



R.I. Baker Middle School September/October 2020 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome all parents and students to the new and interesting school year. I am very excited to be your principal for the 6th year now at R.I. Baker Middle School, and it is my hope that as the year progresses you will get to know the staff, the programs and new policies we have in place here to keep kids learning and safe.

I would like to start by thanking all of our parents and students that have been abiding by the provincial guidelines that have been passed down to our schools. I couldn't be more proud of our students and staff for rocking it! Nobody loves the situation we are in, but we have taken a challenging situation and made it our own. Please accept my sincere thanks for taking the guidelines seriously and supporting our staff. We couldn't do this without your support.

Moving forward I would like you to know that I have a staff of 45 adults that are committed to student safety and learning. We are constantly keeping up with new guidelines, adjusting, and finding ways to keep learning both interesting and safe. The past tells us that there will be changes and alterations as we go along. Some will take time to adjust, and some we will run to with excitement. All changes we will make will be in the best interest of our kids.

If you ever have any questions or hear something in the community that you would like clarification on, please call me. I am more than happy to be transparent and answer any questions you may have.

Mr. Preb

Stay at Home Guide

When do I keep my child home?



It's confusing. When should I keep my child home?

The new public health measures for COVID-19 mean students and staff who are showing any signs of illness, must stay home from school. To simplify the 'should I keep my child home' and 'how long does my child need to stay home' process, we've created a visual guide to help you understand how our schools are making decisions around managing student illness.

My child is sick. How long do they need to stay home for?

Core COVID-19 Symptoms	Other Symptoms
 Fever (above 38 °C or 100.4°F) Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening) Runny nose Sore throat 	 Chills Painful swallowing Stuffy nose Headache Muscle or joint aches Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
This is my child. Now what?	 Loss of sense of smell or taste Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
If your child has one of the 'core' COVID-19 symptoms above, they must do the following before returning to school:	This is my child. Now what?
1) Receive a negative COVID-19 test result and no longer be presenting any symptoms, or	If your child has one of the 'other' illness symptoms above, they must do the following:
 Stay home for a minimum 10 days (or longer if they still have symptoms) 	 A COVID-19 test is recommended, but not required. The sick person must stay home and minimize contact with others until feeling
How do I get my child tested?	better.
If your child has one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms above we strongly encourage booking them a COVID-19 Test. This will speed up the return to school process, as the turn-around time	 Before returning to school, the sick person must be completely free of all illness symptoms. No student with symptoms will be allowed at school.
for testing are faster than the required 10 day isolation period.	What does it mean to stay home and self-isolate? www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx
No official document is required for 'proof' of a negative test result.	Take the COVID-19 self-assessment test and book an appointment
In a family with more than one child, only the sick child is required to isolate and be tested.	https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid- 19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx

Information for the creation of this document was taken from: COVID-19 in School (K-12) Settings, Symptoms and Testing. Retrieved on Sept 4, 2020 from: https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-testing-in-alberta.aspx

Learn more by visiting our website: www.pallisersd.ab.ca

Adapted with permission from Prairie Rose School Division

For more information, please see the <u>Alberta COVID-19 Parent's Guide 2020-21 School Year.</u> (available in <u>9 languages</u>).



For Palliser's COVID-19 Information Resources https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/covid-19-information/resources

Back to School Reminders!

Attendance - School Messenger

Please phone 1-844-260-7166 to report your student's attendance or you can also download the SchoolMessenger app for free on any mobile device!

School Fees & Extra Curricular Fees -

School Fees are now due, please access your School Cash Online account to see what your students' fees are for the year.

PS Parent/Student Portal

To successfully access the Parent Portal you will need to follow these steps:

1. Open an internet browser (Google) on your computer (this first step must be done on a computer, not a phone/handheld device)

2. Type https://ps.pallisersd.ab.ca/public into the address bar

3. If you haven't already done so, you will need to **Create an Account.** Fill in ALL the blanks under the **Parent Account Details** section. <u>Please choose/create your own unique</u> <u>Username and Password</u>. Please remember this information and keep it safe – this is what you will use to log in with at any later date.

**Please call the Office if you have not received your ACCESS ID and ACCESS PASSWORD from your students homeroom teacher.



SchoolCashOnline

https://palliserregional.schoolcashonline.com



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Wednesday, September 30 everyone is encouraged to wear an orange shirt to commemorate and remember the experience of the thousands of children who were taken from their families and placed in residential schools. This day also symbolizes a commitment to work towards understanding and reconciliation. We will be observing this day at RIBMS on the 30th. We will be playing the national anthem that day in Cree.



