School were excited, as usual, about participating in the annual Terry Fox Run. Following Mr. Cranston's challenge, they were even more so! Confidently he announced, "The family that brings in the most in donations and anyone who beats my time in the run may bring an article of clothing and I will wear it for a day!" Visions of bikinis, dresses, wigs, Oilers apparel and various other pieces whizzed through the minds of students and staff alike.



The day of the race was bright and promising. The runners lined up and put forth their best efforts with visions of their illustrious leader in various forms of dress spurring them on to the finish! Six and a half laps of Arrowwood, parents and fellow students cheering and encouraging each other, much sweat and personal achievement - then finally the race was complete for another year.

An impressive total of \$2499.35 was raised in support of cancer research! As for Mr. (or is it Mrs.?) Cranston, he looked absolutely smashing in his fancy, floral print frock, farmer's dancing boots, lovely blonde locks, Hollywood sunglasses, all topped off with an EDMONTON OILER'S CAP!

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR GETS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY – AGAIN!

An update on an article printed earlier this fall, Dr. Howard Cable of Toronto has offered to commission a SECOND PIECE for the R.I. Baker Middle School Choir which will be based on a French Canadian folk tune. The original piece - "Just One" - will be published this year and likely the French Canadian piece will be completed in 2008.

November 2, 2007

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

This year Heritage is not only a collection location for shoeboxes - Samaritan's Purse has chosen Heritage to be their media school! This will be such an amazing opportunity for Heritage and its students. On November 6, 2007, Samaritans Purse, the media, HAWKS, STARS and many more visiting dignitaries will be coming to our school for a short program beginning at 9:00 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend. At the end of the program, all students will participate in filling the helicopters and ambulances with the shoeboxes. We are encouraging every student this year to make a special point of filling a shoebox. Shoeboxes and forms are available from the school library (morning or after school). We will accept filled boxes until the morning of November 6, 2007. How to pack a shoebox:1. Pick up your shoebox from the library. (You can wrap it—lid separately—if you would like, but wrapping is not required.)2. Decide whether your gift will be for a boy or girl and choose an age category: (2-4), (5-9), or (10-14). Attach the appropriate BOY/GIRL label on the TOP of your box and mark the correct age category. Get labels from the school or from the Samaritan's Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.org.3. Fill your shoe box with a variety of gifts: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child who receives your box may write you back.) Please be sure to check the rules about what you may include—they have changed this year.4. Complete the form. Please include \$7.00 in an envelope on the top of the items in your box to help with shipping costs. Place it, along with your donation, inside an envelope. (Cheques are recommended and should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Gifts are tax deductible to the full amount extended by law.) If you are sending a note or photo to a child make sure you put it inside your box-not inside the envelope.

November 5, 2007

CANCERVIVE CYCLISTS VISIT PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

Last month, PBHS student Amy Dalton, who recently lost her mother to cancer, had a chance encounter with a group of cyclists from Cancervive, Alberta. Cancervive is a benefit to raise awareness and support for Canadian Cancer Survivors and their families. This fall more than 30 bicycling enthusiasts are participating in the third annual charity bike ride from Calgary to Austin. The goal of the group is to raise more than \$400,000 to support Cancer Survivor programs. Amy was at the school to watch a volleyball game when the cyclists stopped at the school for a rest. The group spent about an hour visiting with her and that visit will be featured on a DVD that Cancervive will produce to commemorate their trip to Texas. Amy was excited to be presented with her very own Cancervive rider's jacket.



Check out the [Picture Gallery](#) to see more photos of the Cancervive visit to Picture Butte High School.

PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS BURSARY

Robert Jakober, a 2006-07 graduate of Picture Butte High School, was recently selected as the Palliser Regional Schools system winner of a \$10,000 bursary sponsored by EnCana Corporation. Students residing in EnCana's operating areas who are embarking on post-secondary education in engineering, geology or geophysics are eligible to apply for an EnCana high school bursary. This four-year, \$10,000 award is available to students pursuing university or technical diploma programs. Check out [EnCana's](#) website for more information on how they invest in their communities.

Congratulations, Robert, on your selection as Palliser's 2007 award winner!

PBHS STUDENT MAKE UNIQUE DONATION TO LOCAL FOOD BANK



The Grades 7 and 9 classes at PBHS recently constructed 2 scarecrows to donate to the local food bank for auction. The scarecrows were placed in a prominent place in the community and bids were submitted by silent auction. Students donated the materials and worked together for several weeks to complete the projects.

The following are testimonials from some of the Grade 9 students:

- I think that there are many reasons for us to do something like this. It helps us to all work together and to socialize with each other. It also shows us that there are people in other communities less fortunate than us, and that if we all help just a little but, in total it can make a huge difference.

(Monica Murray)

- I think the purpose of making and donating a scarecrow to the food bank is to show that we as a community care and can work as a group to make something special. (Kaelin Boras)
- Laughter- I think that this activity was full of laughter because, as the 9B's made the scarecrow, there was a lot of laughter involved. The funds raised from our scarecrow will go to the food bank, which will give food and necessities to less fortunate people. The food, in turn, will bring happiness and laughter to a child who is not as fortunate as us. (Taylor Bexte)
- The purpose of giving back to the community of Picture Butte by donating a scarecrow to the food bank is to preserve the feeling of family. Picture Butte is a close-knit community and this project displayed that. By giving back, we can achieve so much more. (Tanessa Schacher)

R.I. BAKER STAFF ENTERTAINS STUDENTS

On Halloween, a number of the R.I. Baker Middle School staff participated in an "airband" sponsored by the Gr. 8 leadership class. The band performed for students, receiving a tremendous ovation.



PASS+ OUTREACH SCHOOL HOSTS WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST



The Welcome Back Breakfast at PASS+ Outreach School in Coaldale was very well attended the morning of October 17th. With smiles on their faces, staff cooked pancakes, ham and bacon, then joined the students to enjoy a friendly breakfast. This form of interaction is an important part of what PASS+ does in order to create a safe and caring setting for students. These positive relationship experiences carry over to the academic success of the students.

YELLOWKNIFE TEACHERS VISIT R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Wednesday, October 31, 2007, 5 teachers from the Yellowknife School District paid a visit to R.I. Baker Middle School to meet with teachers Cynthia Fritzler and Sherrie Nickel. A group of Yellowknife teachers attended 'The Velveteen Rabbit' presentation "Making Understanding by Design Real in the Classroom," in Las Vegas in the spring of 2007 - a session offered by Frizler and Nickel.

During their visit to Coaldale, the Yellowknife team had an opportunity to further discuss planning and implementing UbD in their classrooms. They also had a chance to meet and discuss UbD and Assessment for Learning at a district level with Donna Dalby, AISI Facilitator. Superintendent Kevin Gietz joined the group as they wrapped up the visit with lunch in the library.



R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL COOKING CLUB CASHES IN

Ally Thornton, CYCW for R.I. Baker Middle School, has secured a \$5000 grant to be used towards operating and expanding the RIBMS Cooking Club. The cooking club teaches students basic cooking skills and nutrition. The students meet once each week to learn how to prepare tasty and fun meals.

November 7, 2007

PRESENTATION PLANNED IN PICTURE BUTTE TO DISCUSS FUTURE FACILITY NEEDS

Staff from R.I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale will make a presentation to interested members of the Picture Butte community regarding the Middle School Concept the evening of November 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Picture Butte High School. One option contained in the recent Picture Butte & Area Study was to move to a middle school concept at Picture Butte High School. The Coaldale middle school team will discuss generally the middle school philosophy, and the steps that were taken when the grade reconfiguration took place in Coaldale, resulting in the middle school at R.I. Baker.

As a follow-up to the meeting on November 19, a member of Palliser's senior administration team will attend parent-teacher interview evenings at Picture Butte High School the evening of November 21, and Dorothy Dalglish School the evening of November 22 at Dorothy Dalglish, and will be available to answer any questions regarding options presented in the Picture Butte Area Study and the middle school concept.

Anyone interested in learning more about future facility options for the Picture Butte area is encouraged to attend!

November 12, 2007

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY LAUNCHES STUDENT NEWSPAPER

New program designed to give students a taste of journalism

Along with the dawn of a new era in Heritage Christian Academy's history, purchasing their building and joining Palliser Regional Schools, the school has launched an online newspaper, which will give students an opportunity to develop news writing and reporting skills, along with additional technical training in the area of web design and photography.

"It's great to have students excited and involved in their school," says program advisor Mr. Todd Diakow. Students will report on school activities and events for the entertainment and enjoyment of the school and local community. Posting the paper on the web rather than printing a paper copy will also make it accessible to the world. The paper, yet unnamed, will be published once a month. Check it out at www.hcacalgary.com under 'Students.'

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED "CLASSROOM OF THE MONTH"

The Grade 5B class of R.I. Baker Middle School has won the *Lethbridge Herald* "classroom of the month" designation for October 2007. This energetic group of students was nominated by their teacher, Ms. Stewart, for their improved effort in completing homework and their development of social responsibility, particularly with regard to their intuitive and sensitive approach to students with special learning needs in the classroom and throughout the school. As a result of their efforts, the class will receive a complementary pizza lunch, and a picture of the class and winning nomination letter will be printed in the *Lethbridge Herald*.

NOBLE CENTRAL SCHOOL RECEIVED QDPE DIAMOND RECOGNITION AWARD

For the second year in a row, Noble Central School has been awarded the QDPE Diamond Recognition Award. Sponsored by the Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD), the QDPE (Quality Daily Physical Education) Recognition Program recognizes excellence in physical education programs. Noble Central has received recognition for its Quality Daily Physical Education Programs at both the elementary and junior/senior high levels.

Congratulations! For more information regarding CAHPERD and the QDPE Recognition Program, check out the CAHPERD website.

November 13, 2007

COALDALE PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY



Thanks in large to the efforts of Family School Liaison Counsellor Lavonn Mutch and teacher Jodi Saad, Kate Andrews High School once more has a crew of dedicated students who have become part of the Peer Mentorship Program. This program is designed to match older teens having a spirit of caring and generosity with younger middle school students who would benefit from being involved with a positive role model. The mentors meet with their "partner" for an hour and a half one day a week in a supervised setting, which will continue for the remainder of the school year. During the meetings, there is a planned activity in which they jointly participate.

Mentors for this year include Miranda MacGillis, Sierra Orosz, Stephanie Parker, Lori Petite, Karin Wall, Kori Pickering, Larissa Wakeman, Emily Wall, Gage Wright, Jesse Wall, Sapphire Cunningham, Alycia Curtis, Danica Chabot, Jodi Hiebert, Kenny Davey, Daniella Doerksen, Britney Dunford, Renee Faubert, Tasha Klassen, Nicole Kaminski, and Doug Glasser. A special congratulations to these students for taking on this important role! Funding for this year is supplied through a grant from AADAC.

FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS COALDALE FOOD BANK



Thanks to the efforts of community-minded students, parents, and staff, the Coaldale Community Food Bank is once more replenished.

Students in Terry Hanna's Leadership class labeled over 2000 plastic bags with the collection date for the Food Drive. Then every Grade 9 student in the school helped to distribute the collection bags to each residence in Coaldale as part of their Daily Physical Activity requirement. Finally, the collection occurred on Saturday, October 13th. The donations that were provided by residents of Coaldale were picked up and delivered to the Coaldale Community Food Bank. Over \$3,100 worth of donations were collected from more than 350 residences.

