



Message from the Principal

November/December 2013

School is up and running and we had a very strong start to our year. We were expecting 358 students in September and our school registration is currently 415. However, 14 of the students are Korean students and they will be heading back to Korea at the end of November. Each year we take in a short term stay of students from Korea and they study ESL, Culinary, Cosmetology, and complete their stay with a one month work experience in the community. A thank you is extended to our Drumheller business community for partnering with DVSS.

We have so far participated in the Terry Fox Run and we raised just shy of \$4000.00. We then celebrated with a school wide BBQ.

We have new course offerings for the students this year:

Recreational Leadership 20/30 – which is the next extension to the Recreational Leadership 10 offered last year

Leadership 10/20/30 – this is brand new this year as we move students into leadership roles within the school and for the hosting of the Alberta Student Leadership Conference in May 2014

Media Arts 20/30 – this is an extension of our Media Arts 10 program that will focus on animation and Google Sketchup

Video Arts 10 – this is brand new as we begin to take advantage of the hardware we have in the school. Students will begin to shoot, edit, and publish short video clips of events in the school.

Some important dates coming up:

November 7, 2013 – 10:30 am – Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 22, 2013 – 10:30 am – International Education Celebration

December 5, 2013 – 1:00 pm – 20th Annual Seniors' Dinner

December 20, 2013 – 8:00 am – Annual Pancake Breakfast for Students and all Grad Sponsors

The student community is alive and well with all kinds of great activities planned by our Students' Council, Friends of Rachel Club, Connections, and our new Leadership Class. One huge undertaking this year for Ms. Karpa, Mr. Hayes, and our Leadership students is the hosting of the Alberta Student Leadership Conference in May 2014. This will bring an additional 500-700 senior high students into the school for 2 ½ days.

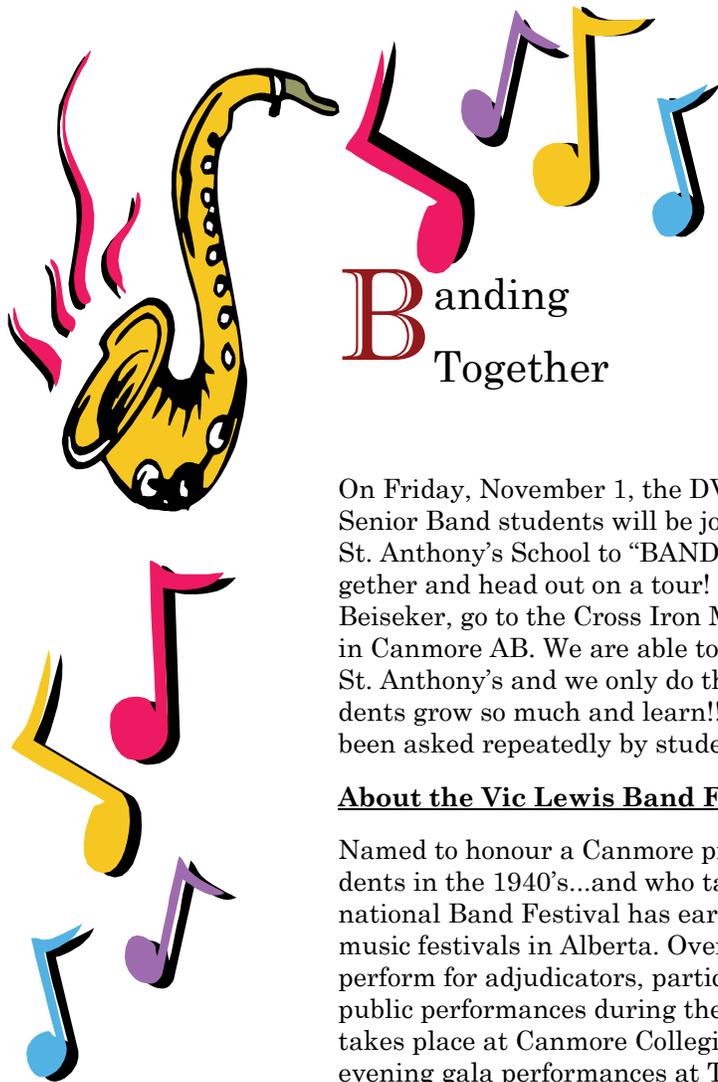
We are celebrating 50 years this year and 20 years of serving seniors. We are poised for an exciting school year with so many amazing opportunities for students.

