

CONFEDERATION CENTRAL

October 2008 Newsletter

Mrs. D. Kirkland
Principal
Phone: (519) 383-7004

Mrs. L. Giancarlo
Secretary
Fax: (519) 383-7005

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Kan

I wish to thank most sincerely all of the Confed families who donated so generously time, money and items to our Humane Society drive in tribute to Elizabeth. Staff at the Humane Society were very excited by our support. As you may have read in The Observer, \$725 and 312 items were donated. It is hoped that Elizabeth's family and friends will derive comfort from this collective tribute to this much missed student.



Confederation Celebrations

- Our girls and boys soccer teams placed 2nd in the city competitions!!
- Much appreciation is extended to Confederation students, parents, staff and Mother Nature for making our Open House so successful! Special thanks are due to Mrs. Vicky Moore, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Lindemann, Mr. Turner and Clifford for setting up the BBQ and Book Fair.
- The Open House Book Fair earned our library \$1338.13 profit!
- Congratulations to Mrs. Spence on her recent participation in the Imperial Theatre's performances of *We Are the Champions!*



Health & Safety

We are very fortunate to be members of the **No Child Without** national program offered by **Medi-cAlert** and the Ministry of Health. This program provides, free of charge, medic alert bracelets or necklets for students aged 4 to 14 years currently attending Confederation Central. If your child has medical conditions, allergies or special medical needs this bracelet/necklet could protect him/her when conditions appear. In the very near future, we will send home pamphlets explaining the program and the steps to take should you wish to take advantage of this government subsidized offer.

You are invited to participate in a Healthy Family Challenge sponsored by the Health Unit. During the month of October, students will be invited to enter their family's log of healthy activities in a draw for \$2500 in prizes. A separate flyer will be sent home today by classroom teachers.

Administration of Medication: If your child requires medication, please be aware that we can only administer prescription (e.g., physician prescribed anti-biotics) and non-prescription (e.g., pain relievers) medicines if appropriate consent forms are completed and on file at the office. In the interest of everyone's safety, students should not bring any medications to the school without staff knowledge.

Writing

Our school growth plans continue to focus on writing skills. You may hear your child talk about 'recount' writing. In grades JK-8, students will be studying the traits of this form of writing. It is the retelling of past events such as would be found in a memoir, bibliography or journal.

EXCERPTS FROM RECOUNT "COLD PIECES"

The Best Time I Ever Had

The best time I ever had was when I went to the African Safari. I got to see lions and monkeys and many others and then I got to ride a pony. I went around once then I went to the 2 splashdowns. First I went to the small one then I went to the Big Splashdown. There was a big bucket, it filled up with water then it dumps on you. Then I went to go get an ice cream with my mom. I wish I could go there every day.

Gr. 2 Student

What I Did on the Weekend

I went to my uncle's cottage on the weekend. We stayed over night. We went for a walk down to the water and caught crayfish. When we got back we caught 26 salamanders then let them free. We stayed up and played games then we went to sleep. Then the next day we had to leave but I didn't want to but I did so that's what I did on the weekend.

Gr. 4 Student

Alberta and B.C.

We finally found our cabin (in Alberta) and unloaded all of our luggage. Next, we drove around and found Lake Louise. It's a breathtaking view! The next day we went for a 14 km hike to a teahouse on a mountain. That was supposed to be a warm up hike! I really enjoyed it. We climbed mountains in Lake Louise and in Lake O'Hara. We also went whitewater rafting in Jasper. That was amazingly fun!!! My favourite mountain to climb was the one that was called Wiwaxy. Also I like our climb that went through almost every mountain on Lake Louise. One hike we did had a bear, we didn't see it but we turned around anyway. I was scared every time we went into "bear territory" (where bears are) because I thought a bear might attack me.

Gr. 6 Student

New Mutt

About a week ago, our family received a dog from my dad's work. Justice is a boarder collie, husky and shepherd mix. We have tolerated his habit of jumping for a while.

Saturday I took Justice for a walk. It was foggy and neither of us could see a thing. Suddenly a brown streak shot out of the compost pile. Justice gave chase and I had to tug hard on the leash to prevent him from running after the cat. Yes, a cat. We don't have a cat but our neighbors do, Mojo. I snapped my fingers but the long hair Siamese culprit slipped into the barn unnoticed.

Now because of that incident, Justice has nearly caught two squirrels because they are similar in appearance to Mojo. The poor things have retreated to the front yard in order to escape his jaws. Justice isn't mean, he's just a puppy playing but some training is definitely required.

Gr. 8 Student

Effective recount writing contains:

past tense verbs

sequential events

time order words (first, later, yesterday, meanwhile)

setting, characters

summary or personal closing comment expressing feeling about the event

At the beginning of our school-wide study and with sensitivity to varying ages stages of development, all students were asked to write about an event that had already taken place (e.g., describing a most memorable moment, describing weekend activities). This first writing is called a 'cold piece' because students write without formal training in this particular form. Very young students may tell their story and staff scribe their words. Older students write independently. Over the next few weeks, staff will explicitly teach the traits of recount writing. At the end of the unit, students will write another recount. By comparing the cold pieces to the final published work, we can assess what students have learned during this study. Research is proving that a focus on non-fiction writing improves achievement in many subject areas including Health, Social Studies, Science, History and Geography.

Sports

Congratulations to the following soccer team members who played hard and represented Confed so well: Madisyn Campbell, Kayla Riley, Jessika Kiernan, Bailee Smith, Emma Prudom, Ashley Bisson, Alannah Cecchini, Heather Vokes, Jodie Scott, Amy Elliott, Riley Wilhelm, Chelsea Price, Haley Jackson, Jordan Milos, Brooke Guthrie, Erin Vermeulen, Morgan Campbell, Addison Smith, Adam Waller, Colton Bond, Lewis Menelaws, Mario-Fernandes Monroy, Kyle Classen, Luke Smits, Steven Taylor, Ryleigh Taylor, Brett Storr, Zack Kettle, Travis Moore, Brandon McLachlin, Kayn Bentley, Robert Claeys. Thanks to coaches Mr. Schaefer, Miss Gallant and linesmen: Adam Waller, Colton Bond, Mario Monroy, Kyle Classen, Lewis Menelaws, Ryleigh Taylor, Ashley Bisson, Alannah Cecchini, Kayla Riley, Heather Vokes, Bailee Smith and Jessika Kiernan.



School Council

Our first meeting this year is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss new legislation limiting foods sold in elementary schools due to their trans fat content and fundraising. Your feedback is valued and ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Parent Support Group

Our current volunteers are in need of help in order to continue offering hot lunches. If you are able to assist, even on a monthly basis, please contact Vicky Moore at 344-7843. Any time that you can give to our school will payback in your child's knowledge that you are interested and involved with their progress at Confed.

Community Partners

On Friday, October 10 we will participate in the annual Terry Fox walk/run. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for information about donating on-line. Sponsor forms and other materials will be distributed to students.