RIBMS Grade 5-8 Timetable 2020-2021

	Start	End	Total Minutes
Warning Bell	8:25		3
Period 1	8:28	9:25	57
Period 2	9:28	10:25	57
Recess	10:25	10:40	15
Period 3	10:43	11:40	57
Lunch	11:40	11:58	15
Recess	11:58	12:18	
Period 4	12:21	1:18	57
Period 5	1:21	2:18	57
Break	2:18	2:30	15
Period 6	2:33	3:30	57

Monday – Thursday

Friday

	Start	End	Total Minutes
Warning Bell	8:25		3
Period 1	8:28	9:08	40
Period 2	9:11	9:51	40
Period 3	9:54	10:34	40
Recess	10:34	10:59	25
Period 4	11:02	11:42	40
Periad 5	11:45	12:25@	2 40

Pajama Day

Tuesday, October 20th marks 30 days in school for students and staff. To celebrate we will be having a pajama day to throw it back to the days of quarantine! Students can wear their full pajama outfits, but be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, and within school dress code guidelines.



Fridays are Baker Gear Day at RIBMS!

Show your school spirit and wear some green!

Also, Hats are permitted on Fridays only.

Don't own anything green? Never fear -

BAKER GEAR IS HERE!

Please use the link and password below to get yours now!

2020 Order Deadline: Friday, October 9 by midnight

https://www.myapparelcoaldale.com/shop

Click on the "SHOP NOW" tab in the upper right hand corner

Choose "R.I. Baker Middle School 2020/21"

Enter Password: BAKER2020



<u>RIBMS Dress Code</u>

The primary objective at RIBMS is the academic success of all students; consequently, the dress policy allows for the conditions most conducive to learning, that students can work comfortably and without distracting or disturbing others. The key principles of the policy call for dress to be CLEAN, NEAT and MODEST.

Students dressed inappropriately will be asked by their homeroom teacher to change into appropriate clothing. It is understood that students will do this quickly and that the inappropriate clothing will be covered FOR THE DAY. If no appropriate clothing is available, the students will be directed to the office to either call home for suitable clothing, or be provided with clean clothing at the office. Specific items that will not be worn to school include:

- Slippers
- Any revealing tank tops or halter tops
- Transparent or see-through fabrics
- Short tops that expose the midriff at ANY time
- Low cut tops
- Short shorts, skirt, or skorts (length will be at staff members discretion)
- T-shirts that are in poor taste*
- Large winter jackets and coats are not to be worn in the classrooms
- Clothing that is designated underwear should be kept undercover

*the dress code policy specifically prohibits clothing that contains logos or advertisements for drugs, alcohol, weapons or tobacco; that contains or implies messages with sexual innuendo, or that appears to promote racism, discrimination, hate or illegal activities. The dress policy applies to all school activities – dances, field trips, PE classes and extra-curricular sports practices, etc.



Lifetouch.



PICTURE DAY IS COMING



Wednesday, October 28, 2020 R I Baker Middle School











What to Expect:



Students are photographed on Picture Day



Pictures are sent home with your child



Counsellors Corner

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Focus on strengths.



When your child brings home a test, talk first about what they did well instead of focusing on mistakes. Then ask them what they think they could do to improve. Have suggestions ready if they ask you what they could do better.

Ask and really listen to your child: Asking your child how they are feeling and listening to their feelings are important ways to build trust.

Here Are Some Tips: Pause And stop what you are doing,even for just a minute,and look at your child when you're talking to them.

Check your body language: be present, focus only on your child, and stay still. To show that you are listening re-state what your child says in your own words and try to find the emotions behind them. To do this look at your child—Do they look sad, mad, happy or excited when they are speaking? Try to guess what they might be feeling and name the emotion.

For Example: "So you're saying you really want to take a swimming class. You seem really excited about it." or "So you're saying you really don't want to continue in your swimming class. You look pretty unhappy about having to go.") If you're wrong, they will correct you. If you're right, they will feel understood. Either way you will be strengthening your relationship.

Submitted from MyHealth.Alberta.ca by Dalayna Taverner (FSLC-RIBMS)

If you think your child would benefit from counselling, please feel free to contact me at the school at 403-345-3340. - Dalayna Taverner (FSLC)



Library News and Scholastic Book Orders

We still have a few items that have not been returned to the library from the previous school year. Emails have been sent to the parents or guardians of any students that still have outstanding items and we would appreciate the return of these items or payment so we can replace the items. Reminder emails will be sent out shortly and we would appreciate your assistance in having these items returned so others may enjoy them.