Thanks go out to all the citizens of Coaldale who made donations for us to collect. Special thanks go out to Kevin and Devany Holland, Adam Janzen, Morgan Mickey, Raylene van Rjin, Melissa Fehr, Dylan and Donna Miller, Danny Roberts, Jake Pascal, Ashley Gillis, Avery Wall and Wyatt Whillans for picking up and delivering the donations.



November 16, 2007

KATE ANDREWS PRIDE IN SEMI-FINAL THIS WEEKEND

After pulling off a 21-11 win over the Cochrane Bow Valley Bobcats at the Enmax field last weekend, the KAHS Pride heads to Drumheller this weekend for the Provincial Tier IV semi-finals!

Congratulations on advancing to the semi-finals, and good luck to the Pride this weekend!

REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION AT CHAMPION SCHOOL

Champion School staff, students, Legion members and parents remembered soldiers, past and present, on Thursday, November 8. The group was welcomed by Principal Wayne Bennett, who then turned the microphone over to Student's Council Co-Presidents Skeeter Roy and Trevor Ferguson. They introduced two local WWII veterans, Howard Hagg and John MacDougall, who spoke to the students about what their life was like during the war and how they hoped our students would never have to experience what they did. The junior high band played "O'Canada" and "Amazing Grace," accompanied by the Grade 5/6 class playing the djembe drums. The service concluded with the Grades 3/4 class singing "Shine a Light for Peace."

SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH ALBERTA ROSE LODGE



Mr. Ken Van Cleave's Grades 5/6 class at Sunnyside School has been working with the Alberta Rose Lodge on for social studies projects. The seniors visited Sunnyside to celebrate Halloween with the students. They participated in cross-graded centres that the students had planned for the younger students, and ended the day with a luncheon for the students and seniors. The next combined event will be a Christmas celebration at the Alberta Rose Lodge in Lethbridge.

JENNIE EMERY ELEMENTARY PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Jennie Emery Elementary School students and staff participated in the Operation Christmas Child campaign again this year, collecting 108 Christmas boxes for children in other countries who are in need of a simple gift wrapped in a shoe box.

Congratulations students on a job well done!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



On November 6, 2007, Samaritans Purse, the media, HAWKS, STARS and many several dignitaries visited Heritage Christian Academy for a short program beginning at 9:00 a.m. In addition to the staff and students, many parents were also able to attend. At the end of the formal program, students participated in filling the helicopters and ambulances with the shoeboxes. All students were encouraged to make a special point of filling a shoebox. It was a great day for everyone who participated!



NOBLE CENTRAL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN PILOT PROJECT

Seven Distance Education students at Noble Central School are currently Piloting a new CTS course. When complete, these students will have acquired 5 credits in ELT and COM. They will also be prepared to write the A+ Certification Exam through CompTia. A+ Certification is the benchmark requirement for employment as a Computer Technician. This course is offered in a combination of online and practical work. The students work through the material offered on the Cisco site. They then complete the lab work on computers which have been donated by Computers for Schools. Students will learn how to build and repair computer hardware. Noble Central staff and students are excited to be involved in this partnership with Cisco Computers, Dell, Alberta Distance Learning Centre and Computers for Schools.

“ALBERTA’S BEST IS HIRING” VISITS COALHURST HIGH SCHOOL



The Coalhurst High School Career Prep 10 class had special guests in their classroom on Wednesday, November 14. Ken White of Alberta’s Best is Hiring, along with producer Gordon Sheppard, traveled from Edmonton to present information about their program to the students. Alberta’s Best is Hiring “connects Alberta’s top employers with Alberta’s top employees by doing company profiles that feature real employees telling you why they choose to work where they do,” says Mr. Sheppard. Job search skills are part of the Job Preparation Course (CTR1010), and this presentation dovetailed nicely with the current curriculum. Students went away from the presentation with not only a cool pen, but also a

new awareness of options that are available to today’s youth in the work world. They were encouraged to look at what the work world offers through a “reality filter”, to be critical viewers and to seek opportunities.



This is the first time that Alberta’s Best is Hiring has visited a school. Teacher Emma Lenz had previously requested a copy of their first season’s program to use as a resource in her classroom. Jim McNally, from The Commercial Factory, was on hand with his camera to record the event and to assist with interviews after the presentation. Two videography students recorded footage of the event for a school project, and students in the class studying Videography were given the opportunity to ask questions about producing videos and about work options in the television market. For more information about Alberta’s Best is Hiring, go to www.albertasbest.com. The program can be seen on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. on CityTV.

COALHURST HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES 8 CLASS CHRISTMAS GIFT FUND

As part of an inquiry-based project in their study of Worldviews, students in Michael Saad's Grade 8 Social Studies class have been working on fund-raising strategies to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts for underprivileged children, schools and villages in the developing world. Devising a variety of different fund-raising strategies, from bake sales to town campaigning, student groups have collectively raised over \$1400 thus far and are planning to purchase toys, sports equipment and medical packages from the World

Vision 2007 Christmas Catalogue. The students have already done an awesome job of shattering the "realistic" \$500 class goal Mr. Saad had set for them in late October, and plan to have even more money raised in time for the World Vision Project deadline of December 12th, when the students get to order their gifts through the online catalogue.

For more information on the class project, please visit their website at <http://www2.worldvision.ca/gifts/event/233510>.

"READING – MAKE IT YOUR GOAL" AT R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL



On Friday, November 2, R.I. Baker Middle School had the honour of being selected to host the Lethbridge Hurricanes and kick off the "Reading - Make it your Goal" program. This program is sponsored by The Lethbridge Herald and the Lethbridge Hurricanes for Grade 5 students in Lethbridge and surrounding areas. Reading - Make it Your Goal encourages Grade 5 students to read or be read to. For every 100 minutes that the student reads, they are awarded with a bookmark featuring one of the Lethbridge Hurricane players. All students hope to read 1000 minutes in order to collect all 10 of the bookmarks. The program will run for the month of November.

Fifteen of the Hurricanes arrived at 9:00 a.m., along with the coaching staff, to be greeted by all Grade 5 students. The Hurricanes were introduced to students and answered many questions, ranging from what was their favorite book, to questions about their individual hockey careers. The Hurricanes then broke up into groups of three and read to students. The highlight of the morning was the autograph signing session where students had everything from their agendas to their shoes signed.

(The following participants in the November 2 event have ties to R.I. Baker: Jennifer Matis, Program Coordinator, and Ian Martens, Photographer for the Lethbridge Herald are both R.I. Baker Alumni; and Lethbridge Hurricane Coach Micheal Dyck is the son of a former R.I. Baker Assistant Principal.)



November 19, 2007

VIDEOCONFERENCING EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PALLISER STUDENTS

Students from Milo, Vulcan, Champion, Arrowwood and Coaldale participated in a live videoconference with Galt Museum staff - Belinda Crowson, Education Coordinator, and Wendy Aitkens, Curator - on November 15.

Check out a recent article in the [Lethbridge Herald](#) highlighting this awesome opportunity for Palliser students.

KATE ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

On November 15th students from Kate Andrews High School participated in a videoconference to learn how to take action on climate change and other environmental problems. The KAHS students that participated were from Jodi Saad and Will Wegenast's Grade 9 classrooms, and they were joined by students from Ohio and Florida. Together they witnessed a presentation delivered by award-winning environmentalist Jeremy Doochin. Near the end of the videoconference, a few students were given the opportunity to ask Mr. Doochin questions that were created during a prior lesson which included a brainstorming session, independent research and a pre-test aimed at assessing the student's prior knowledge on environmental issues. The presentation was entitled "Its Easy Being Green" and showcased how easy it is to dramatically reduce our energy consumption and have an impact on climate change. "I was surprised at how easy it is to be environmentally friendly" says Grade 9 student Jordanne Moses. "I didn't realize that one recycled pop can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3hours!" Jordanne's comments reflect how seemingly small changes such as using energy-efficient lights, keeping our car tires fully inflated, recycling, composting and turning lights off when leaving a room are habits that we can easily incorporate into our daily lives as part of a larger effort to save the environment.

November 27, 2007

SUNNYSIDE STUDENTS TRACK CANADIAN WORLD SKELETON TEAM

The students at Sunnyside School have joined together with Carla Pavan, a member of the Canadian World Skeleton Team. Students will be logging on to Carla's website and following her activities on the Internet as she competes around the world in her pursuit of the being on the Canadian team for the next 2010 Winter Olympics. Carla's first World Cup race is on November 29 in Calgary. Go Carla Go!

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VIDEOCONFERENCE WITH CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY



Doug Pharis' grade 7 students at R.I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale participated in a videoconference with Pat Sullivan from the Canadian Space Agency on Monday, November 19. Approximately 24 students interacted with Mr. Sullivan for approximately 2 hours to learn about the effects that space has on the human body. Pat is a project manager of the Operational Space Medicine Division of the Canadian Astronaut Office working on space physiology studies for Canadian astronauts. He is working on projects related to decompression sickness in space, and exercise counter-measures for the muscle atrophy and bone demineralization suffered by astronauts.

Students learned about the different effects that space has on the vision, muscles and balance. They were able to participate in various activities and simulations to help them better understand what astronauts experience in outer space. The conference was very informative, interactive and provided students with a deeper understanding. "Having the opportunity to ask someone from the actual space agency was very exciting," says one student.



Students in Rocky Wilson's and Doug Pharis' classrooms will participate in a number of similar videoconference sessions with the CSA over the next 2 years. Mr. Wilson is the VC leader and lead teacher in a formal research project that involves CSA, a University of Lethbridge research team and a handful of other Alberta science classrooms. The research focus is whether or not videoconferencing and connections with the Canadian Space Agency will actually improve students' overall interest in science over the next 3 years.

Palliser Regional Schools has been using VC technology extensively over the past 2 years to create classroom connections and enhance curriculum by connecting teachers and students to others around the world. Gord Smith, Palliser's Instructional Technology Coordinator, facilitates teachers to make these connections and create these interactive learning experiences. An upcoming VC project in Palliser is "Read Around the Planet," a literacy project that connects classrooms around the world.

DOROTHY DALGLIESH SCHOOL SPORTING NEW SIGN



Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the Picture Butte Betterment Society, Dorothy Dalgliesh School is the proud recipient of a new sign, which sits on the southeast corner of the school grounds. The new sign will serve to notify parents and community members of the many interesting events taking place at Dorothy Dalgliesh School.

BULLY PREVENTION WEEK AT JENNIE EMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



November 19-23 was Bully Prevention Week at Jennie Emery Elementary School. Students took home pamphlets and handouts exploring what bullying looks like in our schools, workplaces, at home and in the community. All students took part in a Bully Prevention Solution Contest, and one student from each classroom was dubbed a "Bully Buster" for their creative solutions to stop bullying. Their name and solution was placed up on the Bully Bully-tin Board, under the "Yellow Brick Road to a Bully-Free World." On Friday, November 23, JEES staff and students took part in our very own Bully Prevention Day. All students and staff wore the color blue as a sign

of peace and as a symbol of strength in numbers as a way to stand up against bullying! Thank you to all students and staff who participated, and congratulations to the winners.



MENNO SIMONS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SR. BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM TAKES ZONES



The Menno Simons Christian School Senior Boys' Volleyball Team represented their league in the South Central Zones volleyball tournament this past weekend in Oyen. They were undefeated in all five matches they played and took home the gold medal! Congratulations to the boys and their coach, Harvey Driedger, for an outstanding season.

