

# The Paw Print



## *R.I. Baker Middle School* March 2021 Newsletter



### Principal's Message

As I always do every year, I would like to focus a message on nutrition, sleep, and the impact it has on academic performance, focus, and fatigue.

As we all know, nutrition plays a big role in our overall health and wellness. As parents, it is important we provide our children with healthy choices and habits that support a lifetime of positive eating and sleeping routines. This year we have found a safe way to provide all our students with fruits and other healthy snacks to keep them going throughout the day. It is our hope that any student who needs a nutritional boost can come to the office and receive it. It is important, even at the middle school level, that we monitor students' lunches and try to ensure it has a somewhat healthy balance. It truly makes a difference.

Please read this informational piece done by McGill University. It clearly outlines how crucial sleep is for our young ones and the impact sleep can have on everything they do.

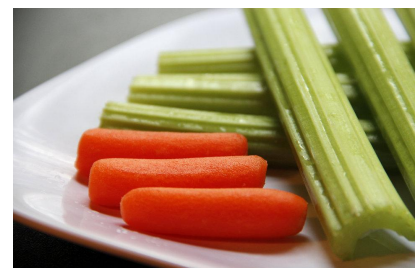
<http://douglas.research.mcgill.ca/sleep-and-children-impact-lack-sleep-daily-life>

As a parent, I often need to make a conscious effort not to grab the packaged, processed food, and cut up some fresh veggies. I also can be a sucker for letting them stay up later than I should. I know it's never perfect, but I also know every little effort counts.

As we march into March, stay warm and stay healthy!

*Mr. Prebs*

<b>IMPORTANT DATES:</b>
<b>March 9</b> - Parent Council Mtg 6:30 pm
<b>March 17</b> - St Patricks Day "Wear Green!"
<b>March 17</b> - Parent Teacher Interviews 4:30-7:30 pm
<b>March 18</b> - Parent Teacher Interviews 4:30-7:30 pm
<b>March 19</b> - NO SCHOOL Division Wide PD Day
<b>March 22</b> - Funky Sock Day



# **March 17 & 18, 2021 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS** **ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**\*\*Our March Parent Teacher Interviews will be held similarly to our November Interviews; virtually and by appointment only.**

**The online appointment booking system for Parent Teacher Interviews will be live March 1, 2021.**

**Please click on the link below and follow these simple instructions to book your PTI time slot:**

**<http://ribms.parentteacherconferences.net>**

Click on the “Register” tab (top right corner)

Enter your Name, Phone Number, email address

Create a User ID and Password

Click “Register Now”

Click “Add a Student”

Enter Student’s name

Click “Insert”

Click on your Students Name when it appears.

Follow the instructions given on screen.

Click “View Calendar”

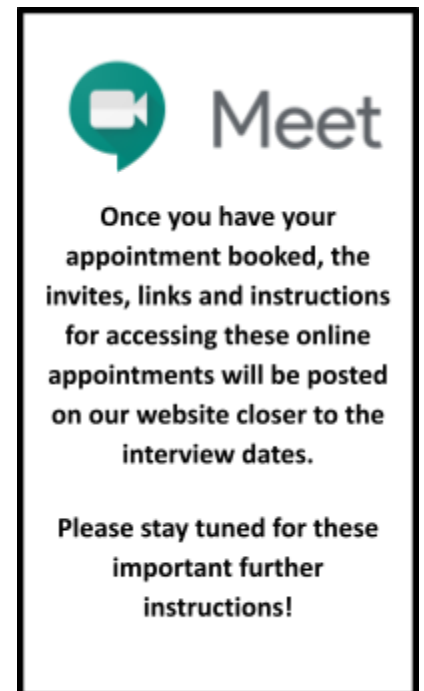
Click on the Time Slot you would like for your interview

Click “Book Appointment”

Repeat the above steps for the number of students you have at RI Baker.

Once you have all appointments booked, Click on “Print Appointments” and you will have a hard copy of your child’s appointment times.

Click “Log Out” (top right hand corner)



## GRADE 5 POD NEWS

Parents, please check with your child in regards to classroom supplies. Many students are without the basics such as pencils and erasers. Spring is just around the corner, so remember to dress for the weather.

### Language Arts:

Non-fiction and informational texts are our focus; discussing text features pertaining to reading strategies will be helpful when reading this type of text. The "Who Would Win" series by Jerry Pallotta and "Friend or Foe" by Etta Kaner will be the mentor texts used during the next few weeks. We are also finishing up our read aloud novel, "Silverwing" by Kenneth Opel and are enjoying the accompanying animated episodes of this series.



