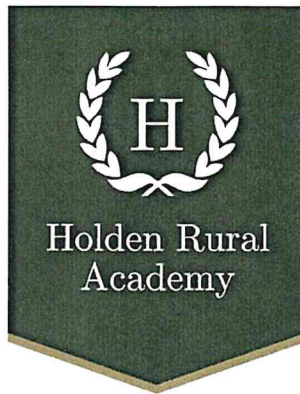




# **Holden Rural Academy**

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

**2024**



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Well, it seems winter finally made its appearance this year. Thankfully it was short lived! With saying that I would like to take a minute to thank all of the staff and volunteers who helped deal with the floods we suffered due to the extreme cold temperatures. We really have a great staff and community. We were able to relocate to the other end of the school that was unaffected. We managed to only have to miss one day before being fully operational again! I'd also like to take the time to wish the students all the best in their second semester that starts shortly.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2nd Annual Open House and Fundraiser on March 14, 2024.

All the best,

Justin Ewasiuk  
HRA BOARD CHAIR



February 2024

As we move into the second half of this 2023/24 school year, we are starting to plan for the 2024/25 school term. This includes sharing results from last year and gathering data to assist us with developing plans and strategies for next year. Here are some strategies HRA will use to help prepare for 2024/25.

### HRA Annual Education Results Report Presentation (Feb 5/24)

- I will be discussing results of the 2022/23 school year with parents who attend the School Council February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- I will provide an overview of HRA's student performance on provincial exams as well as findings from satisfaction surveys conducted last year.

### 2023/24 Satisfaction Surveys

- The Ministry of Education will conduct its annual satisfaction telephone and online surveys to collect public and participant perceptions of Alberta's education system.
- Survey collection began January 15<sup>th</sup>/24 and will continue to March 2024.

### Place-Based Learning Surveys

- As a public charter school, we are required to conduct research on the impact of our charter focus, place-based learning.
- This research has three aims.
  1. Examine how and in what ways place-based education is being implemented.
  2. Identify barriers and supports in the implementation and
  3. Evaluate the impact of the implementation of place-based education
- HRA is working with the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary, who will assist us with this research. An online survey will be distributed to students, parents, staff and the Board in February.
- A researcher from the University will also come in the Spring to conduct some interviews, to follow up the survey data.

We encourage all stakeholders to participate, as it provides valuable information to help the Academy and the Ministry identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement, while helping to support a more effective and accountable education system.

Wesley Oginski  
Superintendent



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As one semester ends and our students get a well deserved break we look forward to the challenges of the next semester. I want to thank the students for their hard work for the first half of our year. We've had some great accomplishments during the first half and also some causes for concern. The last half of the year will be where we, as a school, hope to break through and forge those relationships with the student base where we get everyone swimming in the same direction.

The new semester will bring more change than just new courses for the students. Our portables are well underway in being remediated and renovated from our flood damage so that we can have students back in those rooms. As well, we've instituted a new bell schedule for the 2nd semester which allows us to make up for the time that we lost in the midst of our floods and cold days. This change allows us to hit the course requirements from Alberta Education without having to add an extra school day somewhere in the 2nd semester.

A couple of reminder items would be that teachers are attending a Teachers Convention on February 15th and 16th so we don't have school those days. School Council has their next meeting on Monday, February 5th where they will be implementing their bylaws. In addition, they will be advising me on some new school rules that I am wanting to implement for the benefit of our school.

Finally I've announced the formation of the Principal's Council, which will be a council where students will get a chance to sit with me and discuss possible student rules and initiatives for the betterment of the school. The hope is that student opinions will help with improving student behaviours, learning and enjoyment. The initial Principal's Council meeting will be at 12:15pm on Tuesday, February 6th. Please discuss this opportunity for your student to share their voice and if they are interested, please encourage them to come out to the meeting on Tuesday.

Regards,

Brent Anderson  
Principal, HRA



# HOLDEN RURAL ACADEMY



## WELCOME BACK MR DEWAR!

Our own Mr. Dewar has returned to Holden Rural Academy in a new part time role. Mr. Dewar is now our Work Experience/Career Counselor helping students get their required hours for work experience as well as counselling them on setting their post secondary plans.

## COMING EVENTS

- Jan 31 Semester 1 ends
- Feb 1 No School-Semester Break
- Feb 5 Semester 2 Begins, Report cards go home
- Feb 8 Early Dismissal 2:30 pm/Hot Lunch
- Feb 15-16 Teacher's Convention No School
- Feb 19 No School, Family Day

## CONTACT US



[info@holdenra.ca](mailto:info@holdenra.ca)



[www.holdenra.ca](http://www.holdenra.ca)



780-688-0232



# 'Just' a farm kid is a job prospect extraordinaire

While attending a job fair last week where Taylor Newspapers manned a booth, I met lots of job seekers.