BRANT CHRISTIAN STUDENTS BOX FOR A GOOD CAUSE!



On Tuesday, November 13, 15 high school students from Brant Christian School volunteered with the Operation Christmas Child shoebox program at Samaritan Purse's warehouse in Calgary. They helped inspect locally donated shoeboxes and packed them in cartons for international shipping.

According to students, the experience was overwhelming. As they opened each box, which was lovingly packed by strangers, they were touched by the idea that people here could care so much for children they would never see but indelibly impact. The amount of time and money it took to create these boxes was awe-inspiring to the Brant students. They loved seeing the handwritten notes that accompanied many of the boxes, often written by local children with wishes of hope. For the Brant students, they were moved just by imagining the excitement of a destitute child opening a shoebox full of simple yet hope-giving items. In their minds, Operation Christmas Child has proven its success - not only does it change the lives of the children receiving the gifts, but also the people involved along the way in the process of giving of those gifts.



PICTURE BUTTE KINGS CROWNED ZONE CHAMPS



The Picture Butte High School Kings are the 2007 South Zone Champs in 2A Boys Volleyball. The Kings went into the Zone Championship as the #1 seeded team and lived up to the billing at the tournament. After going undefeated through the preliminary round, the PBHS boys knocked off Senator Gershaw High School in two straight sets to advance to the final. In the final, the Kings prevailed over F.P Walshe School, again in two straight sets, sending them to the Provincial Championships in Bawlf. At the Provincial Championships this past weekend, the PBHS Kings finished second in their pool in the preliminary round, lost a close three-set match in the Quarter Finals to the eventual Provincial Champs from Grand Trunk School.

Congratulations to the Picture Butte High School Kings on an outstanding 2007 season!

PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE NASA CAREERS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

On Thursday, November 29t the Math 9A class from Picture Butte High School connected via videoconference with Scott County High School in Georgetown, Kentucky, and the NASA Marshall Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The connection was part of NASA's "Toys in Space" series where students are introduced to careers within NASA and asked to take on those roles to create a toy that is suitable for space. The three sites will connect again in 2weeks so students can market their new toys to the other school and to NASA.

KATE ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS NEW MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT COURSE



Lion's Den Clothing is the first Junior Achievement associated company that has involved students at Kate Andrews High School. The company consists of President Layne Wilson and various Vice Presidents: Josh Campbell is the VP of Marketing, Sonny Naim is the VP of Finance, Stefan Lenz is the VP of IT, and Kaoru Ueda is the VP of Production. Lucy Johnson is the teacher of the course.

The purpose of Junior Achievement's company program is to teach students about the various aspects of a business. It offers students the opportunity to learn about the process involved in the conception, organization, operation and completion of a fiscal cycle of a business. To date, the management team of the Lion's Den Clothing has been responsible for a variety of duties including raising capital by selling shares, preparing a business plan, and the advertising, promoting and selling of Kate Andrews High School apparel.

The company is currently waiting for their clothing inventory to come in. Once the distribution of the clothing apparel has been completed, the management team will be responsible for liquidating the company and preparing a final shareholders report. Shareholders should expect a 110% return on their initial investment.

VULCAN PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER RECEIVES PROVINCIAL AWARD



During the Annual General Meeting assembly, the Alberta School Boards Association recently recognized outstanding first-year teachers. Among those recognized was Palliser teacher Kristen Teneycke, who began her teaching career with Palliser Regional Schools during the 2006-07 school year.

In the photo above, zone winners show off their new watches. Congratulations to: **Myranda Shepherd**, Clearview School Division No. 71 (*Zone 4*); **Lindsay Jones**, Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No. 14 (*Zone 2/3*); **Jenaia Pedwell**, Sturgeon School Division No. 24 (*Zone 2/3*); **Jennifer Taggart**, Rocky View School Division No. 41 (*Zone 5*); **Kristin Teneycke**, Palliser Regional Division No. 26 (*Zone 6*) and **Jenny Van Kempen**, Peace River School Division No. 10 (*Zone 1*).

A special congratulations goes out to Kristen from the Palliser educational team!

CHAMPION SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN PENNY RACE



Students and staff at Champion School have just completed a penny race, and the final count was 1288 rolls. The winning team (pictured) was teacher Pam Matlock and the Cougars, who brought in 474 rolls. They, along with the 2nd and 3rd place teams, will travel to Vulcan and use the money to purchase Christmas gifts to place under the wish tree at Wes Fulton Agencies. The 4th place team will be purchasing groceries to donate to the food bank.

December 19, 2007

PAM AND THE HAIRNETS AT THE MUSTARD SEED



What do you get when you combine PAM cooking spray with 20+ people in hair nets? You get the Brant Christian School making lunch for Mustard Seed! On Friday morning, November 30th, an eager group of aspiring cooks headed to Calgary to prepare and serve hundreds of street clients. The Mustard Seed has been in existence in Calgary for over 20 years as a downtown shelter for people living on the street. While some of the students cooked the hot lunch, another group was busy prepping food for bagged lunches. Meanwhile, another group helped sort through donated winter clothing for the Seed clients.

One of the highlights of the excursion was working under the direction of Warren, the head cook. Warren was a former client to the Seed. After guidance and rehabilitation through the Seed, Warren is now working for the facility and has gotten his life back on track. Because of success stories like Warren, the Seed has a vision to enable people to re-enter society through retraining and education opportunities, job placement services, and rehabilitation programs. In the meantime, the Brant Christian School students counted it a true privilege to serve and encourage those who struggle to live on the margins. PAM and the hairnets was a definite hit!

CHRISTMAS MENTORING PROJECT IN COALDALE SCHOOLS

Melanie Vegter's Grade 8 class at R.I. Baker Middle School got together to teach Karen Thomas' Grade 4 class at Jennie Emery Elementary School some sewing skills. Using the blanket and running stitches, the classes completed Christmas stockings which will be filled and delivered to the hospital for CHR volunteers to deliver to patients during the Christmas season.

As part of the health curriculum on mentorship and volunteerism, these classes will come together throughout the year to complete projects for other places.



COALHURST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR WORLD VISION CHRISTMAS FUND

Special thanks to all students, parents, businesses, and community members who supported the Coalhurst High School Social Studies 8 Class World Vision Christmas Gift Fund. Together the students raised \$2020 and used the money to purchase the following gifts for children and families in developing nations:

1. A stable full of animals (2 cows, 2 sheep, 2 chickens, 2 hens, 2 rabbits, 2 goats, 2 mules, and 2 pigs) for a third world village, providing the people with milk, fertilizer, wool, and food (total cost \$1200)
2. A complete furnishing of a school in a developing country, including chairs, desks, maps, and blackboards (\$500)
3. A set of soccer balls for a school playground in a developing country (\$30)
4. A small parcel of pasture land for a family in the third world to farm (\$50)
5. Ten fruit trees for a community in the third world to plant and grow (\$60)
6. A complete immunization program (Measles, Mumps, Polio, Tetanus & Tuberculosis) for a developing world village (\$100)
7. Foodstuffs to feed a third world family for one month (\$45)
8. Three warm blankets for homeless people in developing countries for the winter season (\$30)
9. The remaining \$5 was donated to World Vision to provide Christmas gift cards to families to use for Christmas time.

As a result of the students' hard work and the generosity of all those who donated, the Grade 8 Social Studies class will be recognized with a special plaque and certificate signed by World Vision President Dave Toycen commemorating the students' efforts. A representative from World Vision will be making a formal presentation to the class in the late spring 2008, thanking them for their efforts and providing them with a listing of exactly where their money has been spent and exactly who benefited from the money.

SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CROSS-GRADED ACTIVITY



The students at Sunnyside School were involved in a cross-graded activity over the past month. The students were put into 8 teams that included students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The teams were given the same supplies and had to work together to develop a theme and decorate their tree. The students worked very well together and the trees turned out beautifully. They were used to help decorate the gym and set the tone for our Christmas Musical, *"North Pole Exposure."*

PALLISER ERECTS WALL OF FAME TO HONOUR SUCCESS



The 2006-07 school year will be remembered as the year Palliser Regional Schools erected its inaugural Wall of Fame. Located at Palliser Centre, which houses the division's central office operations, the Wall of Fame now adorns a large wall on the main hallway. The Wall honours former students and staff of Palliser Regional Schools and the former systems within the geographic area now known as Palliser. At the request of the Board of Trustees, the Wall was created in celebration of individuals whose association with Palliser Regional Schools led to success in their personal career, as well as the success felt by their peers and colleagues within the school system. The inaugural inductees include:

- Tony VanderWoude - graduate of Noble Central School (Nobleford) - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of publishing
- Thomas Peacocke - graduate of Barons School - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in fine arts
- Barry McFarland - graduate of County Central High School (Vulcan) - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in politics
- Rick Casson - graduate of Picture Butte High School - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of politics
- Dr. Eddie Kwan - graduate of County Central High School - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of ophthalmology
- Shannon Kleibrink - graduate of Kate Andrews High School - honoured in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of athletics

We are extremely proud of the successes of our former students and congratulate those inducted to the Palliser Wall of Fame in 2007. Nominations for 2008 inductees to the Palliser Regional Schools Wall of Fame are now being accepted. If you would like to nominate a former student or employee of Palliser or its predecessors (County of Lethbridge, Vulcan County, Barons Consolidated School District), please complete the [Nomination Package](#) and forward it to the attention of the Superintendent of Schools at #101, 3305 - 18 Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 5S1. Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of Board members, school staff and senior administration staff. It is anticipated the 2008 inductees will be chosen by early May 2008.

SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL LAUNCHES CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Sunnyside School is accepting registrations now for the Christian preschool program beginning January 8, 2008. This program will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m. Students should be 4 years of age. For more information, please call Marian Biggins, Early Intervention Specialist for Palliser Regional Schools at 328-4111.

January 7, 2008

SUNNYSIDE STUDENTS CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP WITH ALBERTA ROSE LODGE

Ken Van Cleave's Grade 5/6 class has partnered with Alberta Rose Lodge residents in an effort to connect these generations and learn about life in Canada in the early 1900's. The students and seniors have met on three different occasions involving different activities. Alberta Rose residents visited Sunnyside School for a Halloween party and enjoyed games with students.

Sunnyside students are building relationships and learning valuable lessons from the Lodge residents. On their most recent trip in the middle of December, students asked each resident to respond to the question, "what did you get for Christmas when you were our age?" The responses have stuck in the minds of our students. "I remember getting a pair of socks and some peanuts left on a plate by Santa." Another was lucky enough to get a doll for Christmas. Obvious in the faces of students were feelings of appreciation and humbleness, thoughts and feelings that cannot be taught in a classroom.

VULCAN PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS IN CALGARY



The Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School Children's Choir traveled to Calgary on December 11 to sing in the lobby of the building that houses the school's corporate partner - Compton Petroleum. Following their presentation, students were treated to pizza, pop and the view from the 34th floor. Students reported that they could see all of Calgary and all the way to the mountains! Special thanks to Mr. Sillito, Vice Principal at Prairieview, and Mr. Leonard at

Compton for organizing the event!

January 24, 2008

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WATCH KNEE REPLACEMENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE



On Wednesday, January 9, students at R.I. Baker Middle School had the opportunity to watch a knee replacement surgery through a videoconference live feed. The Grade 8 class, as part of their science curriculum, got to see first-hand the sights and sounds of the operating room, and were able to interact with the surgeons as the surgery was underway.