November 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Take out kids to work day | 7 Remembrance Day Ceremony  | 8 School Closure  | 9 |
| 10 | 11 School Closure  | 12 School Council Meeting 2nd Quarter begins | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Staff Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| International Education Week | | | | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Parent/Teacher Interviews | 29 School Closure  | 30 |

December 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------|--|-----|--------------------------------|--|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Seniors Christmas Dinner  | 6 School Closure  | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Staff Meeting | 19 | 20 Pancake Breakfast  | 21 |
| 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27  | 28 |
| HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | Classes resume January 6, 2014 | | | |



Banding Together



On Friday, November 1, the DVSS Senior Band students will be joining St. Anthony's School to "BAND" together and head out on a tour! We will be performing at a school on the way in Beiseker, go to the Cross Iron Mall and then heading to the Vic Lewis Band Festival in Canmore AB. We are able to do this only because we are able to work together with St. Anthony's and we only do this every 2 years!! What an amazing opportunity! Students grow so much and learn!! They come back excited to return and I have often been asked repeatedly by students when we're going back!

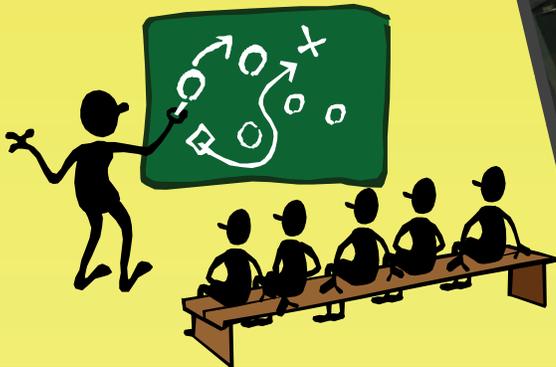
About the Vic Lewis Band Festival:

Named to honour a Canmore pioneer who introduced band music to Bow Valley students in the 1940's...and who taught them for over twenty years...the Vic Lewis International Band Festival has earned a reputation as one of the best non-competitive music festivals in Alberta. Over 800 students in junior high and high school bands perform for adjudicators, participate in workshops, listen to faculty recitals and give public performances during the two days and two nights of the festival. The festival takes place at Canmore Collegiate High and the Canmore Recreation Centre with evening gala performances at The Cornerstone Theatre.

FINE ARTS CALENDAR 2013—2014 AT-A- GLANCE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------|--|
| November 1st 7th | Sr. Band to Vic Lewis Band Festival in Canmore with St. Anthony's Remembrance Day—All groups will contribute |
| December 5th 11th | Senior's Dinner - Metal Art Pieces, Christmas Play and Carol groups Fine Arts Night |
| March 10-21 | Music Festival DDMFA |
| April 9, 10th 17th | Choral Rock Show Talent Show |
| May 11/13th | Leadership Conference—Sunday 11th—4 pm, Tuesday 13th 10:30 am |
| June 4th | Fine Arts Nights 7 pm |

Fall Sports Team Dance





Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

For your convenience, we have made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, whether at school or at home;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans - such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);

Out-of-province or country emergency medical expenses.

If your address changes during the school year, your Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada.

Insurance premiums are \$13.50 and \$31.95 per year, depending on the plan selected, and your child is covered all the time, not just while at school. A discounted premium is available for families with 3 or more children.

For more information or to apply online, please visit www.kidsplus.ca, or speak with a Kids Plus™ Client Service Administrator at **1-800-556-7411**.





Korean and FOR Club Dinner Partners

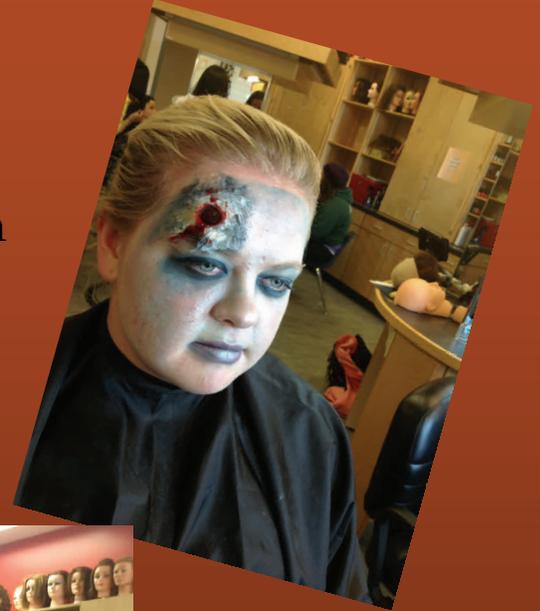


The For Club members who volunteered to meet with the fourteen Korean students for lunch once-a-week met. The original idea was to attempt to introduce the international group to some local students to assist them in both their English abilities, but also to work on establishing cultural liaisons and hopefully friendships. Everyone involved appeared to be keen to get to know one another.

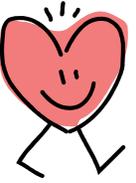


Cosmetology

Cosmo class
practiced their
make up skills in
preparation for
Halloween.



Safe and Caring Schools- DVSS in Action



Kids talk to Kids Help Phone when kids don't know who to talk to.

