

The Cayley Connection

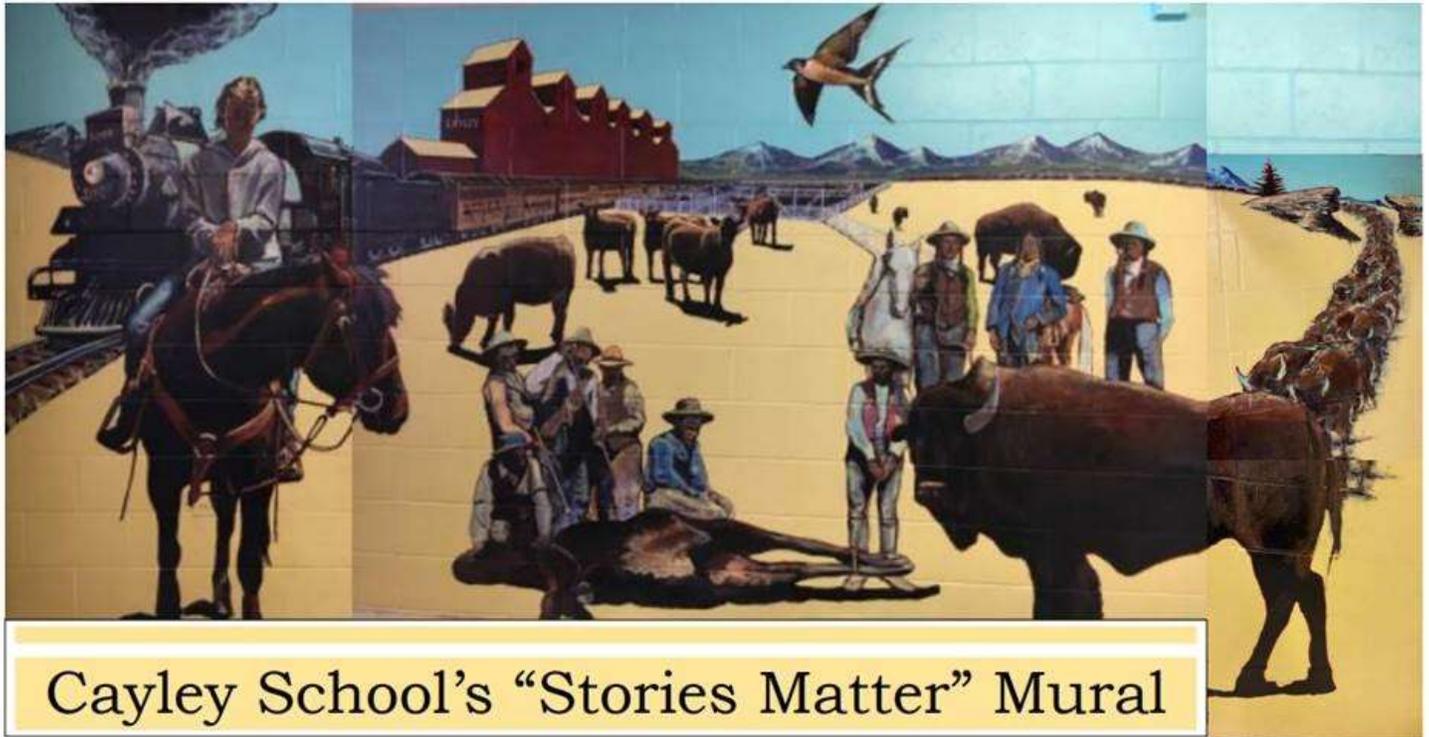
Cayley School

“Developing and Celebrating Engaged Learners,
Responsible Citizens, and Capable Individuals.”

