

R.I. Baker Middle School

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing extended Easter break. Although the weather was not very pleasant towards the end, I certainly appreciated some extra time to recharge the batteries. Now it's time for all of us to enjoy the learning opportunities that will come our way over the final two months of school!

There will be a variety of experiences that will take place in May and June. We have a number of field trips, and athletic events planned. This includes our grade level trips, the Outdoor Ed trip for grade 7 students, several track and field meets, and our school wide pool day in Raymond. Please know that we take student safety on these trips very seriously. Teacher/Student trust needs to be established and maintained before any student can attend these excursions. I will support teachers 100% if they have concerns regarding student behavior/ trust when taking 100+ students off site. Sometimes we need to make a call for a student to stay behind on those days if that trust has been compromised or we foresee a possible safety issue. Although we would like to see everyone enjoy these opportunities, they must be earned and everyone needs to be as safe as possible. I trust that everyone understands that we are looking out for the best interest and safety of everyone. Teachers will be in communication with parents if there is an issue with their child regarding trust and safety.

May and June are very important months for students as they finish off projects, write finals and PAT's, and solidify the learning that they've done throughout the year. Summer break might be on the horizon, but we still have lots to do before July arrives. Thanks in advance to parents for their continued support and communication – you can make a huge difference in helping us get students successfully across the 2018/2019 finish line!

Have a great May, and as always, please feel free to contact us regarding learning or activities at Baker.

Happy Mothers Day!

Mr. Prebs

IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 1 - Wally's Pizza
- May 1 - Grade 6 Practice PAT
- May 2 - RIBMS Track Meet at University of Lethbridge
- May 7 - LA Part A PAT
- May 8 - Booster Juice Lunch
- May 13 - County Track @ U of L
- May 14 - Parent Council 6:30
- May 15 - 3G Lunch
- May 16 - New Student Orientation- 6:00 - 7:00 RIBMS
- May 20 - No School - Holiday
- May 21 - No School - PD Day
- May 22 - LSAA Track Meet @ U of L
- May 24 - Hot Lunches due
- May 29 - May 31 - Spring Production
- May 29 - EDO Lunch

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On Thursday, May 16, from 6:00-7:00 pm, R.I. Baker will be hosting its New Student Orientation. When students arrive at the school, they will participate in an activity that will guide them through various spaces in the school, and provide them with an opportunity to meet staff members. This activity will be followed by a short assembly. If you are new to Baker in September, we hope to see you there!

STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING R.I. BAKER FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Parents, as we plan for classes next year and look into staffing for the fall, could you please let us know ASAP if your child or children, grades 5-8, will not be attending RIBMS in the fall. Thank you!

PARENT COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is on May 14 at 6:30pm in the Staff room at RI Baker. Thank you to all of those that have contributed their time and effort to School Council this year! We encourage all parents to attend who are interested in hearing about upcoming events at RI Baker and would like to provide input into their child's education. We try to keep the meeting to around an hour!

If anyone has items they'd like to submit for the School Council agenda please let me know at shannon@kaskocattle.com by May 6. Thanks and hope to see you there,

Shannon Kasko

School Council Chair

ATHLETICS

BADMINTON

Congratulations to all of our badminton players on a successful season! We saw a lot of growth in every player! We look forward to seeing you continue to compete in badminton. A special congratulations to our bantam and midget teams on winning the County of Lethbridge banners. We had many medals at the County tournament including golds from Aidyn Law, McKenzie Holmes, Vanessa Moorhead and Chloe Brobbel, and Brenden Duda & Brett Hudey.. We're looking forward to Zone May 4th.

VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

RI Baker will be once again running a spring volleyball clinic coming up in June. Watch for more information coming out soon, including the dates. Both a grade 5 clinic and a grade 6/7 clinic will be offered.

INTRAMURALS

We just finished up badminton intramurals where students were free to come in and have some fun with badminton. Thank you to all of our intramurals participants this year! As the weather is getting nicer, intramurals is finished for the school year.

RI BAKER TRACK & FIELD MEET

As part of the physical education curriculum, the annual R.I. Baker Track and Field Meet will be held on Thursday, May 2nd. This year all students will be bussed to the University of Lethbridge track for this exciting school event.

As we have done in the past years we will once again be providing FREE of charge a basic lunch for your child. The lunch will be a sub sandwich and a bottle of water. Students will receive their bagged lunches prior to leaving the school. There is also a concession that will be open at the University track if students wish to purchase additional items through the day.

