

# Grade Six News

B E L V E D E R E E L E M E N T A R Y

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Interviews
- Upcoming Events at the Legislature during the Holiday Season
- Pictures of the field trip
- Quotes from students' journals

**SCHOOL AT THE LEGISLATURE  
BY: TIMMY, CLASS REPORTER**

Have you ever been in a building that is 100 years old? When the grade six students from Belvedere Elementary were at the Legislature, they got to meet interesting people like the Sergeant-at-Arms. The students did whole group activities like the Mock Legislature and they did small group interviews. They went from October 20th to October 24th.

As a group they went on a grounds tour around the Legislature. Nikhil said "Wow! That's one heck of a noisy tree." They got to see the top of the Legislature and the basement during the Infrastructure Tour. They got to see things like the paper shredder room and a shortcut to the

hallway.

Plus, they even got to meet people that work at the Legislature and the opposition's



**A view of the Alberta Legislature from the front**

important people such as the Ombudsman.

Grade six students went to School at the Legislature to learn about the government and what they do, along with what the government does with the Legislature.

lead! Some lucky students even got to meet the Clerk!

Some of the activities that the students got to participate in were government games, and group interviews with many

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Human Resources	3
Tour	4
CKUA	5
Upcoming Events	6
Letters to the Editor	7
Sergeant at Arms	8
Thank you	10

**BE A PART OF THE GOVERNMENT AT THE MOCK LEGISLATURE  
BY: GARMAI, CLASS REPORTER**

Have you ever wanted to be a part of the government? If yes, then the Mock Legislature is a good place for you.

When room 7 went to the Mock Legislature, they got to be whichever person they wanted to be. For example you

could be the Speaker or the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Mock Legislature is located in the Legislature Annex. room 7 participated in the Mock Legislature on two days: on the 22nd of October and the 23rd.

You can come to the Legislature by a bus, car or train. You should come to the Mock Legislature because it's a fun experience as there is lots to learn. ...

**See Mock Legislature page 2**

## M O C K L E G I S L A T U R E

continued from page 1

If you come to the Mock Legislature you will never regret it! You will meet new people just like room 7 did.

The first time room 7 heard of the Mock Legislature they were wondering what happened there. Well, while you are there you discuss a bill and how the bill is interfering with the province.

When the students were at

the Mock Legislature they discussed Bill 101, the voting act. Bill 101 debated whether or not people should have to vote.

When the students walked in the room all they said was "AWESOME!" while they smelled the nice clean smell of the Mock Legislature.

The government side said that people should have to vote because during this

year's election only 54% of the province voted and the opposition said that it's a free country and people shouldn't have to vote.

When the students went to the Mock Legislature they had lots of fun and enjoyed learning about politics. It was a fun experience and the students of room 7 were looking forward to going again!



Caption describing picture or graphic.

*"Today we went outside for a tour and we saw the legislature pool. And I got a cinnamon candy for answering Mr. LaFranchise's question. I like this because we got to have an outside tour."*

*A quote from Michael's journal*

## W H A T T H E P A R L I A M E N T A R Y C O U N S E L D O E S

BY: NIKHIL, GRADE 6 REPORTER

Have you ever seen the Parliamentary Counsel in action? Well, you are about to find out.

Two students from room 7 interviewed Mr. Robert Reynolds on October 23, 2008 at 11:00 am. They interviewed him at the Legislature Annex for School at the Legislature.

Mr. Robert Reynolds sits in

the assembly and passes laws. He went to law school to get his job. Believe it or not it took a long time to get there. Have you ever wanted to be a lawyer for the Parliamentary Counsel?

Guess what! Mr. Robert Reynolds has been working for the government for 15 years. It took him 7 years of college and 3 years of law school.

That's a long time! Before he moved here, he used to live in Vancouver. When he was growing up, he took classes in Vancouver and came to Edmonton to study at the U of A.