**Math 5C & 5D:** Our Place Value (whole and numbers) test is Wednesday, March 3rd. Place Value activity booklets were sent home with your child before the reading week break to help them review. We will have a week of review in class after the February break as well. Following this, we will be learning more about decimals this month as they are introduced into our Place Value unit. Rounding, adding and subtracting decimals will be skills students will be practicing in March.

**Math 5A & 5B:** We are finishing up our unit in Division mid March and then moving onto Patterns in Mathematics where we will be looking at using algebraic expressions and solving unknown variables to determine and represent patterns.

**Science 5A & 5B:** We are continuing our electricity unit and will be doing more hands on experiments. On March 8th we will be joined by a student teacher from the U of L and she will be teaching science under my supervision until April 22nd.

**Science 5C & 5D:** We will be finishing up the Classroom Chemistry unit during the first 2 weeks of March during which time we will continue with some in class experiments. The unit test date will be posted on the Google Classroom closer to that time. Our next unit will be Electricity and Magnetism.

**Social 5A/5B:** We are currently studying the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Lowlands region, understanding how the physical features of this region shape the people living in the smallest, yet most-populated region of Canada.



## GRADE 6 POD NEWS

**Language Arts:** This month we will be working on our story writing unit. We will continue to develop our understanding of story writing further, before students will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice. Students will write, edit, and revise their work to strengthen their narrative writing skills.

**Math 6B and 6C:** March will see us wrapping up our Coordinate Geometry unit and moving on to the Fractions unit. After reviewing proper fractions, this unit will focus on using improper fractions and mixed numbers. Students will also be doing daily work on multiplying whole numbers. I encourage all students to practice their basic multiplication facts at home on a daily basis to improve their speed and mastery of those basic facts.

**Science 6B and 6C:** In March we will be exploring our unit on Air, Aerodynamics and Flight. We will look at the properties of air, as well as the concepts of drag and Bernoulli's Principle. There will be many demonstrations, experiments and hands-on projects in this unit, making it one of the favorite Science units for most Grade 6 students. This unit will continue on in April as well, when we will be focusing on airplanes and the flight of birds and insects.

**Science 6A and 6D:** March brings the study of air and aerodynamics. We will be focusing on the different properties of air and what helps/hinders movement through air. Students will learn the principle behind what makes both birds and airplanes fly. This unit is full of demonstrations and experiments so be sure to be asking your child about what they're doing in science class this month!

**Social:** Students are finishing off their study of modern-day democracy before jumping back in time. We will be taking a look at the culture and systems of Ancient Greece, the birthplace of democracy. Discussions will revolve around different approaches to government and why we have the system that we have today.





## GRADE 7 POD NEWS

**Language Arts: 7A&B** - we are finishing our rant projects and will be spending some time focusing on grammar and punctuation rules as we do a crossover project with Science. I am very happy to welcome Mrs. Wielenga to our class as a PSII guest teacher. She will be teaching both classes our poetry unit and helping with social and exploratory lessons. She will be here from March 8-April 22.

**Language Arts: 7C&D** - We have finished writing our argumentative paragraphs and students are now starting a mini-unit on Poetry and students will be creating their own blackout poems in class. This will be followed by a Poetry vs Pop Music March Madness unit. Afterwards we will be moving into informational writing with a cross curricular project with Science!

**Math:** We have now accomplished half of the units in grade 7 math! We are going to be completing our fifth unit in March, where we expand upon expressions from unit four and move into more of the solving equations.

**Science:** This month we will continue to work our way through the third unit of study: Planet Earth. This unit will take us most, if not all, of March to work through! We're really excited for an upcoming project where students are going to be creating their own "Planet Earth" style video with voice overlay! Stay tuned about that awesome project that will cross over into LA class!

**Social:** We are now entering the second half of our curriculum and learning about what Confederation is and how it has impacted Canada and its peoples.



## GRADE 8 POD NEWS

**Math (Berry/Friesen):** March will see us work through Chapter 5: Pythagorean Theorem. This is quite a hands-on chapter and one that most students genuinely enjoy. We begin by revisiting the square of a number and identifying perfect squares. Then, students are introduced to the inverse operation: square roots. We also explore the approximate square root of numbers that are not perfect squares. Next, we investigate the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will both develop and apply this to solve problems involving right triangles. Following the completion of Chapter 5 will be Chapter 6: Measuring Prisms & Cylinders.

