

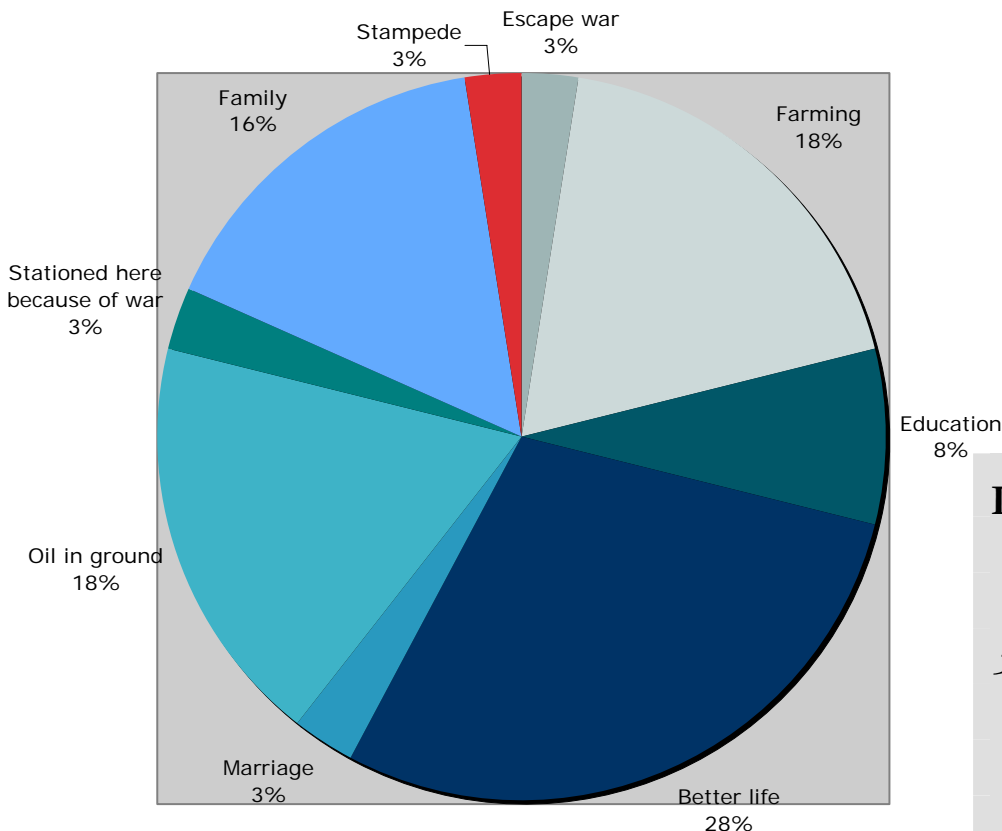


Voices of Our Girls

Our Past in Numbers

Inspiration took hold of the grade four classrooms during the *Moving West Project*. As the students uncovered their families' journeys to Alberta, they felt the need to make sense of the stories that were brought forward. The information came alive as they explored and documented the rich tapestries of their pasts! With so much data gathered, the students were compelled to compare and discover the meaning behind why their classmates 'moved west'. In order to make sense of this data, the inquiry into graphing took shape. Using multiple graphing techniques students were given an outlet through which to explore and uncover the stories they wanted to understand. This display represents connections made through the lens of social studies and mathematics.

What Brought Our Grade 4C Families to Alberta ?



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Voices of Our Girls
- 4 Message from CGS Staff
- 5-6 School Notices, POOSCA
- 7 School Council
- 8 Message from the Board
- 9 Monthly Calendar