Some brought resumes. Others just moseyed by, picked up the free stuff on our table and asked a few questions.

But one young woman created a memory for me.

She was a senior in high school, seeking summer employment before starting to a community college in the fall.

"Are you hiring?" she asked.

We said probably not, but we're always looking for good resources, such as part-time photographers and writers.

"We'd be happy to take your resume," I told her.

Then she said something that stuck with me. "I'm afraid my resume wouldn't be too impressive," she said. "I've spent all my life working on my parents' farm. I go to school in the daytime and do chores morning and night."

Whoa.

I told her to go home and create a resume, and write down exactly what she had told me.

As a farm girl, one who has driven a tractor since she was 12, one who has cleaned out barns, scooped grain until her back ached, fed chickens, pigs, cattle and goats — this girl knows the meaning of work.

She knows about dependability and getting jobs done on time. The morning school bus won't wait until a farm kid finishes those chores. They'll be done on time or the young student will miss that all-important ride.

A young person who has put up hay, helped her dad and mother in the farrowing house or candled eggs has something more than words to jot on a resume.

Farm kids don't need to take art appreciation classes in school. They witness picturesque landscapes, sunrises and changes in seasons as they grow up.

They ride horses, drive four-wheelers and neatly stack big bales at the edge of meadows.

They fish in their ponds, learn to handle firearms and shoot deer, rabbits and turkeys.

They work as a family in the garden, raising, harvesting and canning their own vegetables.

Farm kids learn to keep good records on their livestock. When they raise and sell a 4-H calf, they can calculate the profit gained after deducting feed, vet medicines and other costs.

They typically know how to stand on their own two feet and give project talks, or give oral reasons for judging a class of lambs or swine.

Many of them earn leadership roles in church, 4-H or FFA, so they can moderate a meeting to perfection using Roberts

Rules of Order.

They learn early in life the tactics of conservation — how to keep topsoil from washing into Oklahoma; how to plant wind barriers and how to recognize grass-cheating weeds that need sprayed.

Any farm kid can handle a paint brush, spade a garden, pull worms from tomato plants, gather hen eggs, mow grass, groom animals and take one grain of wheat, bite down on it and determine if it's time to start the combine.

And, this girl thinks her resume might be lackluster?

Oh, I don't think so.

Put her to work in a hardware store, newspaper office or grocery store, and she will enter the front door looking for things to do.

It's that way with kids who grow up as farm and ranch kids.

Their resume is written on their foreheads and in their hearts.

They should never apologize.

Never.

• *Rudy Taylor is publisher of three weekly newspapers in southeast Kansas. He also takes pride in being a young farmer during his teenage years and a proud member of FFA.*



*Off the Cuff*  
RUDY TAYLOR

*Printed in the Montgomery County (Kan.) Chronicle  
Thursday, February 21, 2013*



Thursday  
March 14  
2024



Holden  
Rural  
Academy

2ND  
*Annual*  
FUNDRAISER

School Tours, Supper  
Silent & Live Auction





Send your Sweetie a  
Candygram for Valentine's:  
\$2 Candy  
or \$4 for Candy and a flower



Order Feb 5-12



# Poetry Winner

The number one winner is:

