

# Banbury Independent News

## Preparing for Future Technology

Congratulations to all of you who managed to go technology free for the 24 hours of the Tech Famine! I have to admit, I found it quite difficult and, in fact, it was pointed out to me a few times that I was unconsciously using technology that day. I mistakenly checked the weather on my iPhone, looked up something on the internet for a student and used my digital camera to take pictures of a few of the activities that day. I guess, for most of us, technology is woven into our daily life so seamlessly that we don't even know when we are using it. In fact, I have a hard time remembering when we didn't have the internet and had to look information up in encyclopaedias. How slow and tedious it must have been. The way I use a number of devices each and every day wasn't even imagined when I was a child. Thus, our kids today will likely be using forms of technology that haven't yet been invented either. These thoughts lead me to question, how in the world do we, as educators and parents, prepare them for that?

There isn't any manual available for teachers to use to prepare students for the unknown. However, I believe there are a number of realities that, if kept in mind when creating learning activities, can help set students up for success. These are features you have likely observed in the classrooms at Banbury at some point.

First, people need to be able to tackle new technology with a problem solving approach. Answering questions of how, and what, through hands-on discovery and trial and error, with a purpose, is very much in line with the inquiry method and the multiple pathways to solutions style of learning that happens regularly in this school. These approaches better engage students than traditional presentation styles where the information is just given, as a lecture. Students are actively learning instead of passively receiving information.

Second, a focus on skill development versus knowledge acquisition is paramount at this stage of children's development. Knowledge can be obtained in seconds these days; we no longer have to memorize most of it. However, we need the skill to be able to filter and critically think about that information that is so easily obtained. Students need to analyse, synthesize, evaluate and most importantly, create. They also need to develop whatever skills they can with current technology. No doubt these will end up being the foundations of the skills they will require for new technology.

Finally, in order for students to be somewhat prepared for the unknown world of technology that they will be encountering as adults, I think we need to help them maintain their natural curiosity and interest in the world. Being lifelong learners will allow them not to shy away from new things, but to embrace them. It means that, as teachers, we need to continue to find ways of inspiring students and keeping them engaged, despite the fact that sometimes learning can be challenging and sometimes it can be monotonous.

In closing, I want to say that I'm very glad I've got my tech back. However, I think the famine reminded me that I probably don't need it every minute of the day. The famine also helped me realize just how students at Banbury are preparing for the future.

Karen Harrison

### Important Dates for March:

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Sign-up sheet for Student Exhibitions available

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day. Wear Green

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day of classes before Spring Break

Please note that classes resume on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>



### Table of Contents

Featured Article.....	pg 1
Important Dates.....	pg 1
Bake Sale Info.....	pg 2
Foods Class Reminder.....	pg 2
Tech Famine Thank You.....	pg 2
Travel Opportunity 2016.....	pg 2
Community Health Updates.....	pg 2
35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update.....	pg 3

## Foods Class is Back!

This year, there are two foods classes – junior and senior high – which will be cooking and selling food on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Check out the message board on the secondary side to find out what will be coming up, and what the cost will be. Information about the Jr Foods class will be posted Friday mornings, and about the Sr Foods class will be posted Tuesday afternoons.

Please keep in mind that food is being sold on a first-come, first-serve basis, and that we cannot guarantee that there will be enough for everyone. It is recommended that anyone looking to buy food still brings a lunch.

**The Community Education Service is pleased to present a number of sessions in the coming months. Please check out their newsletter at the following link for more information:**

<https://fcr.albertahealthservices.ca/ces/newsletter/2015-03-newsletter.pdf>

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who participated in and supported the Technology Famine. Thanks to your generosity, donations can be made to both the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary and the Sud Academy.

*Thank You!*



## Bake Sale!

The White Wave Dance Group will be holding a bake sale on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to bring some money so you can pick up some tasty treats.

Any donations of baked goods for the sale are greatly appreciated! Please see Genevieve for more information.



## Upcoming Student Exhibitions

Student Exhibitions will be held on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Afternoon and evening time slots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Evening time slots fill up fast, so sign up early to make sure you get the time you want. Sign-up for exhibitions will be available starting on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. A reminder that all students must do an exhibition, as it is part of the yearly evaluative process.

## Travel Opportunity for Next Year

In the spring of 2016, grade 9 to 12 students have the opportunity to participate in an 11 day trip to Italy and Germany. This trip will include stops in Rome, Florence, Munich, and Prague. For the full itinerary, check out this link:

<http://www.eftours.ca/eliterature/DBD/13/IGE.pdf>

To enrol in the trip, please use the following link:

<http://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/1710452KZ>

Early enrolment is encouraged, to take advantage of the payment plans offered.

Please note that grade 8 students can request permission to join the trip, provided there are enough chaperones.

# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

An update on our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is that it will be held one day earlier than before planned, on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The location is the Valley Ridge Golf Club. In preparation for this event, Diane will be convening a **Parent Meeting**, in which we will divide up some of the tasks involved in this venture. Thus, we are asking parents, grandparents, friends and teachers who wish to help organize the Silent Auction to meet at the school next Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Parents who have been on the Parent Advisory Committee are also encouraged to come. Please speak to Anne or Jacquie or Diane if you are interested in participating in the organization of this event. Otherwise, we shall initiate the conversation. We are excited, and hope that you will enjoy this momentous occasion! We need to work together to make this event memorable!

Therefore, all parents and teachers are kindly requested to begin again to **collect items for the Silent and Live Auction**. We have a few from last spring, but we definitely need more! If you or your friends have services or items that could be donated, ***please help us out!*** What's in it for the donors? This is an advertising opportunity for businesses, as we will display their logos and provide tax receipts. See letter (attached) that can be given to businesses when you approach them for a donation.