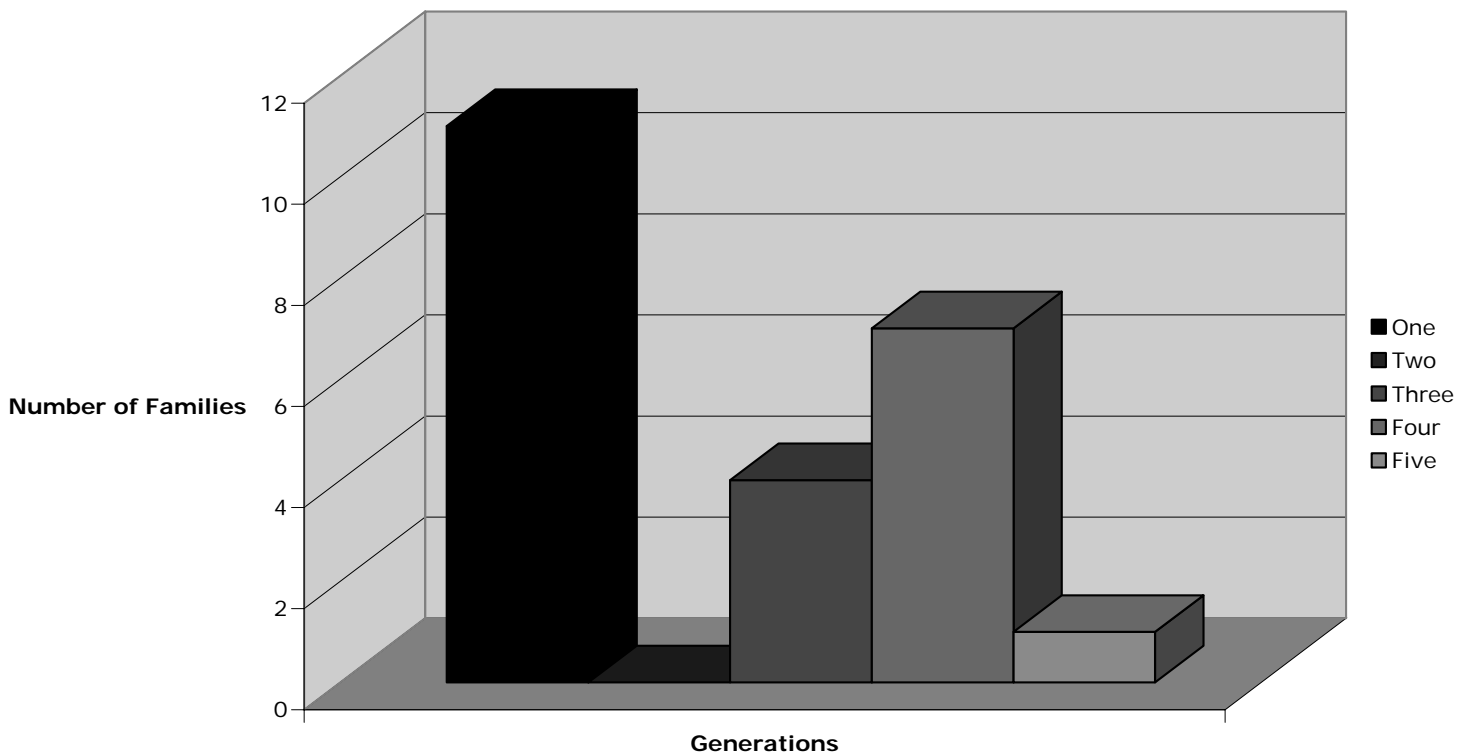
View this newsletter in full colour online at www.calgarygirlsschool.com under What's New

My Graph Tells Me Something

My graph tells a story about the class and their past. I created a graph on why people moved to Alberta. The rest of the students did graphs on what towns they have lived in in Alberta, how many generations of their families have lived in Alberta, and what brought their families here? They have different answers than the usual answers. In our class it seemed like most people moved here because of the harsh winters and the weather. Oil & gas, mountains and/ or scenery, land space, all ended up with 6 people. I think it's weird that most people moved because of weather. I am so tempted to find out more about my classmates!

Max.C.