We have started this new and unusual school year with our priority being the safety of your child. We are following similar guidelines that the public libraries have in place with a few more restrictions. RIBMS students are not allowed to physically enter the library to peruse the shelves and select their books. The librarian will continue to give book talks, showcase new books and read curriculum related picture books or short chapters from a book each week as she goes to each classroom. We want to ensure our avid readers continue to have plenty of new material for them and to encourage any new readers to value the benefits and enjoyment of reading.

We are very fortunate to have our library collection available online to all students and this is the method they will be using this year to select the books they would like to read. They can access the website from school or from home and all students have now been instructed how to log on and the majority of our students have already placed numerous holds. We have been very encouraged by the eagerness of students to obtain books in this method that is new to them. The website is **destinydiscover.com**

Students can select their requests at any time and the librarian will pull the items from the shelves, sign them out to each student and deliver them to their classroom. When the books are returned to the library they will be quarantined a minimum of 3 days prior to being signed out to another student or being reshelved.

We appreciate your continued support of the monthly **SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS** as they provide our school with additional books for our library collection. All of the available reading club brochures are available online at scholastic.ca/clubshop and orders will be shipped directly to your home. If your order totals \$35.00 or more there is no cost for the shipping. If you order, please use the **code #RC236283** to ensure that our school receives any bonus coupons or free books. We thank you for your support of our school library and for encouraging your child to read. For those of you that eagerly await the annual Scholastic Book Fair that is held at the school each November, we will hopefully have news soon about a virtual book fair.

Wednesday Hot Lunch and Canteen News

Given the current AHS COVID-19 guidelines, we are not offering our Wednesday Hot Lunch program and Canteen services at this time. Please make sure your child brings their own lunch to school each day and we will keep you informed of any changes as we learn of them!



DAILY LUNCH TIME REMINDERS: Parents/Guardians please remind your students that microwaves are not available for student lunches and that if their lunch requires a utensil (spoon, fork, etc) they MUST bring one from home. Thank you for understanding!

Yearbook

RI Baker has some extra copies of the 2019-2020 Yearbook for sale. They are \$30 per copy and available in the office!



LOST and FOUND: We already have items in our lost and found! To avoid many students and many hands rummaging through these items, they are currently laid out on the bench in front of the Office. Please remind your students to look there if they are missing something! (Eg/ Hoodies, jackets, lunch kits, masks...) Thank you!!



Palliser Resources for Parents and Teachers

Did you know Palliser has a Parent Resource Page? During this time where perhaps we all have a few more questions than answers, this page may be beneficial for you to visit!

https://sites.google.com/pallisersd.ab.ca/palliserresources

Athletics

VOLLEYBALL & On site Cross Country

Baker athletics are postponed until further notice. If we receive notice that we can start, students will be informed through announcements and the athletics website.

We are excited to be hosting a VIRTUAL CROSS COUNTRY MEET this year.

A virtual cross country means that students would complete the "meet" on their own time, any time during the selected time frame. Our meet takes place during the week of **October 18th to the 25th.** Students participate one time that week. There is a twist though, **students can run, walk, bike, scooter, longboard, rollerblade, or any other form of human powered device, that does not include a motor**. That means no e-bikes or scooters. You can participate any time that week, recording your time and distance through any app. (One suggestion is Map my Run, but any app you like is great! Map my Run is free and you can screenshot your route and time to submit it.)

Students can sign up for the run on the Baker website - <u>ribms.ca</u> Cost is \$15.50. Students who sign up for the run will receive a Baker X-Country t-shirt and be entered for draws for Baker gear and Baker bucks. The class with the most participants will receive an extra PE class.



If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at megan.leusink@pallisersd.ab.ca

R.I. Baker WALK-A-THON

Our annual R.I.Baker Walk-A-Thon fundraiser is a go, but it will look a little bit different. There will be two dates for the Walk-a-thon with grade 5&6 students walking on October 9th and grade 7&8 students participating on October 16th. Students will be walking in their cohort classes in the Town of Coaldale. If you see us out walking, please give us a wave!

The Fundraising format for this event will see the most changes. This year we would like to encourage students to have donations made in their name, through a link to School Cash on the RI Baker website. This link can be shared to friends and family, if you'd like. Please watch for a specific Walk A Thon email coming home soon!







The 15th annual RIBMS Walkathon will be held on Friday, October 9, 2020 (grade 5/6) and Friday October 16 (grade 7/8)! This walkathon is our one major fundraiser for the year. It has also grown to become a great opportunity for the school community, students, staff and parents, to interact, be physically active, and have some fun.

