

R.I. Baker Middle School

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Principal's Message



WOW!! December is already here!!

I cannot believe we are already into trimester two. Students have worked hard for the first few months of the year, and I know our staff has also. I would like to remind parents of the various forms of communication they can take advantage of for this second term.

Our parent portal will be open after report cards go out. This portal will allow parents to log in and view their child's grades, missing assignments, and attendance. It will be a great tool to guide meaningful conversations with your child around their school life. Our school website is also up to date with all that goes on at RIBMS. By now, you have realized we use a call out system called Synervoice. This system is great for reaching ALL parents in a timely matter with important items or information. Our monthly newsletter provides a voice for all staff to communicate with parents. As always, individual teachers communicate with families in a way that is most effective for them. Our teachers try very hard to keep all parents in the loop regarding upcoming classwork and assessments.

As a parent myself, I know that if I have any concerns or questions regarding my son's education, it is MY job as a parent to reach out to teachers or administration. With each teacher teaching an average of 100 students, we will make mistakes, we may miss something, and this is where the home-school partnership comes into play. We need you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Communication is only truly effective if it runs both ways. Let's work together in the last two terms to maximize student learning!

Having said that I would like to end with a little communication wishing you all a happy holiday season full of happiness and valuable time spent with those who matter most.

Mr. Prebs

IMPORTANT DATES:

- December 2 - Term 2 Starts
- December 5 - A1 Pizza
- Dec. 5 - Pep Rally
- December 7 - Report Card #1
- December 7th - Grade 7th Basketball Jamboree
- December 12- Christmas Concert- 7:00
- December 12 - Booster Juice Lunch
- December 20 - Turkey Dinner
- December 24 - January 4 - NO SCHOOL - Christmas Holidays
- January 9- Wally's Pizza Lunch
- January 10 - Deadline for Ski Trip

REMINDERS FOR ALL RIBMS STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- **PLEASE remember your agenda daily!**
- **The morning warning bell is at 8:25, Period 1 starts at 8:28, after this you are LATE!**
- **Parents, if you child is going to be away from school, PLEASE remember to call in to 1-844-260-7166 or enter it on the School Messenger APP @**

<http://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

THANK YOU!



Powerschool and the Parent Portal

We are very excited to share that we have set a goal to have our Parent Portal open for parents to use moving into the second term. The Parent Portal is an 24/7 online access to your child's grades and assignments.

Be on the watch for more communication regarding this!

Communication From Throughout the Grades



Grade 5

Reminders: We would like to thank the parents for attending Parent Teacher Interviews, as we all need to work together to ensure that your child is getting the best education possible.

Grade 5 is a significant transition into the Middle School lifestyle. Part of the middle school philosophy is to transfer the responsibility of organization to the students themselves. We are finding that students are struggling with the organization of personal effects and school work. Please keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to keep track of their work and belongings. Please ensure that your child has adequate pencils, erasers, paper and other supplies for their classes. You are welcome to come in and help them organize their lockers if they need assistance finding their materials.

The grade 5 students will be skating on Friday, December 14 and 21. Please look for a permission form coming home in the next week. Also please note that there will be a charge for students that did not bring in the minimum \$50.00 for walk a thon, as those funds are paying for this outing.

LA: We are finishing up our short story unit learning about the elements of a great short story. Student authors will pen their own 'Stuck stories' prior to Christmas. If your child brings their library book home, please make sure they bring it back to school the next day.

Math: 5A: We have recently wrapped up our Multiplication Unit, and are now working on practicing Division. Students are encouraged to practice their basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts (up to 10×10) at home every week.

Math: 5B, C, D: We are halfway through our Multiplication Unit and are learning 10 ways to multiply 1, 2, and 3 digit numbers. Students are encouraged to practice each multiplication strategy as well as multiplication facts at home weekly.

Science: 5D: We are working on our “Classroom Chemistry” unit and have completed three labs where students explored how to separate mixtures as well as experimented with surface tension and density. We will finish this unit before Christmas break.

Science: 5A, B, C: We have begun our unit on Electricity, and are looking at static electricity and lightning, before moving into current electricity.

Social Studies: We have begun our travels across the regions of Canada in the Atlantic region. Projects and exams for this region will happen before the Christmas break.