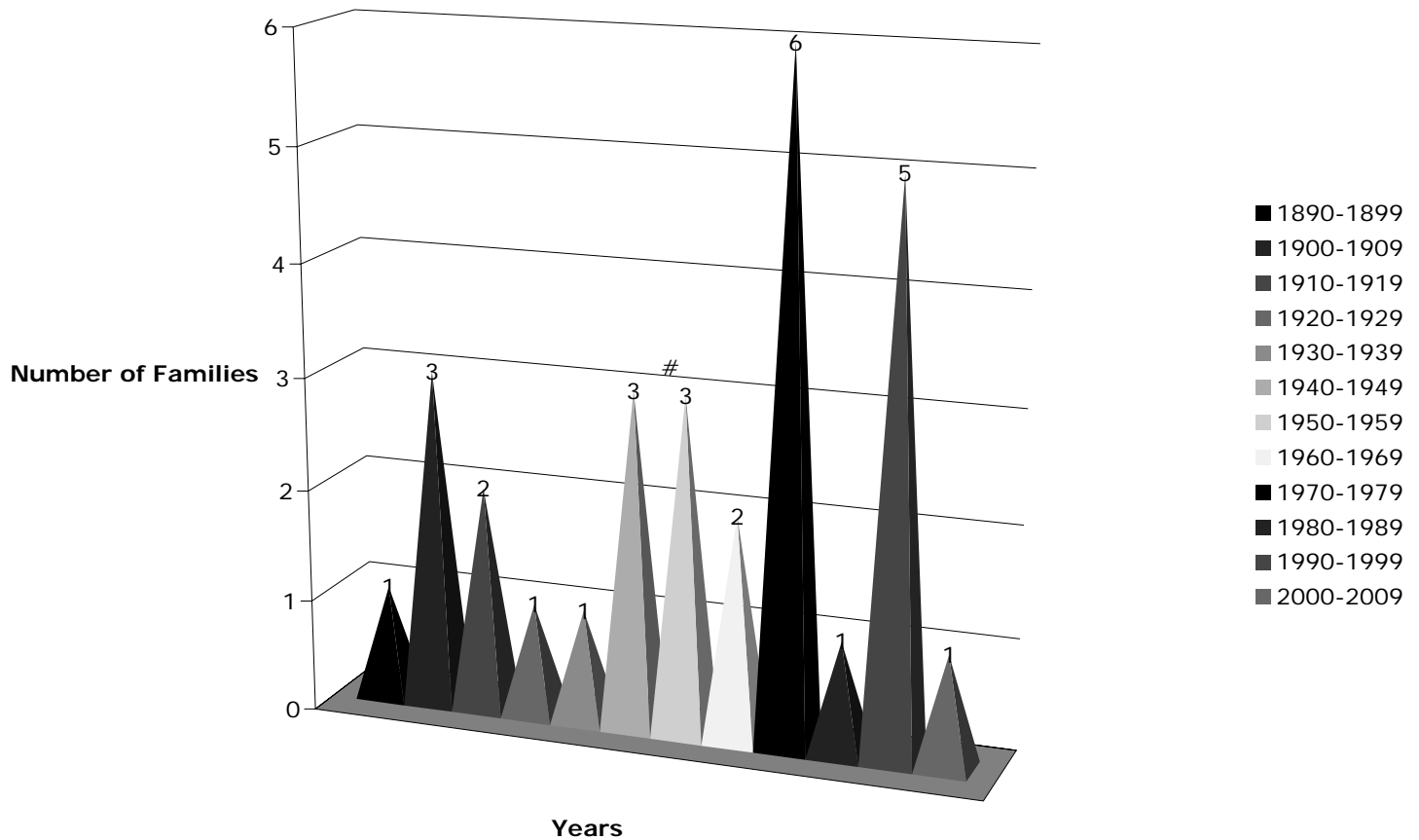
How Many Generations Have Our Families Lived in Alberta?



My graph tells the story of which province or territories our families have lived in before Alberta. It shows also which provinces/territories used to be popular. It is also very interesting because if you look between the math and places and the numbers it tells that Alberta must be a pretty nice place if all these people from all these different places are moving here. Also, if you have that information, it tells that amazing amounts of people are moving to Alberta at an alarming rate. My point is that Alberta is getting pretty darn popular... and full. In just Calgary, 40 people move here per day. That's 280 a week! 1120 a month! Alberta is a very good place with an amazing quality of life.

Ashlyn D.

The Years My Classmates Families Arrived In Alberta



My Graph Story

My story tells me that more people have lived in Edmonton than Lethbridge, Banff and Lake Louise. There were 7 people who have lived in Edmonton, 6 people in Lethbridge, 3 people in Banff, and 1 in Lake Louise. More people have lived in Central and Southern Alberta, and none in Northern Alberta. The graph I chose is a bar graph because I am comfortable using them. The graph is showing the answers to what towns my classmates have lived in, in Alberta! I wonder why nobody has lived in Northern Alberta, maybe because it might be colder up there?

