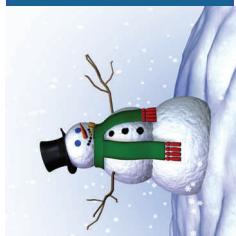




THE BUZZ

ADVANCING FUTURES BURSARY PROGRAM DECEMBER 2009 EDITION



SANTA'S EARLY GIFT TO AFB

We must have been REALLY good this year, because the AFB team got an early Christmas gift! Can you guess what it is?

And here's a clue...it's NOT a puppy.

Okay, guessing time is over! If you said that AFB got a new Program Coordinator, you're right! Jena has been helping us out here and there and we were finally able to bribe her with milk and cookies to stay!

Jena will be talking to new students and also helping current students with any crisis situations that may come up.

"Who is this new and strange person?" you might ask...because new people can be weird and scary. Well, no worries, Jena is young and cool (at least she thinks she is). She likes carbs, her two puppies and being outside.

Thanks Santa!!

The Jolly Fat Man Says...

Don't forget that due to schools being closed for the holidays, your JANUARY living expenses will be released to you early. Please keep in mind that this does need to carry you through until the end of January!

One suggestion: Don't cash your cheque until the last week in December to resist the urge to spend it all on those really great Boxing Day sales!!



FESTIVE FUNNIES

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!



Important Tax Information

It's almost that time of year...the taxman cometh!! Here is what you need to know...

Around the beginning of March, you will receive a **T4A** from us which details how much funding you have received. You will also need to contact your school to get your **T2202A** which tells the Government how much the Bursary has paid for your schooling. Most schools only offer the T2202A online through your student account, but contact your school if you're not sure!

By law, after the age of 18, you are required to file taxes. This may seem scary, but typically, students get money BACK. Plus, by filing taxes, you are eligible to receive GST cheques and subsidies which means more money for you!

There are lots of places that offer discounted rates for students to file taxes. H&R Block is one of them. You have until April 30, 2010 to file your taxes without penalty, so get started early!!

ADVANCING FUTURES
BURSARY PROGRAM
DECEMBER 2009 EDITION

10TH FLOOR, STERLING
PLACE

9940 106 STREET
EDMONTON AB T5K 2N2

(780) 415-0085

TOLL-FREE BY DIALING
310-0000 FIRST

FAX: (780) 644-6905

Advancing.Futures@gov.ab.ca

Or email your coordinator at:
Shelly.Kowalewich@gov.ab.ca
Lindsay.McKerness@gov.ab.ca
Jena.Bober@gov.ab.ca



If there is anything you
would like to see featured
in the newsletter, please let
us know.

E-mail suggestions to
Advancing.Futures@gov.ab.ca.
Or, if you have an update
or story you would like
published, send it our

FESTIVE FESTIVITIES

EDMONTON

Dec. 5-20 — Christmas Weekends @
the Muttart Conservatory
9626-96A st

Dec. 31 — New Years Downtown
Sir Winston Churchill Sq.
9pm-12:30am

Find more events at:
www.eventsedmonton.ca
www.edmonton.ca



CALGARY

Dec. 1-23— 12 Days of Christmas
Heritage Park
9am-4pm

Nov 27-Jan 3— Zoolights
Calgary Zoo
6-9pm

Find more events at:
www.calgarykiosk.ca
www.christmasincalgary.com

H1N1 Influenza Update

What's going on?

In light of the recent H1N1 Influenza Pandemic, workplaces, schools, daycares, etc., have developed protocol to address sick staff, students, and children.

What does this mean for our students?

Due to sickness, some of the AFB staff may be sent to a far away island to get better (we don't want those sickies around us!!), and that means that you may not be able to reach your coordinator. Just call 780-415-0085 and ask to be redirected.

If you or your little ones happen to fall victim to the mean old flu bug, or any other nasty illness, be sure to call your coordinator and your school to give them the heads up.

It's also a good idea to talk to your school about their procedures for sick students regarding missed assignments or exams. They may also require a doctors note for extended absences.

A good offence is a strong defence, so wash your hands, stay away from sniffing study-buddies, and find some comfy slippers for those icky, chilly nights!

Should you have any further questions regarding pandemic preparedness, please contact your school or childcare provider. You can also check out www.health.alberta.ca for information.

The AFB Christmas Wish List

From all of us here at Youth Strategies and the
Advancing Futures Bursary, we wish all of you a
very safe and happy holiday and a festively
fantastic New Year! Who doesn't love a fresh
start? The very best to all of our amazing
students!