Hopefully, you now know a little bit more about what Mr. Reynolds does. He sits in the assembly, he is a lawyer, and he used to live in Vancouver.

## T H E P R E M I E R ' S O F F I C E

BY: MARCELINA, CLASS REPORTER

Have you ever been in Ed Stelmach's Office? Well some students have....

On October 24, 2008, the grade 6 class from Belvedere Elementary went to the Alberta Legislature to learn about government. They were so lucky! They got to tour the

Premier's Office.

During their tour Cathy told them that every morning when the Premier goes to his office, papers are scattered and books are thrown off the shelf.

They don't know why it happens but legend says that

there is a ghost that walks the 2nd floor. While they were in the office, their tour guide Cathy told them that the Premier grew up in a town called Andrew.

Oh how great it would be to be in the Premier's Office. ...

see Premier's Office page 5



Room 7 in the Premier's Office

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT YOUR DREAM JOB WOULD BE LIKE?**

**BY: BRITTANY, CLASS REPORTER**



A picture of Brittany, a Room 7 reporter

A group of six students went to the 5th floor of the Legislature on Thursday the 23rd of October. Only three lucky students got to go to the Human Resources Office. When they got there, they met Lindsey Tisher.

They went to the Human Resources Office to learn about how people in the Legislature get their job. She brought them to her office and explained what the Human Resources Office does.

Did you know that Human Resources help people find jobs? If you are looking for a job just come to the people at

the Human Resources Office. They will take you into their office, interview you and give you an application to fill out after the interview. Human Resources hire people to work in the Legislature. For example: tour guides, custodians, pages and more.

Human Resources also help people with retirement issues.

If you have any problems, just come on down to the Human Resources Office and your problems will be fixed.



*"This week was awesome! I loved*

*School at the Legislature! I really would not change anything."*

*A quote from Sara's journal*

**THE ALBERTA HANSARD OFFICE**

**BY: CHOUL, ROOM 7 REPORTER**

Have you ever wanted a wonderful job? If you are fast at typing, this is what you'll need.

On October twenty-fourth, a group of grade 6 students from Belvedere Elementary School were at the Alberta Hansard Office in the Legislature Annex. They had an interview with Madelyn Johnson.

Each student was surprised

that there were so many members working. There were pedals under each desk.

People who work at the Alberta Hansard Office report what people say in the chamber during assembly meetings.

All you can hear is the click click click of the typing on the keyboards.

These grade six students got a

once-in-a-lifetime chance to try working in the Alberta Hansard Office. Nancy, a grade 6 student said "It was too hard to type when someone was speaking because the pedals were hard to control."

This group was lucky to get a copy of the Hansard from the meeting they attended!

**THE HON. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**BY: CHAD, GRADE 6 REPORTER**

Have you ever wished you could meet the Lieutenant Governor known as the Asian Clipper?

Five grade six reporters from Belvedere School interviewed him in his office at the Legislature on October 21st. They went there to see what his role is.

His real name is Norman Kwong. He has been Lieuten-

ant Governor for 3 years now. He works with three secretaries and one speech writer.

The best thing about his job is representing the Queen.

Did you know he was once the owner of the Calgary Flames?!

When the five grade six reporters interviewed him in his own private suite, they found out that he has a five year term.

When the Lieutenant Governor holds meetings in his office, they put a royal rope on the door to show that he is busy. We felt very special when they put the royal rope across the doorway for us when we interviewed him.



The lucky students who got a chance to interview the Honorable Lieutenant Governor

**“ THIS WAY , THAT WAY , THE OTHER WAY ”  
SAID THE TOUR GUIDE  
BY : NANCY , CLASSROOM REPORTER**

It's a tour at the Legislature on October 20th 2008.

Enter! There was the wonderful Rotunda. All you can see is marble. Nothing but "Wows" came out of the sixth graders' mouths. I wonder how many more "Wows" will come out when they have seen everything. From the marble, there were flags. All of the flags are from wars. They will never be replaced.