How to make a pledge for a student:

1) Click on the link: Pledge

Or copy and paste the following information into a web browser: palliserregional.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/4/109/false/true?fundDestination=RI %20Baker%20Middle%20School%20-%20Walk-a-Thon

2) Select the amount you would like to donate and enter the name of the student who you are supporting

(If the name is not included, the student will not receive recognition towards fabulous Baker prizes)

- 3) Add your donation to your cart
- 4) If you do not have an account: Continue as a guest (This way you will not have to set up an account)

If you have an account: Login

5) Enter your credit card information to complete the transaction

If the donation is more than \$20, we will need this information to issue a tax receipt.

Thank you so much for supporting our RI Baker Walk-a-thon.

All money raised during this fundraiser goes directly back to our students in the form of activities and other costs not covered by the regular school budget.

GRADE 5 POD

At this point emails have been sent home to all parents. If you have not received any emails from the grade 5 pod and/or your child's homeroom teacher, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Language Arts - As we enter into month two of this school year, we have many projects on the go in Language Arts! We continue to refine our sentence skills, while practicing reading strategies with both our independent reading novels, and our class novel *Mick Harte Was Here*. We are also having a look at homophones, like there, their, they're and to, two, too, and challenging ourselves to apply what we learn about words to our daily writing. Students are encouraged to be reading two hours outside of school each week!

Social 5A/5B - To begin the year in Social studies, students wrote about their favorite places in Canada. Currently in Social studies we are honing our mapping skills. We have mapped our world, the provinces and capital cities of Canada and our now locating places, using latitude and longitude. This will be followed by using the scale on a map.

Social 5C/5D - Google Earth allowed us to see our beautiful planet from space. Through exploration we identified oceans and continents, this was enhanced by learning the location of equator (latitude) and the prime meridian (longitude). Which led to identifying not only the northern and southern hemispheres but the eastern and western hemisphere. As we study Canada it is important that each student develops a global perspective of our place in the world. Currently, we have started looking at Canada as a nation, both provincially/territorially and the major geographic regions which are so unique.

Science 5A/5B - We are currently doing our Wetlands unit where we will learn about the different wetlands we have, the plants and animals found in wetlands, adaptations they have to survive there, the wetland ecosystem and how human actions affect wetlands.

Science 5C / 5D: We are currently in our Weather Unit and have been learning about different types of cloud formations, and how these can be indicators of current or future weather conditions. Students are encouraged to check their Google Classroom if away to see what is covered in class.

Math 5A/5B - We are starting the year with numeration where we look at reading, writing, modeling, and representing whole and decimal numbers in expanded form. We will also compare and order numbers.

Math 5C / 5D - We are using September to focus on review of basic math facts, (addition, subtraction, and multiplication), to best assess where students are at after returning to in class learning. Students completed the MIPI (Math Intervention / Programming Instrument) to guide student learning going forward. We will focus on addition and multiplication heading into October. Please practice your math facts at home each night!

GRADE 6 POD

Language Arts -

L.A - In L.A we are currently learning about paragraph writing! We have "dipped our toes in the paragraph writing pond" as we say in class, and are breaking down the proper parts of a paragraph. We will end this unit at the end of September with our "All About Me" project, which is a fun way to learn more about each other and also practice writing proper paragraphs! It has been an awesome start to the year!

Social - In Social we have been learning about what democracy is, and how we, as citizens of Canada, participate within that system. We are currently working on solidifying our understanding of how dmocratic principles influence how decisions are made and the laws that are passed. We will be building upon this understanding as we move on to our next unit in October, focusing on democracy in action.

Science - In Science we have started our Trees and Forests unit. Students are learning about the nutrient cycle and why our trees and forests are valued.

Math - In September, students have been learning about whole number and decimal place value, and we have been working with very large and very small numbers. Once this unit is completed, students will begin to look at prime and composite numbers, multiples, factors, and integers in our second unit of the year. Students also completed the MIPI (Math Intervention / Programming Instrument) to provide information relevant for planning for student learning in our upcoming units.



GRADE 7 POD

Language Arts -

Hello! We are just finishing up our short story unit and will be starting our fiction writing unit next week. Students will learn fictional writing skills and have a choice of writing realistic fiction or superhero transformation stories. I'm excited to read what everyone will write!