Edition 20/21

Issue #2

December 4, 2020



With the school community honoring and respecting the guidelines and measures we have put in place to help our students stay safe while at school during the past nine months, most of you have not had the opportunity to be in the school to see the new mural we have in our entryway outside the office. The mural represents the lands and peoples who have lived and thrived in the Cayley area throughout history up until today. The magnificent mural was painted by last year's "Stories Matter" teacher, **Mr. Paul Rasporich**, with the help of his artist wife, **Lee Kvern**. The project was the culminating activity of our three-year "Stories Matter" initiative and the process was captured on video and will be used to chronicle the collaborative work that went in to the mural's message and composition. Included in those who shared in this process, in addition to the artists, were two Stoney elders who visited the school, Mrs. Stephenson and Mr. Irwin from the school, Yvonne Evans, Cayley School Alumni and Mr. Bill Dunn, a local historian and creator of the Cayley Stockyards model on display at Cayley School. The group relied heavily on historical accounts and pictures found in local history books of Cayley and the Bar U Ranch. Funding for the mural came from a one-time gift from the Cayley School Reunion Committee of 2014 in conjunction with the funds that remained from our Foothills School Division's CPIP funding for our three-year "Stories Matter" initiative.





MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

As a school community, to be able to successfully get through to this time of year under our present circumstances has been quite an accomplishment to say the least. For the most part, things feel pretty “normal” in the school now that we have grown accustomed to some of the routines and protocols that are now in place. Honestly, possibly with the exception of a few our older students who would rather be out with their dads hunting, students have enjoyed being back at school over what they experienced last spring learning from home. If you ask the teachers, they prefer it this way as well.

As of this last Monday following a province-wide directive and subsequent measures, our Grade 7 and 8 students returned to learning from home and will continue to do so up until a week after the Christmas break ends. For the next three-and-a-half weeks of school, the same routines and content that were being followed and taught prior to this week will continue on until the students’ projected return to regular in-school classes as of January 11th. With the help of technology, teachers are currently meeting with students virtually at the junior high level throughout the morning and into the afternoon, so the time commitment that students and teachers are making is not dissimilar to that of a regular school day inside the school.

After the Christmas break, our younger students and their teachers will be engaged in learning from home as well from January 4th through the 8th. Prior to the Christmas break, teachers will be preparing a week-long learning plan and packets that will help guide student learning at home. We will be sending these learning packages home with elementary students before they leave for their break so that they have all that they need, including a schedule, to be able to continue with their learning that first week back after the break. After the break, teachers will be connecting with students digitally or by phone throughout the week to help them with their learning. The ultimate plan is to provide learning that will help students to continue moving forward in their learning even though they will be learning from home.

If things go as planned due to these precautionary measures being applied in schools, the COVID-case curve will level out somewhat and we will be able to start back up on Monday, January 11th, with regular classes for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 returning for in-school learning. As we approach that date, it will become clearer whether or not that in fact will happen based on COVID-related conditions within the province at that time.

In conclusion, on a number of levels, the staff of Cayley School sincerely appreciate the support that we have had as we have tried to navigate the uncharted waters that we have had to face in order to provide as safe and caring an environment as we possibly could in Cayley School. The association between home and school has been the most significant factor in this whole scenario. Because you have been actively supporting us, supporting your child, and supporting the protocols and measures we have put in place to help provide a safe and caring environment at the school, we have not only survived to this point in the school year but in a lot of ways have actually thrived. We are genuinely looking forward to even better times in the new year as we trust things become more stable in our world and in our community.

On behalf of the staff, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all the best during the upcoming holiday season. Please be sure to spend quality time together as a family as everyday together is truly a gift as we’ve come to learn in our school setting this year. As well, as we move into a new year, I want to wish you all the best as we look forward to better and happier times coming to pass in 2021!

Continue to stay well and continue to stay in touch!