From the Rotunda were the royal stairs into the Chamber. The door looks like it was built for royalty.

There's a place to knock on with the black rod. Also, there is an Alberta Coat of Arms above the Chamber doors. You can also see the beautiful decorations of the Wild Rose.

In the Chamber the carpet is green to represent grass.

There are desks for MLAs, a chair for the Speaker, and four chairs for pages: two in front near the Speaker and two at the back.

The third floor has a painting of the King and Queen. Cathy, the tour guide, told the 6th graders that if you look at the King's or Queen's eyes, then look at their knees, and look back at their eyes again, the knees will move away ...  
**see Tour Guide page 5**



**A view of the Rotunda**

*"We talked about the history of the library and looked at the memories of the library, like the hamburger."*  
*A quote from Sarmai's journal*

**ORDER OF THE CLERK  
BY : MIKE , CLASS REPORTER**

"The bill is entered and the debate of a lifetime comes" said the Clerk. Some lucky students from Belvedere Elementary who were on their School at the Legislature trip from October 20 to October 24 went to interview Dr. David McNeil in the Legislature Annex, the Clerk for the Legislature Assembly.

Dr. David McNeil first became

a Clerk in 1987, 21 years ago. He first discovered the job in a newspaper advertisement. He was very interested because he liked history and government.

Dr. David McNeil works in the Annex and works with a couple hundred people.

Dr. David McNeil's job is mostly serious because when

he's in the Assembly, he's on live television. Dr. David McNeil has a tiny bit of time to goof around in his office so he plays with silly slammers. They are big blobs with faces on them and when you hit them they will say something. He has about six of them.

**see Clerk page 6**

**THE GIFT SHOP  
BY : THELMA , CLASS REPORTER**

The grade 6 students from Belvedere School went to the gift shop on October 23rd, 2008. Where is the gift shop? It's placed in the Annex.

You might ask "What is a gift shop?" A gift shop is where you can buy things. People might not want to go because they don't know what they

have yet.

Crystals? Well now you can buy your choice! You can buy candy, stuffed animals and lots more! In the gift shop they sell key chains and games.

The students went to the gift shop because they wanted to see what they had in the gift

shop and related to the government.

The gift shop is related to the government because they have games called Canadaopoly and Albertaopoly. Did you know they have many things made in Alberta? Also, many MLAs go there to buy gifts for visitors.



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

## HURRY, PLAY WITH CKUA BY: AIDA, CLASS REPORTER

Did you ever want to be a part of the CKUA?



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

On Friday October 24th, room 7 got to interview Ian Gray. He works for CKUA. CKUA is a radio station in Edmonton. The grade six class went because they wanted to learn about the Press Gallery.

He has worked for the CKUA for more than 30 years! Ian Gray records the person's message and shows it on the radio. Sometime he takes out some words to make it look funny or even just for fun. Most of the time, they make it look funny and give it to the CKUA department.

The one-way looking glass was really cool! A one-way looking glass is glass that you can't see through on one side, but when you go to the other side you can see everything. The coolest thing about it is that the person on the other side can't see or hear you! "Awesome! Take a picture for me please." said Garmai.

As a class, the grade six students had lots of fun interviewing Ian Gray!

### TOUR GUIDE

**continued from page 4**

... and it will look like they are following you!

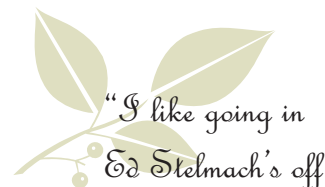
The 3rd floor also has what they call "the magic spot". They say that long ago when a man was fixing the lights he noticed a watery sound above his head but when he moved the other way he heard nothing! Now they marked a spot

there. So when you step there you can hear that watery sound. All the sixth graders said was "Cool!", "Awesome!" and "Creepy!".