Grade 6

LA: 6A,B,C: We are currently in the midst of our Narrative Writing unit, and have been focusing on analyzing and recreating the Origin Story format. Students are working to build a toolkit of strategies for narrative writing in order to produce high quality work. This will take us all the way up to the Winter Break. We continue with our weekly Word Study, and have just had our first summative assignment that assesses the students’ knowledge of the letter patterns we have been studying so far.

Math: We have started our Patterns and Expressions unit in Math. In this unit, students will describe and extend patterns, make tables of values from patterns, and identify relationships in patterns. We will also get our first introduction to algebra as we explore variables, expressions, and solving problems using equations with variables.

Science: We have started the Sky Science unit in science class. So far, we’ve studied objects that emit and reflect light in space, characteristics of different stars, and what constellations are and how they move in our sky. This is a great time to get outdoors with your child and take a look at the night sky. The app “Sky View” is a tool that help locate stars and constellations in the sky!

Social Studies: In Social, the students have been busy working on their giant “SocialCity” project. The project is a month-long venture into founding, designing, and ultimately creating their own cities. At this point, the city council has been elected and students are busy balancing their budgets and building the designs of their cities. Feel free to ask your child what their role is in SocialCity and how local government affects their lives.

Grade 7

LA - We have just finished our Global Read Aloud novel Refugee. If your child enjoyed the story you should check out Alan Gratz's other WWII novels. We are now working on our own story writing. We will be looking at mentor texts of what makes a good short story and then work through the writing process to create our own short stories. A post-assessment piece will be written at the end of this unit and will be a major assignment. We still have spelling quizzes every week that students should be studying for, as well as our article of the month, due the last Friday. Remember - to build reading, writing and spelling, you need to be reading 2 hrs a week.

Math - In December, all four classes will be completing their second unit covering the addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. We will then be moving into our third unit which covers the addition and subtraction of integers. It is important to note that at the end of the completion of fourth unit in late January, or early February, students will have a midterm on the first four units of the year. Watch for this midterm date in the future!

Science - Students are well into the Plants for Food & Fibre unit, and throughout December we will be focusing on the parts of a flower, how plant reproduction occurs and modifications that humans make to this process, as well as factors and controls involved with plant reproduction. Lastly, we will look into technologies and the intended and unintended consequences of human involvement in these processes. After the completion of this unit in early January, there will be a midterm to follow that will cover the first two units of the year. Stay tuned for this midterm date in the future!

Social Studies - We are currently studying early European colonies, more specifically New France. Students are working on a hands on visual project depicting one of the important groups/jobs within New France. They will have a chance to present their final projects to the class. We will then move into the Fur Trade and look at the timeline and economic competition that was spurred on by rival fur trade companies.

Grade 8

Language Arts (Mrs. Netzel)- We are finishing up our short stories section of our unit. Students are working on a group project for The Monkey's Paw over the next week or so, in which they will be writing an additional scene to the story and performing it for the class. The students have been focusing on incorporating more detail into their written responses and using information from the texts to support their ideas and opinions. We will continue to focus on writing as we dive into our personal narrative writing. I would like to encourage students to be reading at least 20 mins/day at home. Parents can help their children by encouraging them to read each evening,

asking questions about what their children are reading, or even spending some time reading with their children (...or to them... or have them read to you). Books make GREAT stocking stuffers! Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Math (Mrs. Berry-Furtado) - During the month of December, we will wrap up our unit on Integers. This third chapter has the students reviewing adding and subtracting of integers. Then, we introduce multiplication and division of integers. Lastly, we will solve order of operation problems involving integers. Please note, there will always be a portion of each chapter devoted to problem solving! After Chapter 3 we will begin our chapter devoted to algebra: graphing and solving equations. We will use December to get a head start on this chapter and return to it in January.

Science (Mrs. Friesen) - November and December have us taking a closer look at water, specifically Fresh and Saltwater Systems. This is a short unit and we will write our unit test before the Christmas break. I will be offering some study skills/review sessions as we prepare for this unit test to help students develop those skills more! Many students seem to be struggling with overall organization. Please take a moment to check in with your student if they need some help to get themselves back on track with keeping their binders in order.

Social Studies (Mr. Smith/Miss Cleland) - We have finished our discovery of the Italian City-States and dominated our understanding of Humanism. Currently we are working on the spread of ideas and how the Renaissance was formed. By the Christmas break, we should be done our Renaissance journey.