Phil Irwin - Principal





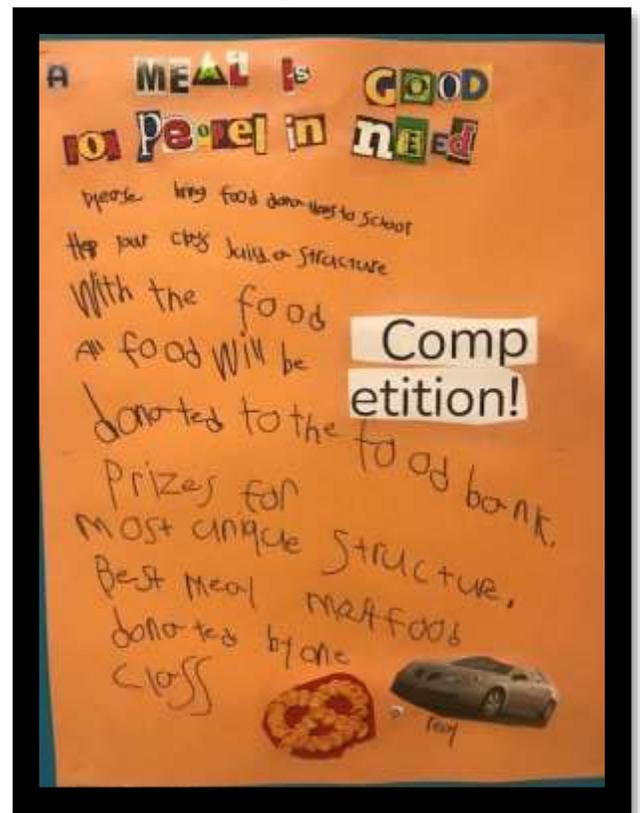
Stories Matter –the next chapter

The school is excited to announce a development that has taken place that directly impacts Cayley School's "Stories Matter" initiative and that has come our way unexpectedly. Trickster Theatre approached us this week to see if we would pilot some of their new digital/virtual *Artists in Residence* workshops for them ... free of charge! Our Grade 4 class will be engaged in a Science-based workshop focused on "Waste in our World" while the Grade 5/6 class will be focused on "Sky Science". The two-day / 2 1/2 hour workshops will take place prior to the Christmas break. Trickster has indicated that they would like to follow up after the break with us to explore the possibility of producing something that would benefit the class while promoting their program -- much like we did with their "Storytelling through Theatre" pilot that we were involved in two years ago.

And, finally, speaking of "Storytelling through Theatre", Trickster has also asked us to participate in their new digital/visual workshop pilot ... again, free of charge! The reason they gave for having us be a part of this new initiative was our work piloting their original in-person *Artist in Residence* Storytelling workshop. It will be interesting to see how they take what we helped co-create with them a few years ago and now how they will transform it for presentation on-line. We have chosen our Grade 7/8 class to be a part of that work after the Christmas break as part of our "Stories Matter" that is focused on multiculturalism within our community, our province, and our country.

Yes, these are truly exciting times within the Cayley School community ... and, ironically, for the most part, we actually have COVID-19 to thank for this most recent development. It's exciting, as well, that the work that FSD's CPIP funding helped get started three-and-a-half years ago continues to generate innovation and programming opportunities for Cayley School without any need for additional financial support. Even during difficult times, we continue to be truly blessed as a school and school community!

Food Bank Donations Accepted Here!



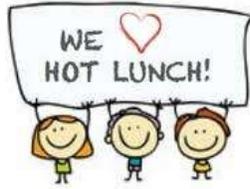
Special thanks to **Ms. Hutchinson**, and student volunteers **Emerson Dautremont, Payton Davidson, Shane McCollister and Elliza Lefebvre** for spear heading our Food Bank Drive this year. This group not only spread the word within our school by creating awesome posters like the one pictured above, but also made a video that circulated to all of our classrooms. Part of the fun will be a friendly competition to see which classroom can build the most interesting structure from the items that come their way. **Our donation blitz has started this week and will end on Monday, December 14th**, with the construction project taking place on Tuesday **December 15th**.

All donations of non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated and will be donated to the Cayley Community Club to directly help those in need 





We are exploring an on-line ordering system and vendors, which other FSD schools are presently using, with the goal to have a hot lunch program back up and running to start when we come back in January. We will have more information to share before the Christmas Break. In the meantime, Cayley School will be sponsoring a free hot dog/juice box lunch day on Tuesday, December 15, provided by Hot Off the Press Food Truck.



Virtual Christmas Concert

Stay tuned, as classrooms are busy preparing presentations that we will be videotaped and posted on our website during the last week of school before the break.