The photo to the left (also from *The Lethbridge Herald*) shows one student's response to the procedure. Check out [The Lethbridge Herald](#) story that appeared in the January 10 edition for all the details and for more on students' responses to this exciting opportunity!

January 30, 2008

KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION AND FREE PRESCHOOL SCREENING

If you have a 3-5 year old child who is not currently enrolled in a preschool or kindergarten program for the fall (September 2008), check out the [NOTICE RE KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION](#) for details on kindergarten programs in your area and dates for free preschool screening.

PAJAMA SPIRIT DAY AT DOROTHY DALGLIESH SCHOOL FOCUSES ON RESPECT



Dorothy Dalgliesh School's word of the month: RESPECT! The Grade 6 Leadership class recently led students in a demonstration of collaborative respect stories written by all children in the school. Teachers also participated by performing a RESPECTful lipsync of Aretha Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" to motivate children. There was nothing sleepy about the action during the Pajama Spirit Day at DDS!



WINTERACTIVE DAY AT R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL



Friday, January 18, was WinterActive Day, and R.I. Baker Middle School was chosen by Be Fit For Life to participate in a province-wide videoconference and winter activity. A Grade 6 class represented the school in a videoconference that included the sharing of winter activities happening at each of the schools, as well as a warm-up dance routine that each school participated in. The entire R.I. Baker student population then broke into cross-graded advisory groups and participated in Winter Wonderland Stations. The stations celebrated and promoted winter activities and included a paper skate, snow soccer, a snowball catapult, along with many other activities. It was a fun day for all who participated!

January 31, 2008

DRAMA AT PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 10 Production of the "The Apple" - A One-Act Comedy by Jimmy Brunelle

On January 18th, the Grade 10 Drama class, a group comprised entirely of girls, performed a one-act play entitled "The Apple" for an audience of 70 students, teachers and parents. The play itself can be described as an over-the-top satire about the perceptions that people create and project upon art. It explores, in a comedic way, how some people mistakenly think a work of art is responsible for their perceptions, and how sometimes this thinking can culminate in an act of censorship. This play, complete with an Elvis impersonator, a mime, three outrageous art critics, a terrorist, and several other equally bizarre characters, explore the 'new' art exhibit, an apple, accidentally set aside by the art gallery custodian. The Drama 10 group worked diligently to reproduce famous paintings and original sculptures to create an art gallery setting. Costumes and a well-edited sound track contributed to an immensely entertaining final production.



February 4, 2008

LOCAL EXPERTS PRESENT AT EDMONTON SHOWCASE



All of us will remember January 28, 2008 as a bitterly cold day across southern Alberta. Marian Biggins, Palliser's Early Intervention Specialist, and Isabelle Plomp, consulting teacher, are more likely to remember it as the day they were invited to present at an **Innovative Practices in Speech & Language Conference** in Edmonton. No, it was NOT warm there either!



For the past 4 years, Marian and Isabelle have been building Palliser capacity to support the language learning needs of our ECS children during a time when professional speech-language pathologists are in short supply. A classroom of approximately 25 Palliser staff - learning assistants and preschool educators - benefit each year from the course Marian and Isabelle offer using the Hanen training for educators, "*Learning Language and Loving It Program for Early Childhood Educators/Teachers*," as well as offering "*Teacher Talk*" to Palliser teachers. These programs help to promote children's social, language and literacy development. Staffs learn how to create an enriched interactive language learning environment that includes children with special needs, children who are second language learners, as well as typically developing children. "Teacher Talk" is a compression of the "Learning Language and Loving It" course. A tremendous benefit to the Hanen approach is that it was designed to be implemented into existing early childhood programming. It does not require children to be pulled out of the classroom setting for direct therapy intervention so, in fact, every child benefits.

The Hanen program provides remarkable capacity building strategies for meeting the needs of youngsters experiencing developmental delays in language. The Hanen sessions are divided into eight teaching sessions - a minimum of 20 hours of teaching time, in addition to 5 or 6 videotaped sessions of each class participant implementing the strategies. Once taping is done, feedback sessions occur with each participating staff member. This is a self-discovery process during which skills are tweaked.

Marian was instrumental in researching and pursuing this training as a proactive approach to meeting children's language needs. And it supported her philosophy that our parents and our staff could, with training, make a difference for our ECS children's language development. After diligently working to meet Hanen requirements, Marian and Isabelle were approved as two of the first group of 25 teachers from across Canada to receive the training in Toronto at the Hanen Centre.

Congratulations, Marian and Isabelle - educational innovation inspires us all!

February 7, 2008

CUPSTACKING TOURNAMENT



January 25th brought snow and ice, but that didn't keep these cups from flying! With students from Nobleford, Coaldale, Dorothy Dalglish and Sunnyside Schools attending, the cups were being stacked with lightning speed. All students competed in their individual events and then participated in a "stack off" against the other schools. The next tournament is planned for Coalhurst Elementary School and should prove to be even bigger!

CTS MOBILE UNITS LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

PALLISER REGIONAL SCHOOLS IS EXPECTING DELIVERY OF TWO CTS MOBILE RAINING LABS IN MAY 2008!



The Palliser Regional Schools Board is hosting a **LOGO DESIGN CONTEST** and invites you to design a unique design/logo to be placed on the side of a CTS mobile unit. The logo should be appropriate to the region where the CTS mobile unit will be stationed. One unit will be deployed within the Vulcan County, and the other will be placed within the County of Lethbridge.

Please forward electronic entries by e-mail to the attention of:

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent of Schools (kevin.gietz@pallisersd.ab.ca) no later than **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

February 12, 2008

BARN DANCE AT SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL

Sunnyside School is having a Barn Dance! On Saturday, March 1, 2008 Sunnyside School students and their families are invited to attend a Barn Dance, Beef-on-a-Bun Supper, Bake Sale and Silent Auction from 5:00 until 8:30 p.m. Festivities will include a live band, line dancing and balloon animals, and a photographer will be available to take country-style family portraits. The evening promises to be a great time for everyone! Contact Sunnyside School for tickets at \$5.00 per person (under 4 are free). Come on out to the school for some old-fashioned fun!

February 22, 2008

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES IN COALDALE!



Karen Thomas' Grade 4B class at Jennie Emery Elementary School joined Melanie Vegter's Grade 8 R.I. Baker Middle School health class to teach them how to make chocolate roses. The Grade 4 comments ranged from "They learned really fast" to "I had to show them a couple of times because they didn't listen." Each student completed one chocolate rose which was then put into a Valentine's decorated vase. The Grade 4 class delivered the roses to the Sunny South Lodge for the seniors to enjoy.

HUNTSVILLE CELEBRATES



February 14 was a Celebration at Huntsville for more reasons than Valentine's Day! The day started with a celebration assembly to thank the Centennial Homecoming Committee, Chinook Health Region and Parent Council for the funds to purchase new sports equipment. Pictured are representatives from the different grade levels, posing with Lea Jorgensen, Chair of Parent Council. Surrounding the students are samples of the new equipment. The Eat Well: Play Hard grant has made a difference –with matching funds from Parent Council and a donation from the Homecoming Committee, the students are enjoying the benefit of new equipment and expanded programming. In addition to the DPA activities, the school sponsors a youth activity afternoon, one weekend a month, and a family action evening, one evening a month, as well as school sports challenges with Sunny Side School. We are endeavoring to Eat Well and Play Hard.

HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL ATTENDS READER'S THEATRE



Shari Rogerson's Grade 2 Class treated Huntsville School to a Readers' Theatre presentation of "Tacky the Penguin." The presentation came at the conclusion of a unit dedicated to the study of penguins. Standing to accept the applause of the audience is the cast of the play. The puppet figures and backdrop were also created by the children. Congratulations on a great presentation go to the Grade 2 class!

STUDENTS AT PALLISER LBM ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM MAKE THE MOST OF A SNOW DAY



The snow was blowing outside, but the 10 students who made it to school at the Palliser LGM Alternative Program site on February 13th experienced a day of excitement. Staff and students worked together to create several Readers' Theatre productions to share the next day with the returning bus students. There were puppets and activities – combined with narrative which thrilled all who participated. Creativity can flow even on a blustery day!

FORMER PALLISER TEACHER HONOURED AT TEACHERS' CONVENTION



Lynn Brookes, a retired Palliser teacher, was recently named Honourary President of the Palliser District Teachers' Convention in Calgary. Vicki Hutton, a long-time colleague and friend, had the honour of introducing Lynn at the Convention and listing her many contributions to the teaching profession and the students she has touched over her 31-year teaching career. Of those 31 years, 24 of them were spent in Palliser Regional Schools (and previously, the County of Vulcan) in a variety of roles, including as a regular kindergarten to Grade 9 teacher, as a resource teacher, as a consulting teacher working with high needs students and their families, and as a vice principal. Over the lifetime of Lynn's teaching career, she has also been involved with the ATA, having served in every capacity available to a teacher, and she continues to serve as Secretary to the ATA Local in Palliser. She also served on the Palliser Teachers' Convention Board for 11 years, again in a variety of positions.

During her teaching career, Lynn was nominated to participate in a weeklong Teacher Institute in Ottawa, which was a highlight of her career. She was also a finalist in the provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards. One of her personal goals was completed in 1988, when she attained her teaching degree after driving 200 km a night to attend classes, returning home to a husband and raising four school-aged children, in addition to completing her coursework.

Vicki described Lynn's "passion, which is evident in many areas of her life." At the top of that list is the passion Lynn holds for her family, and she was particularly pleased that three of her children were able to attend the ceremony. Close behind her love for family and friends is her passion for teaching and helping students to reach for the stars. And the thousands of students that have passed through her classroom over the span of her career were not enough, as she continues to substitute teach on a regular basis in Palliser schools.

In honour of her many contributions to education, teaching, the ATA and, most importantly, the students, Lynn was presented with a gift on behalf of both the Provincial ATA and the ATA Local.

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL IN GRANT APPLICATION

Travis Conrad, the new band teacher at R.I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale, recently submitted a successful grant application to the Lethbridge Community Foundation. The \$7500 award will be used to purchase new instruments for the band program, with the first priority being the upgrading of percussion equipment. A special thank you to the Lethbridge Community Foundation for their support of local schools and the programs they offer.

HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL STUDENT RETURNS FROM AGGIE DAYS WITH A NEST EGG!



In addition to learning about farm animals, agriculture and rural life, Anna Guenther of Huntsville School was fortunate enough to win an RESP of \$1,000 at Aggie Days 2008. Pictured are Anna, her Parents (Elizabeth & Diedrich Guenther), Margaret Van Egmond, Isabelle Plomp and a representative of the UFA and Lethbridge Exhibition. Along with three other winners, Anna and her entourage enjoyed a pizza party and a presentation ceremony. Congratulations, Anna!

EVA OLSSON, HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, VISITS PALLISER SCHOOLS



The week of March 3 – 7, Eva Olsson, a Holocaust survivor, conducted a speaking tour through Palliser Regional Schools, offering her presentation to all Grades 5-12 students in the system at seven locations. The response to Dr. Olsson's presentation was overwhelming, as she not only touched the hearts of students, staff and parents alike with her stories of triumph over insurmountable odds and horrific circumstances, but she also added so much to Palliser's Character Education Program by connecting the atrocities she endured and witnessed to the bullying and poor behaviour that occurs in our world today. Eva truly had an impact on our students, and all who attended to hear her speak, as

she encouraged them to demonstrate compassion and show respect for each other.