He roams the third floor in the evening but you can not see him. Legend says that the leader of the North West Territories a long time ago haunts the 3rd floor of the Legislature

every evening around 5:00–6:30 pm.

"What a day!" cried the sixth graders on the bus ride back to the school. The Legislature sure has wonderful things! Anyone who visits is sure to have the best time ever!



*"I like going in Ed Stelmach's office and sitting in his chair. His chair is so comfortable."*  
A quote from Rebecca's journal

### PREMIER'S OFFICE

**continued from page 5**

... The smell of his cologne. The feeling of his rug.

Cathy also said that he has two dogs and that when they see him in his blue jeans in the morning, they know that he will be staying home for the day and get VERY excited!

She also mentioned that he is

Ukrainian and has a pysanka that was specially made for him and his family.

Are you wondering how these lucky kids even got to step in his office? Well, they were wondering the same thing.

Luckily the Premier was busy elsewhere which allowed their visit to his office. The Premier holds meetings in his office.

If you ever watch the news you will see him either talking to someone or debating.

Hopefully, you have more information on who the Premier is and what happens in his office.



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

**T H E H O L I D A Y S A R E B A C K A T T H E  
L E G I S L A T U R E  
B Y : T H E L M A , N A N C Y & S A R A**

Jingle bells, walking through a winter wonderland, I saw mommy kissing Santa Clause, and All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth. You can hear all of these songs at the Legislature from December 1st to 23rd. **FREE ADMISSION.** You will also be given free hot chocolate if you go.

Need anything else for your Christmas tree? Well you can buy those decorations at the

craft sale in the pedway. The craft sale is going on December 3rd and 4th.

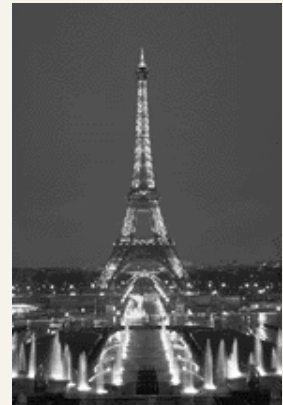
From December 6th to the 22nd, you can make Christmas cards and other ornaments. You can also buy some homemade ornaments. There will be featured Christmas trees.

Have you ever wanted to see Ed Stelmach? Well, he will be outside at 4:45 pm turning

on all those Christmas lights. There will be free hot cocoa. It will be held December 6th. After that, there will be free skating on the skating rink.

Also on December 6th, there will be children singing Christmas carols in the Rotunda. During this time there will be free cookies and hot cocoa.

With so many events happening at the Legislature in December, be sure to be there.



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

*“I learned a lot  
this past week  
and I don’t  
know if I can  
remember it all!”*

*A quote from  
Marcelina’s  
journal*

**I N F R A S T R U C T U R E T O U R  
B Y : M I C H A E L , C L A S S R E P O R T E R**

Have you ever been on an infrastructure tour at the Legislature?

The grade 6 students tramped up and down the stairs and went through long tunnels on Thursday, October 23rd as John taught them how to take care of the Alberta Legislature building.

John’s job at the Legislature is

to make sure that everything is working and running smoothly in the Legislature.

At the top of the building there are palm trees. The students climbed more narrow stairs.

“It was so cool to see West Edmonton Mall!” said Michael, a grade six student.

The students also went into a

tunnel that was long. It led outside and went underneath the fountain.

John did a good job being the tour guide for the grade 6 students.

**C L E R K**

**continued from page 4**

During their interview, Dr. David McNeil told the grade six students of Belvedere Elementary a story.

One day, he was making people swear on a bible when they took a short lunch break and his tooth fell out! He

couldn’t speak properly. In order to finish the meeting, he had to chew a piece of gum and stick his tooth back in using the piece of gum. This lasted the entire day!

The students learned a lot about what he did and the importance of the Clerk’s

role. But the thing that these students will remember most is the secret handshake that Dr. David McNeil called the “secret garbage man handshake”.