Megan V.M.

MESSAGE FROM CGS STAFF

In last month's newsletter, a request was made for parents who drive their daughters to school to do so in a safe and responsible manner. The assumption made, following this reminder, was that parents had made efforts to attend to this safety issue. Much to everyone's disappointment, the following e-mail message was received in the second week of December. This message is written by a parent who regularly drives her girls to school at the Lakeview campus:

I just wanted to drop a line to suggest that you send a strongly worded memo home with students about the driving practices of some of their parents. I know that there was a message in the newsletter but I doubt that everyone read it. Certainly recent events would suggest not.

At 8:44 this morning (i.e., pushing the envelope for being on time), I was driving the girls in this morning. The street was slippery. For this reason I was going somewhat less than the legal 50 km/hr until I reached the playground/school zone at which point I dropped to 30 km/hr. A parent, apparently finding this speed to slow, rode my tail until I dropped to 30 km and then gunned around me . . . his/her child glaring derisively at us until their vehicle cut off another parent to then block the exit to the parking lot in order to allow this precious child access to the front door without forcing her to walk.

I am appalled by this kind of behaviour. Aside from the fact that passing in a playground zone is illegal (as is speeding in a playground zone), this school is located in a neighborhood that has a right to expect that those of us using the neighborhood for schooling purposes will treat their neighborhood with respect and behave in ways that preserve the safety of the neighborhood.

I know that this is of concern to you already so wanted to drop a line to let you know that the message has not been received by all.

This parent has most eloquently reiterated the school's concern for the safety and well-being of all. Every one of us, from time to time, runs late....the question is, whether we are willing to compromise the lives of girls simply to meet or beat the clock! **Please, please slow down.**

Following a successful **Open House/Information Session** in November, the admin team is proceeding to interview girls and families for admission in September 2008. Currently, interviews will be scheduled for grade 4 and 5 students.

In January, Mrs. Gibson will be requesting information from each family regarding **attendance for next year**: who will be returning, who will not be returning, and if there are siblings who will be new to CGS. Please complete and return this survey in a timely manner in order that we can plan for your daughter's attendance, and determine where spaces exist for new enrolment. In the instance where surveys are not returned, or returned after the deadline, it is possible that there will be no room for your daughter return to CGS. We always have more demand for spaces that we have available spaces, and it is unfair to families to keep them waiting due to late return of forms.

Parents are reminded that it is the **school's policy** that no girl is released to the care of another adult without written permission. For example, when girls go for sleepovers, birthday parties, study sessions, etc. with other families, the student must provide the school office with written permission prior to her departure. Phone permission is not sufficient.

As winter is now upon us, please ensure that your **daughter is dressed appropriately**: tights (not bare legs/knee socks), hat, mitts/gloves, scarves, warm jackets/snow pants for little girls etc. We often observe that girls are ill-equipped for the weather conditions while at school and should there be a problem with the bus on the way home, not prepared for being outside/in the cold weather.

Staff at the Calgary Girls' School would like to take this opportunity to thank you for our ongoing support of our work with your daughters and to wish you a wonderful, relaxing winter break. We all have plans that will see us spending time both "near and far", but most importantly, time spent with loved ones and family. We hold this wish for you, as well.

Happy Holidays

Calgary Girls' School Staff



Calgary Girls' School
Bright, Bold, and Independent

*Cordially invites you and your family
To Our
4th Annual Women's Eve Gala*

*Saturday March 1st, 2008
6:00pm – midnight
Red & White Club
McMahon Stadium*

*An evening of celebration, honoring women who
have
Defied Gravity
To find their way to success!
Funds raised will be used for scholarship and
leadership
Opportunities in all grades, as well as Post
Secondary Education.*

*We look forward to sharing this evening
With you, family and friends!*

Calgary Girls' School Senate

Semi Formal Dress

Tickets are \$35.00 each for children and alumni, \$65.00 for adults. We will try to honour seating requests if all guests have purchase their tickets before January 15th, 2008.

Lasts years Gala sold out – don't be disappointed, it is a wonderful event!