We will be preparing gift baskets to cluster smaller items and make them more desirable. One example could be a "Family Fun" pack, including gift certificates for family activities, such as bowling, movie theatres, Telus Spark Centre, Zoo, etc. Also, goodies, games, DVDs, pet supplies, sports equipment could be included in such a category. **We will need donations from each family! Here are a few other ideas for donations:**

- Accommodation gift certificates (B & B's, hotels, resorts)
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Theatre, Concert, Sports tickets (folks with season tickets can request donated tickets)
- Art pieces (paintings, pottery, etc.)
- Interesting household items (new please)
- Services e.g. personal training, yoga, massage, coaching
- Spa packages
- Specialty food baskets
- Recreational gift eg. Ski passes
- New bedding, towels, blankets, quilts, pillows
- Patio chairs, tables
- Vases, photo frames
- Cameras, electronic equipment
- CD's, tapes, CD players, tape decks, televisions
- Computer items, such as monitors, hard drives, keyboards, game discs, printers, mice, mouse pads, educational software
- Furniture, such as chairs, art tables, lamps, rugs, hammocks
- Hand-crafted quilts, doilies, floral arrangements, wood-working, sewn items, paintings, knitted clothing, Christmas decorations, birdhouses, etc.
- Household items, such as coffee-makers, bowls, china, cutlery, blenders, microwaves, irons, curling irons, paint, ceramic floor or wall tiles, stepladders,
- Wine
- Photo albums and books
- Baskets of shampoo, hand lotion, hair accessories, perfume, and bath products
- Jewellery, watches
- Tickets for cultural events, such as hockey, football, dramas, ballets, philharmonic orchestras Etc., Etc.
- Gift certificates from restaurants, hair salons, florists, amusement parks, etc.
- Pet supplies, such as food samples, doggie and cat beds, tooth care packages, leashes
- Children's toys and clothing
- Baby items, such as cribs, walkers, strollers, dishes, car seats, clothing, blankets
- Garden equipment, such as rakes, shears, lawn mowers, baskets of seed packages, bags of peat moss, plants, plant pots
- Decorative items, such as vases, statues, framed prints, glassware, ceramic items
- Outdoor camping equipment, such as tents, sleeping bags, camp dishes and utensils, propane table-top cook-stoves, lanterns, rafts, lifejackets
- Sports bags and sports equipment, such as soccer balls, softball gloves, baseball bats, hockey sticks, tennis racquets, squash balls and racquets
- Tools, such as hammers, drills, screwdrivers, sanders, tape measures, chainsaws, etc.

As you can see, almost anything, including the kitchen sink, is suitable. You must remember, however, that only **new items** can be donated. Exceptions may be made on certain items, such as furniture, provided that they are in excellent condition. If an item is not new, it should be noted as such. The value of the item ought to be worth at least \$20.00, although smaller items are still desirable! More expensive items are also appropriate.

All items are to be brought to the school as soon as they are collected, so that we may record the inventory and store them with plenty of time prior to the event. Please give them to Anne, Diane or Jacquie. We will store them until the auction.

Please contact Jacquie Barnes, Marketing and Event Coordinator, at the school at 403-270-7787 or at [jacquiebarnes@banburycrossroads.com](mailto:jacquiebarnes@banburycrossroads.com) with any questions and to coordinate donation drop off at the school. We will be following up with reminders and really appreciate all the parents' involvement.

Thank you in advance for your support!!

Following is a Letter of Introduction that you may print and distribute to stores that you are approaching for donations. It will legitimize your efforts! If you need more, please contact the office. We will have letters printed on letterhead, and will distribute some to families also.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

This is a letter of introduction from Banbury Crossroads School, to provide identification for the bearer of it. We are holding a Live and Silent Auction and Dinner, as a Fundraising Event on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, at the Valley Ridge Golf Club. We are asking your organization to donate an item to this auction.

This event will be our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Our school was established in 1979, and offers students in Calgary and the surrounding area an educational setting with a self-paced, individualized program, while promoting self-responsibility and mutual respect. We are a member of the Canadian Coalition of Self-Directed Learning (CCSDL). We are the only one of that Coalition that educates children from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12. Banbury is also the smallest, having approximately 65 students. Our school provides a balanced, personalized educational opportunity for children of a wide variety of backgrounds. Banbury Crossroads occupies an educational niche that enhances our community by providing support and instruction to these students who need us.

We have decided to help our students obtain the best possible education to suit their requirements, and in doing so, we have provided a small student to teacher ratio of approximately 10 to 1. This is a costly venture, and we have always attempted to conduct fund-raising efforts to supplement the grants received from Alberta Education, which are approximately 40% of the amount received by public schools. This fund-raising provides many crucial services and materials for our students. We have used them to provide books, physical education courses, art materials, sports equipment, field trips, cultural events and computers.

In order to conduct an effective auction this spring, we need donations from the community. We would be very appreciative of any donation your organization would be willing to give for this purpose. The individual who is presenting this letter is a representative of our school. We would like you to attach a paper indicating the value of the donated item(s), as well as the name and address of the donor, so that **we may issue you a Donation receipt for tax purposes**. We will display an acknowledgement of your item at the function, and print a statement of recognition in our newsletter and yearbook, so this will provide some **advertisement for your business**. Please also send us your logo, for our sponsorship board at the event. The contact for this purpose is Jacquie Barnes, and she is very willing to field questions. Her phone number is 403.270.7787, and her email address is [jacquiebarnes@banburycrossroads.com](mailto:jacquiebarnes@banburycrossroads.com). Thank you very much for your cooperation and time. We appreciate your generosity!

Sincerely,

Diane Swiatek, Director