Please note that the busses will leave the school at 8:40am and it is important that all students are at the school in time for the regular first bell of the day. Once the buses have left no students will be driven to the University and will have to remain at the school. We are on a very tight schedule for the day and buses cannot wait for tardy students.

Due to the unpredictable weather of Southern Alberta please make sure your child has adequate clothing for the day. Sunscreen, hats and water are a must even if the morning starts out cool. All students will be participating so please make sure they have proper clothing and footwear.

A permission form was sent home and must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher ASAP. If the form is not returned your child will not be able to attend.

Grade 6- 8 students will be qualifying through this meet for the upcoming County of Lethbridge meet and Lethbridge Schools track meet. Following the meet, students who qualify will receive information about these upcoming meets.

It is of the utmost importance that parents enter the absence in school messenger or call the school and inform the office if your child will not be attending the track meet. It is imperative that the office be informed in order that we know your child is safe and accounted for. We're looking forward to an amazing day!

YEARBOOK

Yearbooks will have photos from school events added to them until the end of the school year, and students will collect in September. Orders can still be made up until Monday, May 28th. Copies of the 2019-2020 yearbook can be ordered through the office for \$30, or by ordering online.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Year end concert will be Thursday June 6th and will feature all of our musical ensembles at the school, including: handbells, choir, jazz band, grade 6, 7 and 8 bands.

Congratulations to the grade 6 band that achieved a superior rating at the Lethbridge music festival. As well as the grade 7 and 8 band that represented RI Baker extremely well in Edmonton and achieved a stunning performance on the iconic Winspear Theatre stage.

TEACHER'S REQUESTS

Late each spring the JEES and RI Baker school administrators meet with the grade level teachers and our learning support teachers to place students in classrooms for the following year. Much deliberation goes into these assignments. Some of the things we consider include:

- Student needs
- Male/female ratio
- Behavior needs
- Student relationships with other students.
- Learning assistant assignments
- Academic balance
- Class size

We create classes within each grade that are as similar as possible to each other. A parent request for a specific teacher makes it difficult to accomplish this. Requests from several parents makes it next to impossible to create equitable classes. For these reasons, parent requests for specific teachers will not be considered. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Prebushewski at 403-345-3340.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Online dangers and how to keep kids safe online

Kids safety online:

The Internet is a great social networking tool for young people, but abusers know it and use its anonymity to access kids. Predators can adopt a false identity, initiate trusting friendships with children or youth and attempt to meet them in person.

Online child sexual exploitation is a serious problem. Approximately one in five children is sexually solicited online.¹

“Luring” is a term describing a number of dangerous activities an adult may engage in with a child online. It can include convincing a child or youth to reveal personal details about themselves and family members, sending photos, or meeting in person. Sending photos to even a relative over the Internet can be risky because an exploiter can intercept the photos and cut and paste the child’s image into a pornographic photo and then distribute it.

Warning signs your child may be unsafe online;

- Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night, and doesn't want to tell you who s/he is talking to or what s/he is doing.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from adults you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child asks for a web camera or moves the web camera to a more private location.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an online account belonging to someone else.

How parents can keep kids safe online:

The most important thing you can do to keep kids safe online is talk with your kids—before someone else does. By setting guidelines, explaining the dangers and supervising younger children online, caregivers can dramatically reduce the chances their child will meet an online acquaintance in real life.

10 cyber-safety tips for parents and caregivers

Here are 10 cyber-safety tips you can use to prepare your kids for the online world:

1. Talk to your kids about online safety issues.
2. Build guidelines and a family agreement around Internet use just as you would for other activities.
3. Be proactive in finding out who your kids are talking to online by spending time with them on the Internet.
4. Keep your computer in a public area of your house.
5. Never disclose personal details online.
6. They should never post pictures of themselves online to people they do not know. Webcams and camera phones make it easy to take and transmit images—and too often, young people are lured into sending explicit pictures that are then used to manipulate them. Explain to your child that everything sent out over the Internet could last there forever.
7. Reinforce that people online may not be who they say they are.
8. Consider using parental controls like Internet filters or blocking software.
9. Encourage open dialogue with your kids and offer a “No-Questions-Asked Bailout” as a safety net if they feel they could be in danger.
10. Be constructive about good places for them to visit on the Internet.

Safety tips for social networking sites

Social networking sites are very popular with young people. Most have privacy controls that limit access. Ensure that your child or youth’s site has the privacy controls set so that only those known to them can access their information. Explain that they should never accept an invitation from someone they don’t know—even if that person claims to be a friend of a friend.