**Mike in the Clerk’s robes**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Caption describing picture or graphic.

**INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR**

We think the infrastructure tour was a lot of fun because we got to go to the top of the Legislature and we got to see West Edmonton Mall. When we were in the Legislature, we got to see the palm trees on the top floor of the building. That was really cool!

We also went to see the boiler room. The boiler room was in the basement. In the basement there were a LOT of pipes.

We had to go up a lot of stairs! It was a little slippery and a bit tiring but when we got to the top, we got to take a lot of pictures which was AWESOME!

Everyone should take a trip down to the Legislature and ask for a tour of the Infrastructure.

**Rebecca and Michael, Edmonton**

**FUN AT THE FUNKY LEGISLATURE**

At the Legislature, we had the best

tour guide. She showed us everything there was to see inside the Legislature. It was the best field trip that I have ever had because I saw so many cool things!

**Brittany, Edmonton**

**THE SCARY INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR**

When I was at School at the Legislature I went on an infrastructure tour. Our tour guide John told us a lot of information. He took us to the very top

beautiful when it is turned on. The marble weighs tones! The beautiful marble came from Eastern Canada. In the Rotunda, when you look up, you see the palm trees. The seeds for these palm trees came from California! The Legislature is pure gold. That's how beautiful it is!

**Aida, Edmonton**

**THE TRIP**

I really enjoyed the trip to the Legislature. I was really impressed with everything that

of the Legislature and to the tunnel under the Legislature! Nancy was freaked out when we went to the tunnel. It got hot, then cold, then hot, then cold again and I was a little scared.

**Marcelina, Edmonton**

**THE MOCK LEGISLATURE**

When I was at School at the Legislature, I participated in the Mock Legislature. It is a smaller version of the real assembly meeting that take

the tour guides showed us! I really think it is a good idea to let us come for a whole week. Thanks!

**Mike, Edmonton**

**SCHOOL AT THE LEGISLATURE**

At School at the Legislature, we had so much fun! We did so many things. Some of the things that we did include: going to the Lieutenant Governor's personal suite to interview him. We also went for an infrastructure tour. We went so high up! All the way to the palm

place in the Legislature. While you are there, you talk about the government and play different roles such as the Speaker, Clerk, Opposition, Government, and Sergeant at Arms. It was a good experience for me.

**Chad, Edmonton**

**FIRST FLOOR GIVE ME MORE**

When I got to go to the Legislature I saw many things. The fountain is

*“Once in a lifetime. Yup! It's sure once in a lifetime to sit where government sits. Like in the Chamber, cabinet room and Premier's office. It was awesome.”*  
A quote from Nancy's journal

trees! We also saw the Alberta mace. Did you know that the gems around the crown of the mace spell ALBERTA?

**Jorja, Edmonton**



Caption describing picture or graphic.

## THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT FIX YOUR GOVERNMENT'S COMPUTERS BY: SARA, ROOM 7 REPORTER

You can here typing sounds. You can also see a lot of computers. On October 23rd, 2008, on the 9th floor of the Legislature Annex, Aida and Sara—both room 7 students—got a chance to go to the Information Technology Services room. Debra works in the I.T.S. room.

Inside there are people who help your government with their computers and Blackberries. If the MLAs break

their Blackberries, the people at I.T.S. will fix it. Did you know that each MLA gets their own Blackberry?

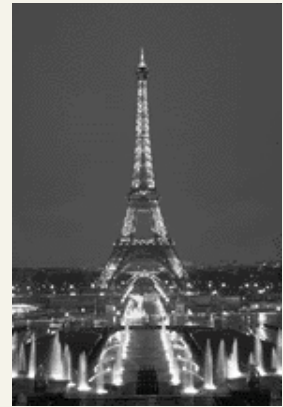
Information Technology Services has three different levels: Client Support, Network Operations and Programming and Development. Debra is the leader of Client Support.

In the room were the computers are, a big fan is needed to keep all of the

computers cool.