BRANT CHRISTIAN STAFF AND STUDENTS JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



Pictured here is Team Super Awesome, the teacher team from Brant Christian School who assisted in running the Jump Rope for Heart event the afternoon of February 15.

Parent, staff and high school student volunteers, coordinated the running the skipping events which raised awareness of the importance of how being active can lead to a healthy heart. Students raised \$3279 for The Heart and Stroke Foundation through pledges.



Congratulations to all who participated in surpassing the amount raised

COALDALE MUSICAL ARTS SOCIETY DESSERT CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION FUND-RAISER

The Coaldale Musical Arts Society Annual Dessert Concert and Silent Auction Fund-raiser is planned for Friday, April 4, at 7:00 pm at the Coaldale Mennonite Brethern Church. The concert will feature bands from Kate Andrews High School and R.I. Baker Middle School, as well as the choirs from Kate Andrews High School and Jennie Emery Elementary School. The Silent Auction promises an array of be interesting items, and those attending will be treated to some wonderful desserts! Contact Leslie Winters, President of the Coaldale Musical Arts Society, for information regarding tickets.

PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXCELS AT SPEEDSKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ronald Angenent, a Grade 9 student at Picture Butte High School, is a force to be reckoned with. At the North American Marathon Championships for Speed Skating in Edmonton this past month, Ronald placed Third in the 25 km and First in the 50 km. What's so amazing is that he was invited to participate as a special guest because he is under-age for this competition – and yet he blew the competition away!

Ronald and his family are actively looking for a sponsor for next season. Anyone interested in possibly sponsoring a future Olympian is asked to contact Ronald's family.

ARCHERY IS THE SPORT FOR THESE PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

At this year's Winter Games in Leduc, two brothers were true competitors.....Jason Juhar captured the Gold in the Cadet Male Compound Category, and brother Jeff Juhar placed sixth in the same category. The two also successfully became the Overall Winners of the 3DAA Tour that was held in Red Deer. Congratulations on a significant achievement Jason and Jeff!

A TRULY REMARKABLE WOMAN VISITS PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL



After surviving one of the darkest chapters in human history, Eva Olsson feels it is her duty to tell others of the horrors she witnessed and help them learn lessons from her experiences. Olsson, a Holocaust survivor and nationally-renowned speaker, brought her story to students at Picture Butte High School on Tuesday, March 4, as part of a district-wide tour. More than 400 people filled the school gym to hear Olsson recount her tale, which warned the audience of the dangers of hate. "If you keep hating, genocide will go on," she said. "The war ended in 1945, but genocide didn't." She encouraged the students to be tolerant and compassionate and to avoid labelling others. "It's okay to have a different religion; it's okay to look different; it's okay to be from a different country. What's not okay is being indifferent to other people," explained Olsson. "The power lies in your hands, by making the commitment not to be a bystander."

In great detail, Olsson told the story of the Nazis' brutal crimes. Along with many others, Olsson and her family were rounded up in their Hungarian village in 1944 and told they would be going to work in a German factory. They were loaded into train boxcars in groups of 100 for transport and each boxcar was given two pails — one full of water meant to last the entire journey, and one for human waste. "We were packed in like sardines in a can," said Olsson, adding some elderly passengers died from a lack of oxygen. "Then my mother said something that has haunted me for 63 years — that she envied her daughter who had died at home and received a proper burial." When the train arrived at its destination, some inside were relieved the journey was over, believing they would receive food, water and proper treatment. But when the doors opened to the Auschwitz concentration camp with its wire fences, machine gun posts and armed guards, those hopes were quickly dashed.

Olsson said the men were separated from the women and children, and some were sent to work camps. She then described how many of the women and children were sent to gas chambers for systematic execution. "They were forced in there screaming and moaning. And after 20 minutes it was silent," said Olsson, explaining that after an execution was complete, a pyramid of bodies would often be found as victims had attempted to reach as close to the ceiling as they could, struggling for clean air. She visited the gas chambers in 2007 while retracing her journey of 1944-45. "I went into the gas chamber, but I didn't see it empty. I saw images of my mom watching her grandchildren suffocating before she did. "I have not been able to find the right label for the Nazi atrocities. No matter what I could say, it would not be strong enough to describe these crimes against humanity."

Olsson lost most of her family in the Holocaust, including five young nieces. "I'm here to speak for them, because their voices were silenced by the Nazis and they can't speak for themselves." Olsson said she was first inspired to speak publicly about her story after her grandson asked how his great-grandmother had died. Believing the child wasn't ready to hear, Olsson told him to ask again when he was older. Two weeks later, after turning eight years old, he asked again. That's when Olsson realized people needed to hear her message. "I don't go into a school anywhere and say that I'm going to change the whole student body," she explained. "I go in hoping to change one student at a time."

March 19, 2008

PICTURE BUTTE SUGAR KINGS WIN PROVINCIALS!



The Picture Butte Sugar Kings took their ZONE title to the Provincials hosted by Rundle College and came home the PROVINCIAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

The Kings were victorious over J.R. Rob School in a close match that ended with a final score of 82-74. Congratulations, Kings! The Picture Butte community, as well as the larger Palliser community, are very proud of your achievements this year!

PALLISER STUDENTS ATTEND “WORLD OF CHOICES” – A CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

World of Choices is an interactive leadership, esteem and career conference for young women. Hosted by Junior Achievement and Alberta Human Resources and Employment, the conference is designed to empower high-school aged women, and educate and inspire by promoting self-confidence, encouraging leadership and unveiling opportunities for potential career paths.

On Friday, March 7, 2008, over 30 young women from Kate Andrews High School, Coalhurst High, Noble Central School and Picture Butte High School had the opportunity to participate in this workshop. The theme this year was "The Distance Between Dreams" and featured keynote speaker, Cheryl Pollmuler of the Lethbridge College.

The girls were able to find out about different occupations and talk to women who work in these occupations about their experiences. Many of the girls took home exciting door prizes and Kristy Secrist, from Picture Butte High School, was the very lucky recipient of a \$500 scholarship to the University of Lethbridge.

Check out the newsletter for PHOTOS of the event taken by Stacy O'Brien, reporter for the *Lethbridge Herald*.

March 31, 2008

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE REVIEW – FINAL REPORT RELEASED

At the direction of the Board of Trustees, an independent review of the organizational structure of Palliser Regional Schools was conducted by Mr. Sig Schmold and Dr. Leroy Sloan, consultants of the Alberta School Boards Association. The review included an in-depth look at the current system operation, including:

- Interviews with key staff at all levels of the organization within the Central Office and at school sites
- Surveys of Central Office staff
- Review of collective agreements currently in place with the ATA and CUPE
- Working sessions with the Administrators' Association and Board of Trustees
- Review of numerous documents, including the Annual Education Plan and Results Report, the Board Policy Handbook and Administrative Procedures Manual, the Personnel Handbook, financial documentation, and prior studies completed
- Review of relevant literature and comparable school divisions
- Projections with regard to future enrolments and staffing needs

At their regular meeting held March 11, 2008, the Board of Trustees adopted the final report, and proceeded to review and adopt, in principle, the draft organizational chart, which is included as Appendix D of the final report.

Check out the FINAL REPORT for detailed information.

April 14, 2008

COALHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MALL SUCCESS

The Coalhurst Elementary School Mall didn't open until March 17, but students, staff, and volunteers had been preparing for weeks!

In anticipation of the opening of "the mall," Grades 4-6 students could be seen checking out the job placement board, then filling out application forms and applying for what jobs they thought they would like. After being hired, students then had to generate ideas for the kiosk that they had been hired to work in and prepare for opening day.

There were two shifts each day the mall was open with each student working one shift and then "shopping" during the other shift. Each student earned a pay cheque, which they then took to the bank to cash and spend in the mall. Grade 3 students were able to earn extra money by having an ECS buddy that they would guide around the mall.

The younger students (Preschool to Grade 2) did not have "jobs" at the mall, but they were able to earn money as well by attending 'earning' kiosks.

The “Fitness Lair,” an obstacle course in the gym, or the “Word Rodeo,” “Singing Saloon Karaoke” and “Reading Round Up” were places students could go to earn more spending money.

As for spending kiosks, there was a large number of choices: “The Shooting Star Theater” played movies and sold popcorn; the “Stage Coach Salon” had 2-for-1 tattoo specials; the “Tumbleweed Toy Store” had lineups down the hallway; “Cowboy Candy Jewelry” had patrons creating own edible jewelry; “Dance Dance Revolution” got hearts pumping, with students and staff challenging each other for the high score of the day; “Home on the Range” pet store had fuzzy friends for cuddling; “Wild Shots” had everyone taking aim with hockey stick in hand shooting at pictures of their favorite teachers; “Wild West Fotos” was the place to be for those wanting a photograph in a western setting to remember the enjoyment of the mall for years to come.

“Harry’s Hot Dogs” had mini hot dogs and juice for those who were hungry; the “Hey Y’All Pancake House” had chicken and barn-shaped pancakes; root beer floats were on the menu at “Ice Cream Showdown”; and three flavors of pizza were available at the “Pizza Round Up.” In the spirit of the *western* theme of the mall, “Wanted” posters of a suspected bank robber were posted at the bank, as it had been robbed in years past. Lawrence Entz, a Grade 5 student at CES created an arrest warrant and tracked down the suspected criminal. With the help of Sheriff Fender and Deputy DeMaere, “No Amends Lorenz” was arrested and thrown into the “Barbed Wire Corral” for his crimes.

Learning about job commitment, money management skills, and good work ethics in a fun way, is something the students will take into the real world.

Check out the story published by the Lethbridge Herald following the opening of the Coalhurst Elementary School Mall

CROSS-GRADED ACTIVITIES JOIN TWO COALDALE SCHOOLS



On Tuesday, March 18, two cross-graded advisory groups from R.I. Baker Middle School made the trek to Jennie Emery Elementary School to link up with two Grade 1 classes and lead them in a craft activity. Chris Pytlarz and Deb Sherren welcomed the classes led by Doug Pharis and Alison Stewart to allow them to work with their classes.



Approximately 35 Grades 5-8 students were involved in the activity, resulting in the production of beautiful Easter baskets. The group was then treated to an Easter story. It was a very successful event and it is hoped that similar activities can be planned in the future!

This project was one of many community-oriented activities that R.I. Baker Middle School is initiating through its cross-graded programs.



April 20, 2008

MILLENNIUM IN MOTION SPEAKING TOUR VISITS KATE ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL

Speaking tour leaders Matthew Cimone and Shelby Pearce, representatives of Free The Children, will join students of Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale on Monday, April 21, at 9:30 a.m. for an inspirational speaking event. Free The Children has joined with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to develop a unique program that builds understanding of global issues amongst young Canadians in Western Canada, and empowers them to become global citizens.

Matthew and Shelby are expert youth speakers who will share their insight on global issues and volunteerism through the Millennium in Motion speaking tour. This tour is a speaking series aimed at motivating and educating youth to create their ideal world. The tour educates youth on the Millennium Development Goals and encourages them to explore a variety of community involvement opportunities that foster the idea of global citizenship.

Matthew and Shelby will demonstrate how youth can create the ideal world by using their gifts and passions and developing their leadership potential through volunteer opportunities. Their speech empowers students with the belief that they have an integral part to play in creating a more equitable global culture.

Matthew and Shelby will engage youth in an interactive one-hour presentation by sharing stories, insights and their passion for social change. The Millennium in Motion Speaking Tour is an energizing and inspirational opportunity that will be the highlight of any school's academic year!