Library News

Thank you to all that helped support our annual Scholastic Book Fair last month. With the proceeds from the fair we were able to purchase \$468.00 worth of new books for our school library collection and have some funds remaining to purchase more books from other vendors in the near future. This is a literary event that greatly enhances our library collection and your support is appreciated.

The library is continuously showcasing new titles for our students to enjoy. Students are encouraged to try reading new genres and different writing formats as a way of expanding their reading habits.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts

Thank you to Mrs. Jean Vaselenak for picking up 30 gift filled shoe boxes that will be delivered to children in countries that would otherwise not receive a gift this season due to poverty, war or environmental disasters.

Canteen and Wednesday Hot Lunch Program

The canteen appreciates the weekly assistance of Mrs. Jessica Poettcker during our very busy lunch hours. Thank you Jessica!

The weekly Wednesday Hot Lunch Program takes a substantial amount of volunteer hours to tabulate all of the student orders. Without the assistance of Carley Campbell we would not be able to provide this lunch program. Thank you Carley!

Sock it to 'Em Sock Campaign

Each December the caretakers of Palliser Regional Schools collect NEW PAIRS OF SOCKS for distribution to people in need in our communities. Students are encouraged to bring in at least one pair of NEW SOCKS to the school library where they will be collected by our caretakers and delivered to Palliser Central Office. The socks are donated to various charity organizations in our community for distribution in time for Christmas. Your support of this act of giving is greatly appreciated. All socks are welcome and can be for child or adults. Watch our school website for deadline dates.

LEGION POSTER/LITERARY CONTEST

Thank you to students that took the time and effort to either write or draw entries for the annual Canadian Legion Poster/Literary Contest. We were pleased to bring 10 great entries to the Lethbridge Branch where they will be judged according to age group. Last year R.I. Baker had 3 winners in the contest and we are hoping for success again this year. It's great to see some of our students taking some of their own time to show their appreciation to our Canadian veterans.

A Rundown of Bears Athletics

GRADE 5 VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Thanks to those who have been participating in our very own RI Baker Grade 5 Volleyball Club! We have some awesome players! The idea of the club is to introduce players to volleyball skills and concepts of the game. The club will continue to run through December and January. Students who have not been in this club are still welcome to join us. We'll be running a grade 5 basketball club following volleyball, which will likely begin in February. GO BEARS GO!

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to all of our players on making it onto our 2018/2019 teams. We have two girls and two boys teams that are eager to compete beginning in December. Just a reminder to parents to pay attention to their email for important items. We're looking forward to hosting our basketball tournaments, coming up December 7-8 and January 18-19. GO BEARS GO!

Baker Intramurals

We've been watching some awesome dodging and take outs in intramurals the past month as students compete in dodgeball. Dodgeball is quickly wrapping up. Next up in intramurals will be 3 on 3 basketball.

The "Beat" From The Music Room

Way to go band families that took advantage of our Pie Fundraiser and earned some great profits for your child's individual fundraising accounts. You sold over \$20,000 in pies!

Reminder for grade 7/8 band parents that the \$100 deposit for our April 5-8th trip to Edmonton is due Monday December 3rd and is payable on School Cash online. If you have enough fundraising credits to cover this cost it will not show up on your school cash. If you have a partial amount fundraised that will be taken off the deposit.

Upcoming Concerts:

December 12th: Christmas Concert - All band/choir/handbell students - 7:00pm at RIBMS

Music clubs:

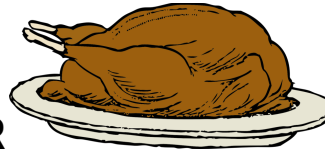
Handbells: Mondays at lunch recess with Mrs. Holland

Choir: (open to all students) Tuesdays at lunch recess with Mrs. Conrad/Mrs. Holland

Jazz Band: (open to grade 7 and 8 students) Fridays after school 12:30-1:20

What's up with all the Drama?

Cheaters was a great success for the students in the play and I would like to thank those in the community that supported and continue to support our Fine Arts. I am also very excited to announce R.I. Baker's Spring Production of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" going up on May 29th, 30th and 31st. Mark it in your calendars because it is going to be a great show.