What to do if you suspect sexual exploitation online:

Any instance of suspected child exploitation on the Internet, including pornography or sexually explicit communication with a child or youth, should be reported to www.cybertip.ca. Cybertip.ca analysts are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week to accept calls from those who require direct assistance. If you are worried about any child being hurt, report what you do know and let the experts handle the rest. You might save a child or youth from unimaginable hurt.

- Talk immediately, calmly and frankly to your child in a supportive, calming way
- Contact your local police
- Report these incidents to your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- Remember, Internet controls—though good—cannot take the place of honest, open dialogue. Young people may access the Internet from a friend’s house, school, library or on mobile devices.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak, 2000, *Online victimization: A report on the nation’s youth*, Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, page ix. U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, *A parent’s guide to Internet safety*.

Submitted by Dalayna Taverner, Family School Liaison Counsellor. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 403-892-5947.

GRADE 5 POD

The grade 5's will take part in their first R. I. Baker Track and Field Day, at the University of Lethbridge, on Thursday, May 2. This is a great day for all students to experience their first track meet. They will be supplied with a lunch that day. Parents are welcome to come out and watch, or phone the school to volunteer for the day. Please review the school dress code found in your child's agenda, as the weather is now getting warmer and summer wear will be appearing. All students are expected to go outside for recess.

We would like to wish all mothers out there, a very happy "Mother's Day."

Language Arts

We have finished up our study of the novel, *Underground to Canada*. Forming great paragraphs has been the focus of our writing units. We will continue this by writing persuasive paragraphs about specific creatures and whether they should be perceived as a 'friend' or a 'foe' this month.

Social

The Cordillera and Interior Plains region will finish up our study of the geography of Canada this year.

Science

A, B, and C: We are just completing our Weather unit, and will be writing the test on May 7 or 8. We will then begin our final unit, Wetlands. This unit will be taught by Miss Fraulín, a PSII student. In Science, all grade 5's will be participating in a video conference, date TBD. The session is called "It's Not Easy Being Green." This program is through the Government of Alberta, and Alberta Parks. On Thursday, June 6th we will be participating in part 2 of the program, with a field trip to Park Lake to do a field study of the Wetlands. We will need parent supervisors for this trip, as we need a 1:5 ratio of adults to students. Please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you are able to join us.

D: We are beginning our Wetlands unit in Science and will continue this until the end of the year. In Science, all grade 5's will be participating in a video conference, date TBD. The session is called "It's Not Easy Being Green." This program is through the Government of Alberta, and Alberta Parks. On Thursday, June 6th we will be participating in part 2 of the program, with a field trip to Park Lake to do a field study of the Wetlands. We will need parent supervisors for this trip, as we need a 1:5 ratio of adults to students. Please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you are able to join us.

Math

A: We have started our measurement unit where we will learn about linear measurement; (cm, m, km), capacity; (mL and L), as well as volume; (cm³ and m³). We will wrap up the month learning about perimeter and area including right angles and creating different types of rectangles.

B, C and D: Students are finishing up our unit on Translations and then will be moving onto Fractions and Measurement for May. These units are quicker and students may have a few tests closer together.

GRADE 6 POD

Language Arts

Spring is finally upon us, and with that, we have our Provincial Achievement Exams (PATs). In preparation for Part A, the written section, we will be doing a practice run on Wednesday May 1st that will not be graded, but will be for the students' reflection. The remainder of the year (whew!) will be spent on Literature Circles where students will read a novel in a small group and take on a variety of roles to help them explore and understand the novel. We will also be dedicating time to preparing for Part B of our PAT, reading comprehension.

Social

In Social, we have jumped into our last big unit, the Iroquois Confederacy. Here we will learn about different First Nations tribes and how they came to decisions as a group. The unit will culminate in all Grade 6 students taking part in Consensus Day, and then it's on to PAT prep.

Science

Students are working on their flight projects this month. Each week they will be working on a different task. They have finished their parachute task where they had to design, build, and test their parachutes. Be sure to ask them about the different tasks they're working on! Students are putting a lot of hard work into applying their learning in a hands on way!

Math

After completing our Ratios and Percent unit, students will begin the Measurement unit, where we will explore angles and angle relationships, perimeter, the area of rectangles and squares, and the volume of rectangular prisms. Students will need a protractor for this unit. We will then move onto our Multiplication and Division of Decimals unit. Some students have lost or broken their calculators. Please ask your child if his/her calculator needs to be replaced, as this will be an important tool for the rest of the school year.