For more information on the Millennium in Motion speaking series or to request an interview with Matthew Cimone and Shelby Pearce please contact Joanna Maracle at Free The Children, 647-259-3475 or email your request to joanna@freethechildren.com.

CONCERT AND DINNER TO HONOUR DR. HOWARD CABLE

R.I. Baker Middle School will host a concert and dinner in honour of Dr. Howard Cable in recognition of his contributions to Canadian Music. This special event will take place in Coaldale on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Gem of the West Museum commencing at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children, which includes a ticket to the concert. At 7:00 p.m. the R.I. Baker Middle School Choir, the Lethbridge Bridge Brass, Karly Stewart, Karen Fujita and Alison Stewart will present "A Concert for Howard: A Canadian Musical Master." The evening will conclude with the new RIBMS song "One Voice," written by Dr. Cable.

Tickets are selling quickly and are available at the R.I. Baker Middle School office.

MYRNA DEMBICKI – TOP 20 FINALIST FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Since 1989 the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program has recognized the innovative and outstanding teaching that takes place every day in classrooms across Alberta. This program provides Albertans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many contributions teachers make to student learning.

Parents, teacher-colleagues, principals, superintendents and all Albertans are encouraged to show their appreciation by nominating an outstanding teacher or principal for an Excellence in Teaching Award.

This year, two Palliser teachers received nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Award - Myrna Dembicki (Coalhurst Elementary School) and Michael Saad (Coalhurst High School).

Just days ago, Palliser was advised the Myrna had made it to the semi-finalist round. She was invited to a dinner in Calgary on Friday evening (April 18) to receive her award as one of 130 provincial semi-finalists. Myrna received a phone call earlier that day to advise she is now a Top 20 finalist for the provincial award, which will be presented in Calgary on May 10.

On behalf of your Palliser colleagues, congratulations, Myrna!

SHANE CRANSTON AWARDED SWCSA DISTINGUISHED LEADER AWARD

On April 17, with a group of his Palliser colleagues on hand to offer their support, Shane Cranston, Principal of Arrowwood School, was awarded the 2008 Distinguished Leader Award by the Southwest Council on School Administration. The award acknowledges the outstanding leadership offered by a Principal or Vice Principal in the Southwest Region for their outstanding accomplishments as instructional leaders on behalf of students, staff, parents and communities.

The flyer announcing Shane's award stated:

As Principal of Arrowwood Community School, Shane Cranston "create(s) a student focused, positive and passionate, educational community that works together in a collaborative style." Within his vision, Shane fosters a "Model of Excellence" - academic excellence, opportunities and relationships are the foundation on which Shane's vision has stood and grown upon. It is these three keys that have unlocked Arrowwood Community School's unbelievable potential and has created a safe and caring environment for the community, families, staff and our students. Shane's dedication to making meaningful relationships reaches much further than the school walls. He fosters a strong partnership with his community and maintains an "open door" policy where all stakeholders are part of the education family of Arrowwood Community School.

Palliser is pleased to extend their congratulations to Shane on the special recognition of his efforts at Arrowwood School.

PICTURE BUTTE TRADE FAIR – PALLISER RAFFLE WINNING NUMBERS ANNOUNCED



The response to participation by Picture Butte High, Dorothy Dalglish Elementary and Huntsville Schools during the Picture Butte Trade Fair held on April 18-19 was awesome! It was a great opportunity for those participating at the booth to meet of the community members who visited the Palliser Regional Schools display highlighting the programs being offered at the three schools.

A exciting part of the display was the opportunity for those who visited to enter a raffle to win one of two I-Pods. **The winning ticket numbers are 1047 and 1919.** Winners are asked to contact Picture Butte High School (732-4404) to claim their prize. The winning ticket must be presented in order to claim the prize. Thank you to all who entered the draw. Photos of the winners receiving their prize will be posted later on the Palliser website.



Again, thank you to all who participated at the Palliser Regional Schools display at the Picture Butte Trade Fair, and a special thank you to the members of the Picture Butte community that stopped by to get more information regarding programming being offered at Picture Butte High, Dorothy Dalglish Elementary and Huntsville Schools. For more information regarding programs, contact the schools

directly (PBHS - 732-4404; DDS - 732-5636; Huntsville - 738-4522).

NOBLE CENTRAL SCHOOL RECEIVES GRANT

Noble Central School has been awarded a \$3500 challenge grant through the Lethbridge Community Foundation. The grant will be used to support the development of musical productions at Noble Central School through the purchase of risers and other production equipment.

A special thank you to the Lethbridge Community Foundation for this generous contribution to Noble Central School, and for their continued support of Palliser schools.

NOBLE CENTRAL STUDENTS “STEP OUT” INTO THE COMMUNITY



As part of a K-12 Easter Integration Activity, students at Noble Central School stepped out into their community to participate in a fact-finding scavenger hunt focused on their community. Integration teams delivered plates of special NCS cookies to thank the community for its support.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS – BRANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Legion Remembrance Day Poster Contest Winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Denae Kiriaka won first place at the Area, District & Command levels (Black & White Intermediate Level). Her poster was sent to Ottawa for judging at the Dominion Level (National).
- Joshua Hardcastle won second at the Area level (Black & White Junior Level).
- Samantha Cutforth won second at the Area & District levels (Black & White Intermediate level).
- Emma Finnegan won first at the Area & District levels (Color Junior level).



April 24, 2008

SPARE BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Spare bus drivers are needed throughout Palliser Regional Schools, particularly in the Picture Butte, Vulcan, Lethbridge and Coaldale areas.

Qualifications: Class 1 or 2 driver's license is required. "S" endorsement is an asset but not a requirement. **(Current Palliser staff interested in obtaining licensing to drive school bus for co-curricular and/or extracurricular school activities are asked to contact Randy Wittal, Transportation Supervisor, re the cost of licensing being supported by Palliser. There will be no requirement that employees have their name added to the spare driver list.)**

Anyone interested in having their name added to the spare drivers list is asked to contact Randy Wittal, Transportation Supervisor, at: (403) 328-4111 (1-877-667-1234 toll-free).

May 7, 2008

PALLISER SUPERINTENDENT HAS CLASS!



Kevin Gietz, Superintendent of Palliser Regional Schools, definitely had class at the end of March - the Grade 8 class at R.I. Baker Middle School to be more specific! As part of a "deal" granted by Palliser's senior administration team at the beginning of the school year, a number of teachers and support staff were awarded half-day release certificates to allow them to access some extra professional development time. When the certificates are redeemed, a member of the Central Office staff fills the position at the school, which allows an opportunity to keep administration staff in touch with what happens in the day-to-day life of a school. The initiative has been very successful, with positive feedback being received from both the staff receiving the half-day release time, and the Central Office

personnel who have visited school sites.

Mr. Gietz agreed to cover a class for Morey Terry, Grade 8 teacher at R.I. Baker Middle School. Upon returning to the office, Mr. Gietz commented how he enjoyed the opportunity to be in front of a classroom again, and he was especially complimentary regarding the behaviour of the students! He led mathematics and physical education classes, which turned back the clock for Mr. Gietz, as he graduated from university as a math major/physical education minor. Thank you to the Grade 8 class at R.I. Baker for the warm welcome extended to Mr. Gietz!

KATE ANDREWS/COALHURST HIGH SCHOOL MARINE BIOLOGY TRIP A HUGE SUCCESS!



This year's Marine Biology trip for Kate Andrews and Coalhurst High School students was a huge success! Eleven students from Coalhurst High School joined seven students from Kate Andrews High School for this trip, which began with a flight from Calgary to Vancouver Island before boarding The Island Roamer to travel around the Gulf Islands. Teachers Robyn Baraniecki (Coalhurst) and Jason Schilling (Kate Andrews) joined the group as supervisors.

Approximately 30 minutes into sailing, there were some with their heads in buckets. But after the rough sailing on the first day, everyone overcame their seasickness, and it was smooth sailing from then on. Students observed interesting species during intertidal studies, sea lions and harbour seals sunning themselves, and beautiful trees during their nature walks. *Blue Water Adventures* made every effort to give the students a fantastic trip, and each and every one of the group missed the boat and crew once they stepped on dry land.

Marine Biology is a locally developed course offered at Kate Andrews and Coalhurst High Schools.

Click the picture to view the gallery of photos the group has to share from their adventure!

OLYMPIAN VISITS SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL



On Thursday April 10, students at Sunnyside sCHOOL were treated to an Olympic-sized thrill when Canadian National Skeleton Team member Carla Pavan visited the school for a demonstration of her sport and to deliver a motivational message. Carla is a former Sunnyside student and was excited to be back in her first school. She explained how she first got into the sport of skeleton racing and described some of the injuries she has experienced over her career. To the older students, Carla talked about how important goal setting is and how each of us can dig a little deeper to get good results whether it is in piano, school work or a sport. The students were thrilled and are eager to continue following her as she competes world wide next season in her hopes of making the Olympic team. Carla's visit to Sunnyside was sponsored by YES - Youth Education in Sports. Check out her website at www.carlapavan.ca

DOROTHY DALGLIESH GOES GREEK!



Dorothy Dalgliesh School celebrated the conclusion of its Grade 6 unit on Greece by holding a Greek Festival. It was day packed with Olympics, fashion and food. Children used their knowledge of Greece to plan and participate in Greek learning. Parents were invited to see their children immersed in everything Greek.



Pictured right, Kevin Garinger, Associate Superintendent for Palliser, was on hand to award gold medals to the winning teams in the Pool Noodle Hockey Tournament.

May 21, 2008

MILO COLLECTS PENNIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Milo School students and staff recently held a 'Pennies for Patients' penny/coin drive, raising funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to be used for research and to improve patient care and quality of life during treatment.

Staff set a goal of \$300-400 for this year, placing a donation box at the Scotiabank, and with the support of the Milo Hotel, where paper pennies were sold to raise funds.

Coins raised by each class were tallied every week, incorporating the counting into math classes. Each week an incentive was offered by the staff to encourage fund-raising. These incentives included an opportunity to do Mrs. Heather's makeup and hair, taping Mrs. Holgate and Mrs. Booth to the wall with duct tape, and a lineup of staff who willingly volunteered to the target of cream pies. (A special thank you goes to Miss Lewis for cleaning the gym floor after the pie fun.)



Students did a fantastic job raising funds for such a worthwhile cause, making donations on their own, collecting donations from parents, friends and siblings.

The school celebrated their successful fund-raising activity with a pizza party, where Mrs. Heather volunteered to sport the chicken pox look as the Grades 1-4 students spotted her with a dot for every \$10 raised. That's quite a few dots. In total, Milo students and staff raised an amazing \$2,149.68.

CHAMPION STUDENTS WIN AT LEGION POSTER CONTEST



Maybe it is the name of their home town that spurs them on. It must be, since once again the students at Champion School had resounding success in the Royal Canadian Legion's poster, poem and essay competition.

In light of their efforts, three members of the Champion Royal Canadian Legion Branch #262, as well District Commander Gary McLean and Deputy District Commander Wayne Donner, visited Champion Community School April 17 to present awards. Students received awards in three different geographical categories: area, district and provincial. These three categories cover increasing larger areas of southern Alberta right to the whole

of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. It is an area that these kids should be proud to have competed and succeeded in, according to Champion Legion president, Kathleen Krasman.

“These kids, and the staff at our school need to be very proud of themselves,” said Krasman. “This is a huge representation from our school in a very large geographical area; they really represent our small community very well.”