The Committee is also looking for auction items, please help out where you can.

POOSCA

P.O.O.S.C.A. will be closed during the Christmas Break. We will reopen when school starts on the 7th of January. There were not enough registrations for January 2nd to 4th to operate.

Our Fun Lunch for January will be from Taco Bell. It will be Wednesday, January 30th at Bel-Aire and Thursday, January 31st at Lakeview. Forms will be sent home on January 15th. Any suggestions for other Fun Lunches are welcome. We are always ready to try something new that the girls would enjoy.

We have new winter equipment for the girls (shovels, more balls etc.) so they can enjoy the snow and fresh air. Crazy Carpets or sleds are not allowed at school during lunch and recess.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday.



FROM THE LIBRARY

Students once again have access to the Online Reference Centre (ORC) from home. It is a database of encyclopedias, and contains an E-library that searches magazines and newspaper articles, pictures, maps and much more. To access grade level reference material from home, students need to log onto learnalberta.ca, enter the school's user name and password, then click on the ORC icon in the top left hand corner. This reference center saves the guesswork when searching for curricular related content.

<http://learnalberta.ca>

Username: LA359

Password: 9733

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in preparing books to be processed, shelving books, or organizing our extensive collection, we would appreciate your help. You can contact Ann Ard at ann.ard@calgarygirlsschool.com to indicate your interest. We would love to have you!

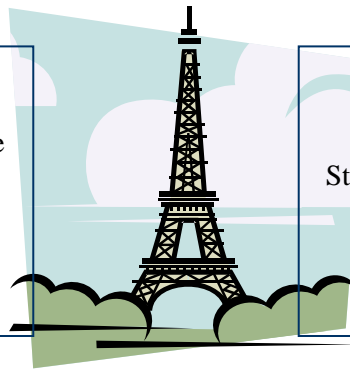


STAFF ON THE "MOVE" / WELCOME NEW STAFF

Anoushka Prockiw (Grade 6 teacher) and Allison Nichol (Library Technician) will be leaving CGS effective December 31. Anoushka and her husband Cam are expecting their first child in February and Allison is leaving for health reasons. We feel fortunate to have had Anoushka and Allison with us and wish them both well in their futures. Heather Hanlon will be replacing Anoushka in the Grade 6 classroom and we are currently interviewing for the Library Technician position.

London Paris Rome 2008

When we return after the break, there will be only three short months until our departure! We will be hosting a parent information session in January. Dates and times will be communicated to you in the new year.



Attention Grade 8 Students Vienna, Venice and Paris 2009

Student and parent information sessions will be held in January.
Stay tuned for dates and details!

Congratulations to Gabrielle M. in Grade 5. Gabrielle is the winner of last month's newsletter tear-off. A book will be donated to the school library in her name.

CGS SCHOOL COUNCIL

I wish everyone the best of this joyous season. As your parent council wraps things up for the new year, we will eagerly be getting ready for the things that are planned for the coming weeks and months. At the last council meeting, we again met with some critical issues that you as a parent should be aware of.

We got approval for the funding for a portable for the Bel Aire Campus.

The school has been approached by the Minister of Education to offer a Grades 1-3 program. The school is hoping for a 2009 year implementation. Talks with the Government officials are critical and you can rest easy, knowing that we have a team of dedicated professionals advocating for the education of your daughters. We voted in a new board the school on November 27th, and I think I can say with much conviction, that the people working on our board are diligent and heartfelt in the direction they feel the Calgary Girls' School is going. We are lucky to have them working for us.

The Women's Eve Gala is coming together very nicely and you will soon be getting invitations home. This is one of the most impressive nights that you will enjoy. We celebrate women and the difference they have made in our society. There are a limited number of tickets that we can sell, so if you would like to attend, please fill out the forms and get them back to the school as soon as you can. You will also receive information regarding the baskets that each class puts together for the silent auction and raffle part of the evening. This has become the mainstay of the event, as each class has a theme and puts together a world class basket for the taking. If your child's class doesn't already have a room rep, you may consider taking on this challenge. It requires a minimal amount of time and it is fun putting all the donation items together for the auction.