Anything goes

From trouble with homework to dealing with loss and grief to thoughts of suicide, kids can talk to Kids Help Phone about anything. Professional counsellors provide anonymous, confidential and non-judgemental support.

Support right at home

We are the only organization that has access to a database of over 37,000 local resources. That means that no matter where a kid is calling from, our professional counsellors can connect them to a service right in their community, whether they need a place to stay for the night, a way-home or a sexual health clinic.

Kids Help Phone's Mission

Our mission is to improve the well-being of children and youth in Canada by providing them anonymous and confidential professional counseling, referrals and information in English and French, through technologically-based communications media.

Kids Help Phone's Vision

To continue to improve and grow Kids Help Phone to ensure we deliver the most effective, timely and valuable counselling, referrals and information to every young person in Canada from five to 20 who could benefit from our support.

Even though everyone needs help sometimes, stigma around mental and emotional health struggle remains strong. The threat of being judged or labeled can leave both adults and kids reluctant to seek help.

DVSS Featured on Alberta Health website:

<http://www.healthyalberta.com/1593.htm>



COMMUNITY SERVICE AND STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

School Bus Drivers

Urgently Needed



Would you like to be a bus driver? Same days off as your school aged children and the possibility of taking your pre-school child on the bus with you.

ALL HOLIDAYS AND SUMMER OFF

PART TIME HOURS

The Golden Hills School Division requires regular drivers and spare bus drivers. There will be “S” Endorsement courses for bus drivers offered throughout the year. If you do not have a Class we can help you get it.

For more information please call 1-800-320-3739
Or contact your local school.

Changes in Inclement Weather Policy

1. AP 131 Inclement Weather

Basic Philosophy - Run whenever IT IS SAFE so students can get to school.

If busses don't run in am– then run in pm unless it is not safe to do so – This is NEW (effective January 1, 2013) and in response to parent feedback.

PM bus to run even if it did not run in AM for entire jurisdiction. If bus does not run in the AM it will run in the PM. If the driver determines that the bus WILL NOT run in the PM due to safety concerns (ie. inclement weather), then the parents and Administration needs to be notified no later than noon of that day.

Rationale

As we review our data in the area, often the decision not run is based on road or weather conditions that have changed significantly by the end of the school day even though their route was not operating in the morning. All the drivers must contact the parents when there are changes to their scheduled run so this information would be communicated to parents by the bus driver. They in turn would inform the principal. Many parents already drop students off at school when the bus does not run and in many of the cases we have looked at, there would be no safety issue with the bus route operating at the end of the school day.

THIS CHANGE IS IN RESPONSE TO PARENT REQUESTS.

Tahra Sabir



Frequently Asked Questions for School Jurisdictions

Please visit the link (PDF file):

<http://www.servicealberta.ca/foip/documents/faq-school-jurisdictions.pdf>

Or for more information, please contact:

- * **Your School Board's FOIP Coordinator**
 - Tahra Sabir
 - Golden Hills School Divison No. 75
 - Email: tahra.sabir@ghsd75.ca

- **Alberta School Boards Association**
 - Legal Services
 - 1200, 9925 – 109 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
 - Phone: 780-451-7118
 - Fax: 780-488-0679
 - E-mail: dtumbach@asba.ab.ca

- **Alberta Teachers' Association**
 - 11010 – 142 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1
 - Phone: 780-447-9400
 - Fax: 780-455-6481
 - E-mail: dgarvey@teachers.ab.ca

- **Office of the Information and Privacy**
 - Commissioner
 - 410, 9925 – 109 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
 - Phone: 780-422-6860
 - Toll free: 1-888-878-4044
 - Fax: 780-422-5682
 - E-mail: generalinfo@oipc.ab.ca
 - Website: www.oipc.ab.ca

- **Alberta Education Legislative Services Branch**
 - 19th Floor, Commerce Place
 - 10155 – 102 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5
 - Phone: 780-427-3798
 - Call toll free by dialing 310-0000 first
 - Fax: 780-415-6546
 - E-mail: caroline.grimard@gov.ab.ca

- **FOIP Help Desk Access and Privacy Service Alberta**
 - 3rd Floor, Commerce Place
 - 10155 – 102 Street
 - Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4
 - Phone: 780-427-5848
 - Call toll free by dialing 310-0000 first
 - Fax: 780-427-1120
 - E-mail: foiphelpdesk@gov.ab.ca
 - Website: foip.alberta.ca

- **Queen's Printer**
 - Edmonton: 780-427-4952
 - Call toll free by dialing 310-0000 first
 - E-mail: qp@gov.ab.ca
 - Website: qp.alberta.ca
 - FOIP Act and Regulation
 - FOIP Guidelines and Practices
 - Annotated FOIP Act