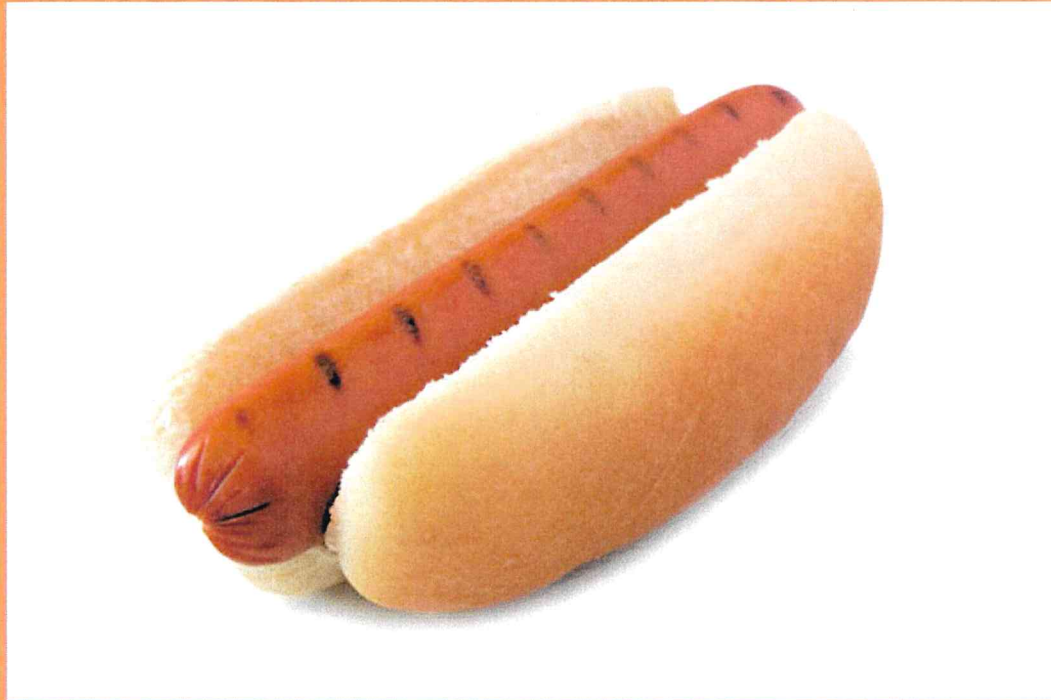
The Lonely Drummer

The lonely drummer  
Banging around he's bobbing  
Beat-boxing as well  
The only drummer, his band  
He has blisters on his hand  
~ A.J.W

The honorable mention:

There was a young man in Dhaka  
Who settled in Osaka  
He played on the beach  
With his favourite peach  
He sat on the sand with papa  
~ Grade 8 Student





**HOT DOG DAY BY  
YOUR  
STUDENT UNION  
FEB 2  
AT LUNCH  
CASH ONLY**



# BYE BYE! 2023

EXPLORE FUSED GLASS!  
GEARED TOWARDS ADULTS,  
AT THIS WORKSHOP YOU  
WILL LEARN HOW TO CUT  
AND BUILD WITH VARIOUS  
PIECES OF GLASS. COME  
CREATE WITH US!

> Thursday, February 1st  
> 7:00 - 9:00  
> @ The Gallery  
> Pre-registration is a  
must @  
[www.fusionyeg.com](http://www.fusionyeg.com)

This creative tool is an effective  
way to explore your goals and  
intentions for 2024

Fusion YEG  
Fused Art Glass Studio

# HELLO! 2024

## Affirmation Beads







# Holden Steak Nite



**Saturday, January 27, 2024 @**

**5PM to 7:30PM**

## **Featuring:**

**Chicken Wings and Ribs (only) with Buffet  
\$30 per plate**

**For more information**

**Please contact Lucy Upham: 780-781-6014**



\*\*\* We apologize for the menu change\*\*\*

Due to unforeseen circumstances we moved  
the Ribs and Wings Nite ahead one month.



**Next Steak Nite: Saturday, Feb 24, 2024,**







## WEEKNIGHT DINNERS

Feb 1-29, 2024 **\$25/Box**  
**(\$10 goes to your fund!)**

- Each box has approx. \$25 value
- Gluten and peanut free products
  - Comes in a nice gift box
- A sample of our most popular meals
  - No added tax or shipping

EPICURE  
GOOD FOOD. REAL FAST.



### MEALS THAT MATTER

With every Weeknight Dinners Collection you purchase, \$10 will be donated to the **HOUSTON AREA FOOD BANK**.

### GOOD FOOD. REAL FAST.

The Weeknight Dinners Collection is packed with an assortment of easy meal solutions that help you know what's for dinner, and make it fast.

## WEEKNIGHT DINNERS COLLECTION - \$25

Included in the Collection:

- Taco Seasoning
- Beef & Broccoli Seasoning
- Pulled Chicken Seasoning
- Crispy & Crunchy Coating Mix
- Mac & Cheese Seasoning
- Chocolate Instant Pudding Mix



tracylehman.epicure.com

### THESE PRODUCTS ARE:

- Gluten Free
- Nut Free (excludes coconut)
- Free of corn syrup and hydrogenated fat
- Sugar and sodium conscious
- Free of artificial colours, sweeteners and preservatives
- Made from ethically sourced ingredients
- 90% Non-GMO Project Verified



Holden Rural  
Academy

# SUPPORT THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024

CONTACT: *c.nicholson@holdenra.ca*





# February 2024

January '24							March '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
28	29	30	31				31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Semester 1 Break	2	3
4	5 Semester 2 begins Report Cards Home	6 Dry Land Training	7	8 Early Dismissal 2:30 Staff Meeting On Ice Training Hot Lunch Taco in a Bag	9	10
11	12	13 Dry Land Training	14 Pink/Red Day	15 Teacher's Convention	16	17
18	19 Family Day	20 Dry Land Training	21	22 On Ice Training	23	24
25	26	27 Dry Land Training	28 Formal Day	29 On Ice Training	1	2
3	4	Not 15 Student Days		18 Teachers Days		