If you ever get a chance to go to the I.T.S. room you will probably see big cabinets holding all of the computers. They have little holes in them to let the computers cool.

If you are interested in a job such as this, you have to be very willing to help.



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**



**The mace that the Sergeant at Arms carries**

## SERGEANT AT ARMS BY: REBECCA, CLASS REPORTER

He holds the mace in the Chamber and then puts it in its special spot during at the beginning of Assembly meetings.

Brian Hodgson is the Sergeant at Arms. At the Alberta Legislature, he is part of the Legislative Assembly. He always yells "Order! Order!" at the beginning of every meeting in the Chamber.

Grade six went on October 21st to the Legislature. Brian Hodgson told them about his role as the Sergeant at Arms.

Brian Hodgson carries the mace into the Chamber and puts it on the Parliamentary Counsel's table. The mace is important because in the past it used to be a weapon to protect the Speaker.

The black rod is used to knock on the doors of the Chamber to let everyone know that the Lieutenant Governor is coming in.

Did you know that the Sergeant at Arms is not allowed to pass notes during meetings? It's true. His role during the meetings is to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

# THE LEGISLATURE'S LIBRARY BY: NOAH, GRADE SIX REPORTER



The tour of the Library

"READ! READ! There are books and

artifacts for studying. Go to the library at the Legislature." Room 7 from Belvedere School went to the Legislature Library on October 22nd, 2008. They went to learn about the different books that they have there.

The library has SO many books that they need TWO storage places in the basement!

Did you know that they have books from 1918 to now? If you ever need a studying book or a copy of a Hansard, go to the library at the Legislature and

ask for the book that you need. They have all the information you need about government and Canada's history.

Do you remember the debate about the cafeteria food in the 1970s? They have the hamburger that Paul Seador put on the table! And the reason they kept the hamburger was to prove how bad the food was.

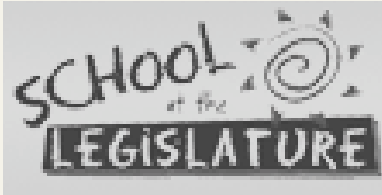
Go visit the library at the Legislature to read up on anything that you want to know.



*"My son is always coming home and talking about how the field trip to the Legislature was so amazing!"*  
Quote from a Room 7 mom



THANK YOU!



A special thanks goes out to all the staff involved in School at the Legislature as they made this a truly memorable experience for all of the students, parents and teachers.

Thank you to the following sponsors: CKUA, Priority Printing Ltd, and ACCESS. Without your sponsorship to the School at the Legislature program, this field trip would not have been possible.

## GROUNDS TOUR OF ... BY: JORJA, CLASS REPORTER

Have you ever wished that you could play hide and seek on the Legislature grounds? On October 22nd, 2008, the grade six class went to the Legislature for a tour of the grounds. They went all over the grounds from North to South and East to West. They went because they were there for one week to study the Legislature and its grounds.

Here's your chance to go to the Legislature for a tour of the grounds. Take some time off and go to the Legislature with your family and ask for Ron LaFranchise. He's the guy you want for a GREAT grounds tour of the Legislature.

The fresh smell of sap and leaves. The scenery of trees and bushes. That's

what the landscape of the Legislature smells and looks like. On the East side of the Legislature, Ron LaFranchise pointed out that there were two 50-year-old trees left on the grounds of the six.

The grade six class of Belvedere Elementary School was at the Legislature for one week and during the grounds tour of the Legislature, they saw almost every tree on the grounds. From the different types of pine trees to a cute little squirrel and the smallest leaves on the ground.

Jorja asked "How many types of trees and bushes were on the grounds?" "Over 100!" responded Ron LaFranchise.

They also saw statues of a person hammering the last railway spike into the railroad declaring that the railroad was officially finished.

Take some time off and go to the Legislature for an amazing grounds tour.



The Grounds Tour with Ron LaFranchise