



Whispering Signs from Whispering Woods to Whispering Grasses Walkway

By Polly Lee Knowlton Cockett

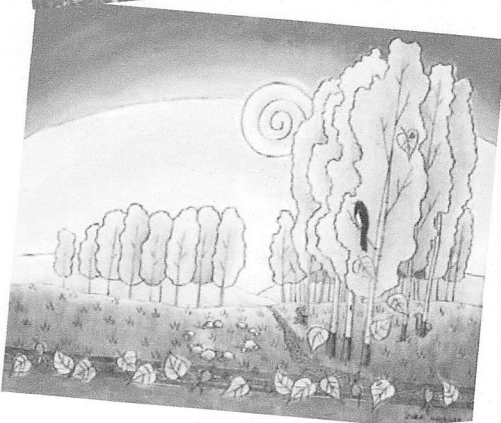
As surely as spring is around the corner, April brings Earth Day on the 22nd. This year, Earth “Week,” essentially the second half of April, will at last bring the 34 interpretive signs in Brentwood Heights to their outdoor posts. The Friends of Dr. E. W. Coffin Society and the Environment Committee at Dr. Coffin School have been working extremely hard over several years to bring this interpretive signage project to fruition. Numerous parents, teachers, students, city employees, and community members have contributed their time and expertise to make our Whispering Signs unique, evocative, and informative.

One of the many things that make these signs so very special is the amazing artwork by ten women who live nearby. Heather Erion, Karen Gummo, Judith E. Hall, Nancy Hansen, Jannis Allan Hare, Kirsten Horel, Cheri Macaulay, Emily Marasco, Kaitlin Marasco, and Pat Oezefe each created a special painting especially for their as(sign)ment. Each artist was given a topic and a setting, along with some supporting information, and then each took up the challenge in their own way. The results are as diverse as the

women themselves, and beautifully reflect the variety within the ecosystems we live amidst.

In the attached table are the GPS coordinates for the the large panels featuring our community artists; one sign has two artists. The titles of the signs are also indicated. Which sign is at which location? Which artist goes with which sign? What are the titles of the artists’ paintings, and what medium did they use? Five of the main art pieces are featured here, and others will appear in future Bugles. Which artist goes with which painting? Thank you for keeping to the trails and pathways as you explore.

While you are investigating these new public environmental education panels, don’t forget to mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 4th for the Grand Opening of Whispering Signs. You are invited to attend this special celebration starting at 1:00 pm with an Open House and Signage Tours. The assembly will begin at 2:00 pm, followed by refreshments and continued tours. Join us at Dr. E.W. Coffin School, 5615 Barrett Drive NW. RSVP: 777-6190 or DrEWCoffin@cbe.ab.ca.



Match the Location!

Sign Title (Alphabetical Order)	Latitude (Arranged from West to East)	Longitude
A Diverse Gathering	51° 06' 16.02" N	114° 08' 15.09" W
Aliens Amongst Us!	51° 06' 13.73" N	114° 08' 12.40" W
Basins and Berms	51° 06' 12.31" N	114° 08' 11.16" W
On the Shores	51° 06' 15.96" N	114° 08' 11.15" W
Owls and Oxyes	51° 06' 13.45" N	114° 08' 11.02" W
Rescue, Reclaim, Restore	51° 06' 13.36" N	114° 08' 09.25" W
The Man and The School	51° 06' 12.52" N	114° 08' 09.12" W
Trembling Trees	51° 06' 12.67" N	114° 08' 04.38" W
Whispering Woods	51° 06' 02.92" N	114° 07' 27.11" W



Dr. Coffin Students Present to CBE Board of Trustees

Creativity Abounds at Brentwood Elementary School

By Rena Grams

Greetings from Brentwood Elementary School – this month also known as “Brentwood Gallery of Fine Art.” Our walls are rapidly filling with creative works of art, thanks to our Artist in Residency program. Professional artists Christa and Liz are working with students in developing artistic abilities, and with teachers in enhancing professional skills. Projects range from intricate plasticine animal faces, to three dimensional paper projects, to background design. The program supports the goals of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement on Assessment for and of Learning. Students write an artist’s statement about their completed projects, thereby building the life skill of self-assessment.

‘Artwalk’ is a special evening in which we showcase the results. Students lead their families throughout the school where all their projects are proudly displayed.

St. Luke

Parents can register their child for the French Immersion Kindergarten or Grade 1 program weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. Registrations are ongoing for the remainder of the school year. For more information about École St. Luke School, please contact the principal at 284-4827.

Our April events begin on April 11th, with one of the most anticipated activities of the year, the annual “La Tire sur Neige” (maple syrup on snow... Yum!). The children will take part in this event during the day followed by our newly added Family Movie Night in the evening. Pizza Day this month takes place on Friday, April 18th and our next School Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th at 6:30 pm. On April 25th, our Grade 3 and 4 students begin their fun, five-day swimming program at Sir Winston Churchill Pool.

Our school website is up and running and we encourage everyone to visit. You can find it at www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/stluke/

We have discovered a bounty of artistic genius!

This year was no exception to the longstanding tradition of family fun at our Dance and Carnival. The DJ was kept busy in one gym supplying great tunes; while students, staff, and parents ran the carnival in our other gym. Cotton candy, face painting, smooth moves on the dance floor – all surrounded by huge grins on the participants’ faces – this is the snapshot of Brentwood’s annual gala!

Student/parent/teacher conferences are upcoming. Parents participate in 45 minutes of learning activities with their child(ren), followed by a 15 minute interview with the teacher.

We are anticipating spring and the addition of a large metal slide to replace the current roller slide. In our Green Garden, perennials are beginning to poke their heads up through the remaining snow and the rosebushes are filling with the promise of days to come. We wish you the same enthusiasm and zest for life!

By Alison Lee

Recently three of our students participated in the School Council’s Environment Committee Whispering Woods Signs presentation to the Trustees. They accompanied Andrea Batchelor, Grade 1/2 teacher, Polly Knowlton-Cockett, coordinator of the project and Juane Priest, Principal. All six shared the Whispering Signs project to the Trustees. All in all, this incredible project was very well received and the Trustees were very impressed.

We are also very proud of our “little school on the hill” for our students’ successful fundraising activities. To date, our school has collected 450 lbs of food at Christmas for the food bank, \$150 along with warm blankets for the Mustard Seed at the Valentine Fundraiser, and almost \$9,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation for the Jump Rope for Heart campaign. These fundraisers are a way to teach our children the value of giving and the difference they can make in others lives. This also supports our students’ participation in the Virtues Program in which important values/virtues for building a strong character are discussed within our classrooms.



Dr. Coffin Environment Committee presentation to Trustees