Social -

In grade 7 Social Studies, students have been learning about three first nations society's from Eastern Canada; the Mi'kmaq, the Anishinabe, and the Haudenosaunee. More specifically, we have been studying how these groups used the land, and what some of their similarities and differences are. In October, we will begin looking at some of the first European explorers that came to Canada.

Science -

In science we have been working through our first unit, Interactions and Ecosystems. A lot of this unit is review for students from grade 5 and 6 science classes, so it's the perfect unit to start off our year with! Students have gotten through a couple of assignments already, and we will be working to finish the unit up around the end of October.

Math -

Students are getting back into the groove of having regular math classes at Baker and Mrs. Smart & Mr. Hornung are super excited to teach all of the grade 7's math this year! We are exploring our first unit this year right now, which focuses on divisibility rules, converting fractions, decimals and percent, finding the percent of a number, problems involving percent and comparing fractions. We will be looking to complete this somewhere around the end of October or beginning of November, so stay tuned for updates as we move through this unit and throughout the year!



GRADE 8 POD

Language Arts:

Netzel - What a kick off to the 2020/21 school year! It has been so great to have students back in the classroom and learning happening in person. I am teaching LA 8 on Mondays -Wednesdays this year. We have started with a unit entitled, "Tell You Story." We will be looking at how people tell stories, either about themselves, or about others. The students have started working on a project called, "This Is Me" in which they are creatively displaying ideas, images and quotes that represent who they are. We will be finishing them up the week of Sept 28. We have also started reading a novel called, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*. It is a story about the youngest boy on Schindler's List - his personal story of the hardships he experienced during WWII. We have not gotten too far, but this book will be sure to draw the listeners/readers in. We will begin learning about elements of short stories, characterization, point of view, etc...as well as engage in reading and discussing various short stories in the upcoming weeks. I am enjoying getting to know the grade 8 students and look forward to creating some great memories and intentional learning this school year.

McDougall - Thursdays and Fridays are "McDougall Days" this year! We are off to an exciting start (to a very strange year!), and are ready to kick off our reading with a workshop model style of instruction. It has been SO great teaching in front of students again, and I'm looking forward to getting to know this group more each week! Our first unit is called "A Deep Study of Character." In this unit, students will grow as readers as they consider more complex character traits, investigate how setting shapes characters, and analyze how characters are vehicles for motif and theme. This work will be done using a whole class mentor text (<u>The Outsiders</u>), with the bulk of the work being done independently with student choice novels. Students will also work to take charge of their reading lives. They will read more, annotate and jot in ways that deepen their thinking, and hold smart literary conversations with their peers. Please make sure your child has sticky notes for class, in addition to their novel/fiction text of choice.

Math -

In Math, we will be wrapping up Chapter 1: Fraction Operations. This includes everything fraction related: lowest terms, equivalent fractions, adding fractions and subtracting fractions. After an extensive review, we hit the new content which involved multiplication and division of fractions. After that, we focused on problems involving multiple operations. These problems require us to solve using the order of operations (BEDMAS). Next up is Chapter 2: Ratios, Rates & Percent. Students will be required to convert decimals and fractions to percent. Students will also investigate the similarities and differences between ratios and rates. Finally, there will be a significant amount of problem solving throughout all chapters. Please refer to my regular emails, 'The Berry Report,' for everything else chapter related!

Social -

What a crazy start to another awesome year in social studies. I am so excited to work with your children and offer them everything that history has to offer. I always strive to make history relevant to our students and therefore I ask a lot of deep questions that get them thinking. Feel free to ask them about some of the concepts we have been talking about in class. So far we have studied the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) and its effects on society. We have also covered the Middle Ages as we are setting the scene for the Renaissance.

Science -

We are back at it in Science! Our first unit is Mix and Flow of Matter where we explore why different forms of matter act the way they do when they interact with other matter.





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September 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Welcome	1	2 Gr 5 & 6 First Day of School	3 Gr 7 & 8 First Day of School	4 All Grades attend school
7 Labour Day NO SCHOOL	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 PD Day NO SCHOOL	22	23	24	25
28	29	30 Orange Shirt Day		

October 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 PD DAY NO SCHOOL
5	6	7	8	9 Gr 5 & 6 Walk A Thon Baker Gear Order Deadline
12 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	13	14	15	16 Gr 7 & 8 Walk A Thon
19 Baker Virtual Cross Country Meet	20 Baker Virtual Cross Country Meet PAJAMA DAY!!	21 Baker Virtual Cross Country Meet	22 Baker Virtual Cross Country Meet	23 Baker Virtual Cross Country Meet
26	27	28 Picture Day	29	30