Thanks to the people that have offered to help with the casino. I always say that "it takes a village to raise a child" and I also believe that it takes a mountain of parents to raise enough money to have the programs and activities that help to create the leaders that are now our girls, and are fortunate enough to attend our school. This is definitely the biggest fundraiser of the year, and please feel special if you are part of this process. You will be a big part of the future of the Calgary Girls' School.

We also talked about planning a celebration of our 5th Anniversary. This will happen in April, and if you are interested in being a part of the planning of this event, please get in touch with either Melissa Downey or Carol McCarthy through parent council and they will make sure your ideas are heard.

We are also in the planning stages of developing a new playground for our the Lakeview Campus. If you have talent or know-how, we would appreciate immensely that you step forward. This is a long term project and we will need a team of dedicated volunteers to put this together. Working together will make this dream a reality.

We would also like to offer the parents a forum in which to speak openly about any concerns you may have. We have decided that after the parent council meetings each month, approximately 11:00a.m., we would open the floor and we would have the parent council as well as Ms. Judy Gray available to answer any questions that you may have. We would like to be very informal and invite anyone with suggestions, inquiries and queries. This will start at the January meeting, January 15, 2008. Please plan to attend.

We also had discussions regarding donations. We would like to make it very clear that if you would like to make a donation to the school, these are accepted with open arms, and to anything you would like to donate to. If you would like to donate to the new playground, the Gala, or the Science Room, this money will be assigned to the designated account, and you can be rest assured, that it will be carefully administered. As you can see, we are a very busy council and a very concerned administration.

In conclusion, there are many issues that we cover that never making the headlines. Please understand that each and every one of our parents who step forward to offer the gracious gift of time, is worthy of nothing less than a standing ovation. We take your ideas and talents at face value and never underestimate their intention. Thank you to everyone that makes this school a very special place. In the end..... the girls' will win!

All the best to all of you for a safe and healthy Winter break. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

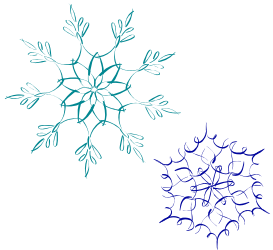
Carol McCarthy
Parent Council, Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The Board held its annual general meeting on November 27th, 2007. A copy of the minutes of the AGM should be available shortly on the website. In summary, the school's financial statements were approved and our auditor advised that the school is in a very good financial position. Nancy Morton and Jody Johnson were re-elected to the Board for another two-year term. Genevieve Bailey and Dean Radomsky were elected to the Board for their first two-year term. Pam Boytink also sits as a Board member through School Council elections. The current Board recognized the hard work and dedication of outgoing Board members, and once again wishes to express its gratitude for the significant contribution these individuals made to the Board: Liz LoVecchio, Chris Bailey, Jim Barmby, Julie Kearns, Dawn Manning and Deb McGinn. Books have been donated to the library on behalf of each of these outgoing members. Another big thank you goes out to all parents that attended the AGM and to Pam Boytink for her assistance in promoting attendance at the AGM.

The Board also held its annual retreat on December 9th to determine the Board's priorities for the year. In addition to continuing certain existing committees (marketing, finance and government relations), the Board has struck two new committees: school development and research and innovation. School development will continue the excellent work of last year's school growth committee with a particular focus on evaluating options for new facilities for the school. The research and development committee was established as a result of the Minister of Education's recent focus on the role of Charter schools in research and innovation. This committee will work with school staff and administration to establish guidelines around current and future research and innovation projects being conducted at the school. Membership on Board committees are not limited to Board members alone. As such, we would encourage parental participation and invite any parents who wish to participate on any of the above-noted committees to contact Richard Weber at richard.weber@telus.net.

On behalf of the Calgary Girls' School Board of Directors, we wish all of you and your families very Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



Home for the Holidays

The Albi Homes Online Donation Campaign
in support of the Calgary Women's emergency shelter

Everyone deserves a warm, safe place, especially during the holidays. Help us help others find shelter. Go online to www.ahomefortheholidays.ca and click on the snowflake. For each person who clicks, Albi Homes will donate \$1.00 to the Calgary Emergency Women's Shelter, up to a total of \$25,000.

www.ahomefortheholidays.ca

(We respect your privacy. No data is being collected by using this feature.)

Sponsored by: *AlbiHomes*