While all the students’ success is remarkable, one student has made quite a mark on the school’s history within the competition. Sterling Smith, who took first place in the junior coloured poster division in area, district and provincial levels, had his poster head to Dominion (national) level for the second time. Two years ago, in the same category, Smith received an honourable mention, or third place, at the highest level of the annual competition. Though he didn’t capture an award at that level this year, he is still the only person in the school’s history to reach the Ottawa competition.

Krasman is very quick to recognize the commitment of the staff at the Champion Community School who have made the poster, poem and essay competition a part of the annual curriculum. That in itself, according to Krasman, is one of the biggest reasons that the school has so many winners year after year.

“The students are learning to remember, but moreover, they are learning why they should remember,” said Krasman after helping to hand out the 12 awards to the eager students. “There is no award that matches the effort put in; there is no value you can put on that level of commitment.”

For more information on the Legion poster, poem and essay competition, visit the Royal Canadian Legion’s website at www.legion.ca.

HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL GETS SPECIAL VISIT



Huntsville School had a special visitor during Education Week, as Marian Biggins, Early Intervention Specialist, took time from her busy schedule to share one of her favourite stories, “Sam Sandwich,” with the Preschool and Kindergarten class. Several Palliser senior administrators and trustees visited schools during Education Week to participate in similar reading activities, which was a highlight for both the readers and the students who were visited.

PALLISER STAFF CELEBRATES EDUCATION WEEK



The Palliser Board of Trustees and ATA Local 19 recently held the 3rd Annual Palliser Staff Picnic at Pavan Park. Although the day was a bit wet and chilly, that did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. Nearly 175 were in attendance, including staff and their families, to enjoy the company of their colleagues.

A special thank you to Emma Lenz for arranging for activities to keep the kids amused, and to Robyn Lilley, a new teacher in the system, who generously donated her time to make balloon animals for all the children in attendance. And it is clear to see that not only the children enjoyed the balloons, as Robyn was kept busy entertaining the adults as well! Pictured here are Associate Superintendent Kevin Garinger, Superintendent Kevin Gietz, Robyn Lilley, teacher at the Palliser LGM Alternative Program, and Margaret Van Egmond, Principal of Huntsville School.

A great time was had by all who participated in this annual event, which offers an opportunity for all Palliser staff to come together and celebrate what it means to be part of the Palliser education team. Due to the geographical size of the system, a similar event was held in Calgary, which offered an opportunity for the staffs located there to also come together and enjoy interacting with their colleagues!

COALHURST ELEMENTARY SHOWCASES TALENT AT ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

Coalhurst Elementary School showcased their musical talents at their Annual Spring Concert. The concert was based on the story book “The Queen’s Feet” by Sarah Ellis. The talented Deanna Berberich created a script, and with the assistance of Gay Higginson, they created wonderful musical selections for the students to perform. Under the direction of Mrs. Berberich and Mrs. Higginson, students acted and sang their hearts out, incorporating a number of musical instruments, classroom-created costumes and props.



Every class performed, from Preschool to Grade 6. Mrs. Berberich also choreographed a “STOMP” number using household items for the Grade 5 and 6 students.

Coalhurst Elementary School's award-winning choirs, handbells and handchime choirs also performed, demonstrating their beautiful voices and talent for family, friends and community members. The dedication of all students and staff created a memorable performance.

May 25, 2008

DOROTHY DALGLIESH CELEBRATES PLEDGE



The custodians at Dorothy Dalglish School are an active part in Character Education. They recently volunteered to paint the school pledge on the gym wall to help remind students of how they treat each other at school. The pledge a big part of the Dorothy Dalglish School culture and ensuring a safe and caring place for children to learn. A special thank you to Rose Brau and Rena Eveleigh for taking the initiative to celebrate the DDS pledge by displaying it on the wall in the gymnasium as a permanent reminder to all students and visitors of the school.

PALLISER BOARD CHAIR TAKES TIME TO READ TO DOROTHY DALGLIESH STUDENTS



As part of the Education Week celebrations at Dorothy Dalglish School, a group of children was treated to special time with the Palliser Board Chair, as Don Zech (pictured here) took time to share a special book with students. Having been a teacher for over 30 years, Mr. Zech enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the young students at Dorothy Dalglish School in Picture Butte, and students felt honoured to have the Board Chair visit their classroom. Several local celebrities visited Dorothy Dalglish School earlier this month as part of the annual Education Week celebrations.

KATE ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE AT SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION



Earlier this month 10 students from Kate Andrews High School competed in the Regional Skills Competition at the Lethbridge College on May 8, 2008: Nicole Stoddart and Lori Petite in Fashion; Kim Smith and Toni Pirot in Culinary; Amber Napper and Sarah Friesen for Hairstyling; and Stefan Lenz, Jesse McQuaid, Haley Fox and Amber Koberinsky for Web design. Skills Canada Alberta partners with local organizations and technical institutions across Alberta to host the regional competitions. The result is increased recognition for the tremendous skills being developed in Alberta high schools. The top performers automatically earned a spot to compete at the Provincial Skills Competition in Calgary May 22-23. Visit the Skills Canada website at www.skillsalberta.com. This year the competition was very

tough, but through hard work, Kate Andrews students won double gold in culinary and fashion, while finishing with a bronze in web design. Equally pleased are Angie Roelofs and Darren Atwood, teachers at Kate Andrews High School, as they had the opportunity to see their student succeed. Overall the students had a great experience and would recommend the competition to anyone who is interested.

Click the photo for an album of the students who participated in the Regional Skills Competition.

BRANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CELEBRATES SPRING



Students at Brant Christian School celebrated spring with their musical production, “Seedlings to Plants.” Students reminded the audience how important it is to cultivate (prepare) the soil so seeds can grow, just as it is important for us to plant good seeds in our own lives and the lives of others.

Students sang about love, joy, peace, and patience way down in our soul. It was a great way to celebrate the gift of spring.



JENNIE EMERY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PROVIDE AID TO AFRICA



Grade 4 students at Jennie Emery Elementary School recently spent an afternoon learning African dancing, eating African food and looking at African pictures and videos. Students were engaged in a fund-raiser for the Red Cross to purchase mosquito nets to help prevent the spread of malaria in Africa. The Grade 4 class was raised enough money for 20 mosquito nets, and as a thank you, the Red Cross threw an African Party for the students.

30-HOUR FAMINE AT PICTURE BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

On April 11 and 12, 72 students from Picture Butte High School participated in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine, raising a total of \$6740.25 towards building schools, providing safe water, emergency food and other forms of aid to families in developing countries. PBHS thanks the community for their generous donations and support!!!

PICTURE BUTTE HIGH MARINE BIOLOGY TRIP HUGE SUCCESS

Eleven students (Dylan DePeuter, Christine Eberle, Tania Groeneweg, Jilanna Jones, Colten Lumley, Stephanie McAlesse, Jessie Scheidegger, Kristy Secrist, Cam Wasylenko, Candace Wolodechenko, Quinton Wongand) and two supervisors (Sherryl Loman and Hank Heerze) participated in the bi-annual Marine Biology trip April 19-24th. The trip began with a Greyhound bus ride to Calgary followed by a plane ride to Victoria. Upon arrival in Victoria, students boarded the Island Odyssey, a 68-foot sailboat.

During the next 6 days, students experienced what they described as one of the most exciting adventures of their life to date. This included learning how to navigate and pilot the boat, raise and trim the sails, intertidal studies, kayaking, swimming (very cold), observing birds and marine mammals, on-shore activities, meal preparation and boat maintenance, and cave exploration. Close to 150 species were identified by the group and this year's trip provided some of the best sailing opportunities to date. The weather was challenging at times and each day was a new adventure for everyone. This once-in-a-lifetime experience, coupled with the five in-class modules, allowed these students to earn 5 credits toward their high school diploma. Great job kids!

PBHS PROGRAM A BLAST??

The Picture Butte High School Blast Program is a team of Grade 9 students focused on educating fellow students on the negative effects of tobacco. This year's Blast Team is Taylor-Rae Dixon, Martha Wall, Krizma Mar and Eric Koenen. The team enjoyed hearing from a guest speaker, Ashley Fraser, who discussed the damage that 15 years of smoking can do through a demonstration using the lungs of pigs.

PBHS KINGS CAPTURE THREE SPOTS ON THE PROVINCIAL BASKETBALL TEAM

Three students from PBHS made the Provincial Basketball Team, including Colten Murray on the Youth 15 team; and Logan Reiter and Todd Bergen-Henengouwen on the Youth 17 team.

Murray, Reiter and Bergen-Henengouwen will all be practicing and playing basketball games throughout the summer alongside teammates from all over Alberta. Their season will end in August at the Canadian National Basketball Championships. The Youth 15 Championship will take place in Kamloops, BC, and the Youth 17 will wrap up their year in PEI.

PICTURE BUTTE HIGH STUDENTS EXCEL AT COUNTY BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County of Lethbridge Junior High Athletic Association held its Annual Badminton Championships April 22 in Coaldale and Taber. PBHS medallion winners, in their respected categories of competition, included:

Bantam Category (Grade 7) Girls Singles – Melissa Bahler (silver); Boys Singles – Ryan Nummi (silver); Girls Doubles – Meagan Bezooyen & Iris Krosse (gold)

Midget Category (Grade 8) Girls Singles – Emily Van Raay (gold); Girls Doubles – Tess Richardson & Katie West (silver); Boys Doubles – Braeden Hage & Lucas Jakober (gold)

Juvenile Category (Grade 9) Girls Singles – Kelsey Bahler (gold); Boys Singles – Lynden Nummi (gold); Boys Doubles – Ryley Schuld & Dallin Oliver (bronze); Mixed Doubles – Darcie Sosick & Colten Murray (gold)

Congratulations to all PBHS badminton players who participated in the County Badminton Tourney for their excellent showing. The gold and silver winners in singles and the gold winners in doubles advanced to the South Zone Badminton Championships on May 3 in Medicine Hat.

PBHS STUDENTS VIEW LIVE SURGERY AND AUTOPSY VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Grade 11 Sports Medicine students at Picture Butte High School have participated in two recent video conferences - the first was a live knee replacement surgery, and students had the opportunity to interact with the doctors as the procedure was taking place; the second was an in-depth autopsy conducted and explained by a Forensic Pathologist. Videoconference technology has opened up the world to Palliser students, allowing them to interact with resources around the globe. PBHS students noted they found their recent VC experiences to be very educational.

COOKING CLUB WINDS DOWN AT PBHS

This year, Cathy Reiter, Child & Youth Care Worker at Picture Butte High School, organized a cooking club at PBHS, along with Jerry Firth, fellow CYCW, and Paul Wright, Family School Liaison Counsellor. The Club met every Tuesday, and each group had a chance to be "head chef" and select the menu for the week. The Club offered their last meals recently, providing a buffet of their favourites for a group of invited guests. Food preparation was done in the Foods lab, and the food was displayed and enjoyed in a wonderful spring setting in the lunchroom.

June 9, 2008

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BAND AND CHOIR EXCEL AT HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN ANAHEIM



Heritage Christian Academy Senior Band and Choir students returned from the Heritage Festival in Anaheim, California, with Gold Standard First Place (Sr. Band) and Gold Standard Second Place (Sr. Choir). The Senior Choir was one of three choirs at the Festival to receive an invitation to the Heritage Festival of Gold - a distinguished festival series held annually in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. No bands received an invitation to this event.