RIBMS TURKEY DINNER

RIBMS will provide a free turkey dinner for all students on Thursday, December 20th. Thank you to Natasha Richards for coordinating this event for us. This meal will include turkey, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, buns, dessert, and a drink.

In order to provide this dinner, **WE NEED YOUR HELP** in the following areas:

- Set up/Clean-up /Servers for the dinner
- Cooking potatoes at home and bringing them to the school Thursday morning
- Volunteers to put turkeys in the ovens @ RIBMS early Tuesday & Wednesday morning
- Volunteers to help carve turkeys Tuesday & Wednesday afternoon

* Ingredients, supplies and recipes are provided.

Sign up at the link on our website www.ribms.ca

OR DIRECTLY AT THIS LINK :

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZxN5RgX-TkREjYd0skTeE-QkT9KygcC5o_CRfesOXw/edit?ts=5c005e70

This event cannot be possible without volunteers, please consider helping out with this event. The success of this event depends on many volunteers.

Please direct questions to Bonnie Dyck at the school @ 403-345-3340, or go to the website and sign up!!

THIS LUNCH IS BEING PROVIDED BY FUNDS RAISED FROM THE WALKATHON AND CANTEEN!

Looking for a Christmas Gift Idea? How about a trip?.....

RIBMS Ski Trip—JANUARY 24, 2019

Information, registration and permission forms for our annual RIBMS ski trip to Castle Mountain have been sent home with your child. It is our hope that each child will attend this event and either learn the basics of skiing or practice their ski skills. For students who do not go skiing, it is a regular school day where grade level instruction will be provided. We need a majority of our students to participate in this event, or it may be cancelled. We strongly encourage and welcome parents to attend the ski day with your child. **Ski trip fees and forms are due January 10, 2019.**

In accordance with procedures at Castle Mountain, every student must take an ability test and lesson, even if they are a season pass holder. All students must wear a helmet, the cost of which is included if they rent equipment.

In order to plan and order adequate transportation, every student needs to ride the bus to and from the ski hill. All students who are attending the ski trip must attend a ski safety presentation at the school..

As this activity is partially subsidized by the school, please note that schools fees and any other outstanding fees are to be paid in full prior to the ski date. Please call the office, 345-3340, if you would like details on outstanding fees or to speak to an administrator regarding payment plans to pay fees.

Parents accompanying our students on the ski trip will be expected to adhere to Palliser Regional School policy in regard to tobacco and alcohol.

Please Note: Students and parents who choose not to participate on the school ski trip but choose to ski that day (at Castle Mountain) will not in any way be affiliated with the school, its insurance, discounted rates or transportation. Also, if a student drives with a parent or another parent they become the responsibility of that parent. If a student not on the ski trip is a discipline issue or is injured they are the sole responsibility of the overseeing guardian.

BUSES WILL BE LEAVING THE SCHOOL PROMPTLY AT 6:45 AM AND RETURNING AT 5:30 PM. STUDENTS MUST BE AT THE SCHOOL BY 6:30am FOR PROMPT DEPARTURE. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL WHEN WE RETURN FROM THE HILL SO PLEASE HAVE PICKUPS ARRANGED.

RIBMS LUNCH PROGRAM 2018-2019

NAME: _____

HOMEROOM: _____

This order is for the month of **JANUARY**. Please choose each one that you would like to participate in by **checking the appropriate boxes (or the choice will be made for you)** and totaling the amount. **No substitutions will be allowed.**

Orders are **due December 14** and no late orders will be accepted. If your child is absent the lunch will be left in the fridge until the next day only.

Form can be returned with Cash OR Cheque to office as well purchased through School Cash Online.