GRADE 7 POD

Language Arts

We are starting our second Book Club this month. Students will read a novel with a small group, in about 5 weeks, participating in group discussions and activities. We will end the unit with a literary analysis of the books and their important plot elements, symbols and themes. June will be poetry and final exam review.

Social

As we begin the month of May, students will be completing their Chapter 8 task and writing their test on Confederation. We will then move into Chapter 9 that focuses on the Metis uprisings and Louis Reil. This chapter will culminate with speeches the students write and present.

Science

Students will be beginning our fifth and final unit this month; Structures and Forces. Students will investigate the properties of materials being used to build structures, and test these materials under different loads and forces. They will examine the different ways that structural components are configured and investigate strength and stability. Students will also learn how science and technology link together in developing safe and efficient designs that meet human needs.

Math

In May students will be working through unit 7 which focuses on data analysis and probability. Here, using mean, median, mode, and range, they will collect, display and analyze data to solve problems. They will also use experimental and theoretical probabilities to represent and solve problems involving uncertainty.

GRADE 8 POD

Language Arts: We have just started our literature study unit. For most of May we will be reading *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. Students will engage in class discussions, analyzing plot elements, themes, and activities preparing for the unit essay. June we will begin poetry and review for the final exam.

Social: We have begun our journey through the Japan Unit. Students will learn about their geography as well as their way of life before the Americans came.

Science: We are in the middle of the final unit, Cells and Systems. I am looking forward to the frog dissection that will provide students with a tangible look at an organisms with the body systems we will be learning about.

Math: We will complete Chapter 6: Prisms & Cylinders within the first two weeks of May. Then, we will begin Chapter 7: Data Analysis & Probability. This chapter will have students critique ways in which data is presented. This includes data presented in circle graphs, line graphs, bar graphs and pictographs. Then, students will solve problems involving the probability of independent events. This chapter will take us into June where we will complete our eighth and final chapter!

YEAR END ASSEMBLIES

On Wednesday, June 26th, we will once again be hosting our year end assemblies. All students will be receiving their RIBMS Recognition Certificates with the 'win-it's' stickers. These stickers provide recognition, not only for academic excellence but for a wide variety of endeavors students chose to be involved in. Copies of the Recognition Policy are available from your child's homeroom teacher or online at www.ribms.ca. Go to documents, go to Recognition Program.

We encourage all parents, friends and family members to attend the assemblies. Please remember that each grade has their own assembly, except for the Grade 8's. All students and staff attend the Grade 8 assembly, as this is their final assembly at RIBMS and we want to celebrate their achievements and wish them well as they move on from RIBMS. All assemblies take place in the gym.

May

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wally's Pizza Grade 6 LA Practice PAT	2 RIBMS Track & Field Day @ U of L Grade 8 Parent Meeting at KAH5 6:00	3	4 Badminton Zones in Medicine Hat
5	6	7 Grade 6 LA Part A PAT	8 Booster Juice	9	10	11
12	13 County Track @ U of L	14 Parent Council 6:30	15 3G Lunch	16	17	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL	21 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	22 LSAA Track Meet @ U of L Wiebe's Lunch	23	24 Hot Lunch Due	25
26	27	28	29 EDO Lunch Spring Production 7:00	30 Spring Production 7:00	31 Spring Production 7:00 Last Day for Chinese Students	

June

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Zone Track Meet @ U of L	5 Athletic Awards Night	6 Band Concert Grade 5 - Park Lake	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Grade 6 - MATH PAT	18 Grade 6 - Science PAT	19 Grade 6 - Social PAT	20 Grade 6 - LA Part B PAT	21 Aboriginal Day	22
23	24 School Wide Raymond Pool Day	25 POD Trips Gr. 5 - Stan Sijwik/ Movie Mill Gr. 6 - Holiday Inn & Movie Mill Gr. 7 - Calgary Zoo Gr. 8 - Calaway Park	26 Grade Level Assemblies Gr. 5 - 11:00 Gr. 6 - 1:00 Gr. 7 - 2:00 Gr. 8 - 9:00	27 PD Day - No School	28 PD Day - No School	29
30						



Become a Junior Aviator

Lethbridge Airport

Saturday May 18 2019
(rain date May 25, 2019)

COPA for Kids is an aviation program that gives kids 8 - 17 a free introductory flight.

Go to <https://lethbridgesportflyers.com/copa-for-kids> for info and to sign up.

due to the overwhelming response to our program last year we ask that registrations be received by May 11th, 2019

email: lynnbrianwilson@gmail.com for more info.

www.copaforkids.org



Junior Aviators
will be treated
to a complimentary
Hot Dog lunch.