The Heritage Series of Festivals, held in major American cities throughout the year, epitomise excellence in high school music programs. All participants are adjudicated against national standards by internationally recognized musical clinicians. At Anaheim this year, more than 1000 students performed representing 29 middle and high schools from Washington State to Texas; HCA was the lone Canadian high school participating in the Festival. For a program yet in its infancy drawing on almost all students in a relatively small high school, this year has been a milestone and major achievement.



Leading up to the Heritage Festival Heritage Christian Academy students fulfilled a gruelling travel and performance schedule over a period of 10 days. They performed in schools, churches, an afternoon of clinician work at Biola University, and participated in Disney Magic Music Days. They were also required to continue academic studies while on tour, which they did under the supervision of teacher tutors.

Participants extend a huge thank you to all their supporters, including school administration for their encouragement over the past year and for understanding the importance of the music program. The Choir and Band look forward to the continued support of families and staff for future tours.

Congratulations to the students who participated for their positive promotion of Heritage Christian Academy and Palliser Regional Schools. So much learning happens outside the classroom on these tours, from the team building and discipline lessons, to the interaction with world-class clinicians, professors and adjudicators.

PASS+ STUDENTS WINNERS AT SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION



PASS+ was thrilled to have two of its students represent the school at the Regional Skills Canada Competition. Mark Ott and Darcy Slingerland competed in the Carpentry competition. They finished in second place, walking away with \$300 worth of power tools each.

Staff and students at PASS+ are very proud of Mark and Darcy for their accomplishments at Skills Canada.

June 12, 2008

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - ADVERTISING ON WEBPAGES

Palliser Regional Schools invites expressions of interest for advertisers on our new webpages, starting September 1, 2008. Service being offered is approximately a 1.5" by 1.5" space on the lower right corner of our main Palliser site and each of our school main pages. A hyperlink to the advertiser's main webpage can be provided. Our schools with web pages are located in the communities of Coaldale, Coalhurst, Picture Butte, Iron Springs, Nobleford, Champion, Vulcan, Arrowwood, Milo and Calgary. This opportunity is offered for the 2008-09 school year (September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009).

Interested advertisers can send their submission by e-mail, including proposed fee payable, along with any other terms or conditions, by June 20, 2008 to:

L.J. Marston, Associate Superintendent (Business Affairs)
e-mail laurie.marston@pallisersd.ab.ca

June 22, 2008

DOROTHY DALGLIESH SCHOOL RECEIVES SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

Dorothy Dalgliesh School is the proud recipient of a new specialized bicycle, thanks to the Picture Butte and District Loins Club, who presented a cheque to purchase the bike to Dorothy Dalgliesh School. Jon Stevens, Leroy Howg and John Koenen from the Lions Club worked hard to raise the \$4000 needed to purchase the bike that will be used by special needs children at Dorothy Dalgliesh School.

A special thank you to the Lions Club for once again showing their strong support of public education!

BRANT CHRISTIAN STUDENTS CONNECT WITH IQUALUIT THROUGH VC

Grades 1/2 and 5/6 classes at Brant Christian School visited Baffin Island through videoconference on Tuesday, June 3, with the help of Gord Smith, Director of IT, and their teachers, Laurel Blake and Lisa Roberts.

Josefina Rueter's Grade 6 class at Aqsarniit School Iqaluit, Nunavut, contacted Brant Christian School at the beginning of June. Her students had completed videos and Powerpoint presentations about the Inuit culture, and they were looking for an audience. In February, Ms. Rueter attended the Learning Through the Arts Teacher's Conference in Banff, where she met teachers from Brant Christian School who were very excited about connecting the two schools to supplement the social studies curriculum. Students at Brant Christian prepared a number of questions to ask the Iqaluit students, and they were able to learn more about the climate and landforms on Baffin Island. They also learned expressions in Inuit and about the daily way of life of the students there.

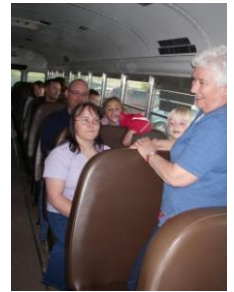
Through the wonders of videoconference, there was about a 3-second delay, as the conference was directed through Yellowknife. Videoconference technology has certainly opened the world to Palliser students!

PARENTS AND PRESCHOOLERS TAKE MYSTERY TOURS

Palliser preschool programs recently invited parents and children to attend Mystery Tours! During the month of May, the children and their parents went on evening Mystery Tours on school buses. Joyce Webber, a retired Palliser kindergarten teacher (pictured here providing information on the bus), led the tours with all of the preschool staff helping out by attending or babysitting the siblings. Mrs. Webber taught parents and children songs and activities that can help make family car trips fun while also providing a learning opportunity.



So what was the the Mystery? Well, it was the destination! Children from Dorothy Dalglish School got to spend some time at Hi-way Service and Trustee Jo Watson opened up his equipment for all to play and have fun. Some of the Dads enjoyed this as much as their kids!



The Noble Central School families went to the visited a dairy farm and they were treated to a tour of the dairy and an opportunity to feed the calves. They were delighted to have some cheese and milk for a snack.



Palliser Regional Schools offers preschool programming at several of its elementary schools. For more information, contact your local school.

August 27, 2008

TEENS HELPING TEENS PEER MENTORSHIP PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDING

Palliser Regional Schools recently learned they will receive over \$20,000 to support the Teens Helping Teens Peer Mentorship Project. The Community Incentive Fund supports initiatives to increase awareness of family violence and bullying, and address topics such as abusive relationships, cyber-bullying and abuse of older adults. (See the recent story from the [Lethbridge Herald](#) for more information related to the Teens Helping Teens project and this new funding.)

SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM AT HUNTSVILLE SCHOOL – FIRST TIME OUTSIDE ONTARIO

A trio of scientists from Scientists in School program in Ontario recently visited Huntsville School in Iron Springs. Diane Gladwell, Jane McCarron and Louise Simmonds visited southern Alberta to carry out their stated mission of 'igniting scientific curiosity in children,' which translated into a hands-on experience for the approximately 85 children who participated. Kindergarten and preschool children enjoyed two sessions: I Can be a Scientist, and Magnets for Little Explorers; Grades 1 and 2 took part in a session on Structures: Under Construction; Grades 3 and 4 enjoyed two sessions related to Structures: Stable and Strong, and Sound; and Grades 5 and 6 enjoyed a session on Air and Flight. All sessions were as amazing as the scientists who facilitated the learning!

Background: Scientists in School is a Canadian charitable organization, initiated in 1989 with the support of the Canadian Federation of University Women – Ajax-Pickering. It is their vision to inspire elementary students and their teachers to explore science and technology through fun and exciting hands-on workshops. During each half-day workshop, students participate in investigative science activities geared to meeting specific expectations of the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. Presenters are local scientists and technical experts who have extensive experience working with children.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of University Women held last summer, members of the Lethbridge Chapter expressed interest in learning more about the Scientists in School program. Volunteers were provided the opportunity to pilot the project in select schools in the hopes of getting the program activated here.

In addition to Huntsville School, the team presented at Park Meadows School and Senator Buchanan School in Lethbridge.

(See the recent article in the [Lethbridge Herald](#) for more information regarding the program and the visit to Huntsville School.)

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PARTICIPATES IN BOW/CAL CITY TRACK & FIELD MEET



Sporting brand new track uniforms and track spikes, 32 Heritage Christian Academy junior high school students participated in the Bow/Cal City Track and Field Meet. For 2 months prior to the meet, students practiced several times a week to prepare themselves for a variety of events. As a team, they were determined to represent the school with class, sportsmanship and excellence. In prior years, teams were put together at the last moment and Heritage's results were mediocre. This year, however, things changed.

When the dust settled over Foothills Athletic Park, 20 school records were shattered - some for the second time this year! - 8 students qualified for South Central Zones (regional championships of Alberta), and the Heritage team finished with a combined point total of 116.8 points!!

As a result, Heritage finished 4th in the city out of 19 schools and 2nd out of Calgary's 2J schools. Their previous highest point total was last year at 26 points. All 32 athletes worked very hard and their diligence paid off. Well done all of you!! We look forward to continuing the improvement for next year.



As for the eight students that qualified for zones, they received a first place for high jump (Jordan N.), a third in 100m hurdles (Deji O.), and a third in 800 meters (Sebastian D.). They also earned one fourth place, two sixth place, and one eighth place.

SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL STUDENTS REACH OUT TO TWINS IN NEED



Two Sunnyside School students were recently honoured at an assembly for their extra efforts to help out a family in the community.

Pictured (left) are Morgan and Cody Weinkauff (Grade 4 and Grade 1, respectively). Morgan has been collecting pop can tabs to raise money to buy wheelchairs for little Angel and Dustin Martin (pictured right with family). Although the twins are just now over a year old, they will be needing wheelchairs in the future. Morgan collected over 60 lbs. of tabs and was invited by the twins' aunt, Tanya Arnold, to present the tabs at an assembly on at General Stewart School in Lethbridge.



COALHURST ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY NEW RESOURCES



During the 2007-08 school year, Coalhurst Elementary School, like many schools through Palliser, applied to the Board for funding through the Innovative Project Fund. Coalhurst Elementary accessed the maximum \$1000 to support their project.

Click on the picture to the left to view a photo album of students enjoying the new resources made available to them through the Innovative Project Fund.

"THE SHOOTING STARS" LAND ON THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY



"The Shooting Stars" raised \$3,175 for the Canadian Cancer Society at this year's Relay for Life. The team had strong representation from several Palliser schools, including Coalhurst High School teachers Michael Saad (team captain), Carrie Boschman, Emma Lenz, and students Sarah and Amanda Lenz and Anda Sabau; teacher Jodi Saad from Kate Andrews High School; and from Gold Ridge Colony, learning assistant Raylene Sushelnitzki.

"The Shooting Stars" have participated in the relay since 2004, raising over \$14,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Palliser Regional Schools
2007-08 Class Size Report

can be viewed at:

<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/docs/library/Summary%20-%20All%20Subjects.pdf>

The
2007-08 AISI Annual Report

can be viewed at:

<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/docs/library/Annual%20Report%202007-08.pdf>

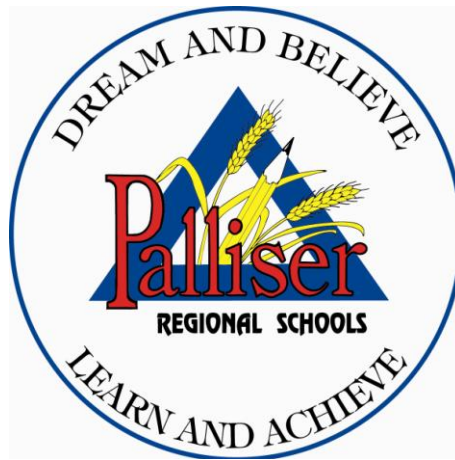
School Websites

can be accessed from the

Palliser Regional Schools website at:

<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/Schools.php>

The Palliser Regional Schools Annual Education Results Report 2007-08 was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held December 16, 2008. The system AERR and system Accountability Pillar results were discussed with school principals, who were directed to share these documents, along with their individual school Accountability Pillar results, with their individual school councils. The AERR is posted in the Documents/ Reports and Plans section of the Palliser Regional Schools website, and paper copies are available upon request.



Visit the Palliser Regional Schools Website at:
www.pallisersd.ab.ca

**Links to Individual School Websites
Are Available at:**

<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/Schools.php>

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