Wednesday, JANUARY 9 – Wally’s

3.00 per slice \$ _____

- Pepperoni
- Hawaiian
- Cheese

Wednesday JANUARY 16 – Booster Juice

SMOOTHIES:

- Mango Mania
- Berry Blossom
- Pineapple Chill & Starberry

3.75 each \$ _____

WRAPS:

- Protein chicken (No sauce, BBQ sauce or Salsa)
- Hawaiian Pizza (Pineapple, Ham ,Pizza Sauce & Cheese)
- Turkey (Turkey, mayonnaise & cheese)
- Ham (Ham, mayonnaise & cheese)
- Garden Veggie

3.75 each \$ _____

Wednesday, JANUARY 23 – 3 G Eatery

- Chicken Wrap-Breaded Chicken, Ranch, Mozzarella, Lettuce
- BBQ Beef on a Bun – Slow Roasted Beef, BBQ Sauce, Hamburger Bun
- Meatball Slider –Pork Meatball, Marinara Sauce, Mozzarella, Hamburger Bun **3.50 each \$ _____**
- Pasta Salad
- Potato Salad **2.00 each \$ _____**

Wednesday, JANUARY 30 – WIEBE’S

- Ham & Cheese Sub
- Cold Cut Sub
- Pizza Sub
- Turkey **4.00 \$ each _____**

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR JANUARY \$ _____

INTERNATIONAL HOST FAMILIES URGENTLY NEEDED

Good afternoon, Families,

Palliser Regional Schools offers an International Education Program for students from around the world to have the opportunity to come and study in Canada. This year, Palliser is/will be hosting students from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Spain, Germany, Japan, China, Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Spain. Palliser's program has become widely recognized by international agencies. The popularity and success of our program is due in part to the incredible support the program has received from our wonderful host families. Without this continued support, our program would not exist.

Palliser will be welcoming a group of 19 students (ages 10-11) and two chaperones from Qingdao, China on October 23, 2018). The group will be here for one month (departing on November 23, 2018). It is our intent to place these students into R.I. Baker, Jennie Emery and Sunnyside schools. We are currently looking for host families that may be interested in hosting one or possibly two students (or a chaperone - 1 male (42) and 1 female (27) from this group for the time period specified.

These students will need host families who are willing to provide food, lodging and a supportive home life during their stay. Each host family will be paid \$750 per month to support the student's needs. One of the great benefits of being a homestay family is the opportunity to build connections with a family from another country and experience southern Alberta through the eyes of someone seeing our way of life for the first time.

Host families will need to submit a home stay application form, provide a criminal record check for all individuals residing in the home over the age of 18 and provide a tour of your visit from a homestay coordinator.

If you're interested in becoming a host family, please contact Barb McDonald at the division office at 587-486-0320 (direct office line) 403-382-9499 (cell) or via email to barb.mcdonald@pallisersd.ab.ca

Coaldale “Makes Holidays Possible” in the 11th Annual COALDALE CARES Blood Drive

The community of Coaldale “Makes Holidays Possible” this holiday season by giving life. This annual campaign is co-sponsored by Intercontinental Truck Body, Kate Andrews High School, Kinsmen Club of Coaldale and the Town of Coaldale who are asking Coaldale residents to help hospital patients by rallying friends and family to book an appointment to donate.

The Holiday season can be a challenging time to recruit blood donors. People become busy with friends, family, or Christmas activities, and donating blood is not always top of mind. But sadly, the need for blood never takes a holiday, and every day, hospital patients are depending on blood donors to help save their lives.

The blood you donate goes to help save the lives of people right here in Southern Alberta. People like Maryn, who was diagnose with Meckel’s Diverticulum at the age of 4. Maryn had two blood transfusion to prepare her for surgery. Maryn and her family are grateful for the lifesaving gift of blood she received.



Canadian Blood Services needs over **550** more donors to book appointments at the Lethbridge Donor Centre in December to keep up with patient demand. We are located at #220, 200 4 Ave South in Melcor Centre.

Please visit www.blood.ca, or download the app: GiveBlood to book your appointment and give someone their holidays back!

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Term #2 Starts	4	5 AI Pizza Lunch	6	7 Report Cards go home RIBMS Basketball Grade 7/8	8 RIBMS Basketball Grade 7/8
9	10	11	12 Booster Juice Lunch Christmas Concert 7:00	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Turkey Dinner	21 Last Day before Christmas Break	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Back to School	8	9 Wally's Pizza Lunch	10 Deadline for Ski Trip	11	12
13	14	15	16 Booster Juice Lunch	17	18 RIBMS Girls Basketball Jamboree	19 RIBMS Girls Basketball Jamboree
20	21	22 Parent Council 6:30	23 3G Lunch	24 Ski Trip Bus leaves 6:15	25 Hot Lunch Order DUE	26
27	28 Site Based PD Day NO SCHOOL	29	30 Wiebe's Lunch	31		