**Language Arts 8B/8D (Mrs. Netzel):** Upon our return from the February break, we dove into our graphic essay character sketch essays based on the film *The Princess Bride*. These will be finished up the first week of March. Once completed, we will be immersing ourselves into a deep study of literature for the novel *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick. This is a fantastic tale of two unlikely friends who take on the naysayers, the bullies, and the odds; together, they conquer great adventures. Most of the novel will be read in class, but there will be some “deeper investigation” that might require re-reading parts of the novel at home. I am looking forward to experiencing this literature together.

8A/8C: We are continuing our Human Rights unit in March, but we are shifting our focus from the past to the present by encouraging the students to look at our current world and the Human Rights issues that are going on today.

**Science (Berry/Friesen):** We are continuing on in our study of Biology - Part 2, and will be focusing on the body systems (Part 1 = cells; Part 2 = systems). Over this part of the unit, we will learn about the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, nervous and urinary system.

**Social: McDougall (8B;D w/Clifton)** - This month the focus will be on examining intercultural contact between the Spanish and the Aztecs. We will also look at the contact between European and Indigenous peoples in Canada, and draw parallels between the two interactions.

**Smith** - We are concluding our study of the Aztec unit this month and the students will get to practice looking at multiple perspectives and how both people in an argument can feel they are right. The curriculum will study what took place when the Spanish and the Aztecs met for the first time.



## Bears Athletics are BACK!

### Badminton Club Grades 6-8 starts March 8th

We are excited to be able to run a modified badminton program. The program will run after school one day per week to accommodate a sport cohort for each class cohort.

8 students from each class will have the opportunity to play singles. Each session there will be 15 minutes of instruction with 35 minutes of game play. Rackets and birdies will be supplied (students can bring their own racket, if they would like to) and cleaned between each cohort.



Since cohorts are limited to 8 students per class, we request that students make a commitment to attend. If more than 8 students from a class cohort would like to play, there will be a lottery to decide the sport cohort.

Students who want to participate in badminton club, please fill out the google form on the Baker website.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
3:35 - 4:25 7A	3:35 - 4:25 7B	3:35 - 4:25 7C	3:35 - 4:25 7D
4:30 - 5:20 6A	4:30 - 5:20 6B	4:30 - 5:20 6C	4:30 - 5:20 6D
5:25 - 6:15 8A	5:25 - 6:15 8B	5:25 - 6:15 8C	5:25 - 6:15 8D

## ART CLUB IS BACK!!!

We will be starting an online interactive Art Club the first week of March over Google Classroom. **This is open to all students at Baker!** Students will have the opportunity to view a lesson and then meet later over Google Meet to showcase their talents and interact with friends from all over the school!

Lessons will be posted at 8:00am Saturday mornings, (students can choose to view whenever they like), and then we will come together for a Google Meet at 10:00 am.

**Instructions to join will be posted on the school website the last week of February.**

Please email Ms. Macklin with any questions you may have.  
[julie.macklin@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:julie.macklin@pallisersd.ab.ca)



## Did you know March is Nutrition Month in Canada?

### Nutrition and COVID-19: School-aged children

A healthy diet is important to keep your immune system working at its best. There are no single nutrients, vitamins, minerals or natural health products to fight against COVID-19. [Proper hand hygiene](#) and [physical distancing](#) are essential to fight against COVID-19.

- Use the [Eat Well Plate](#) from [Canada's Food Guide](#) to guide food choices: ½ plate vegetables and fruits, ¼ protein foods, ¼ whole grains.
- Have regular snack times and meal times when possible.
- Involve children in all parts of [meal planning](#), preparation and cleaning up. Be mindful of [food safety](#).
- [Cooking](#) and preparing food together is a way for children to learn and develop life skills while spending time [together](#). Children can participate by:
  - cleaning and setting the table
  - washing and chopping vegetables or fruits
  - stirring or mixing ingredients
  - helping plan menus and [grocery list](#)
- Children ages 8 and up may enjoy activities or recipes from the [Cooking Club Manual for Youth](#).
- Plan ahead for groceries and buy enough food to minimize unnecessary trips to the store. Use up the food you have with the tips in [Reduce Food Waste](#).
- Use the [Tips to Spend Less Money on Food](#) resource to help plan menus.
- Explore food outside of mealtimes with an activity from the [Teaching Tools for Kids](#) (Kindergarten to Grade 6).
- Make mealtime [enjoyable](#) with few distractions and [light conversations](#). Try some [conversations starters](#) or have the kids suggest topics.

**For more information about healthy eating please visit:**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/nutrition/Page2914.aspx>

**For more tips and advice for family and home life during COVID-19, visit:**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page15439.aspx>



The following information has been prepared by Registered Dietitians in Alberta Health Services to help Albertans stay healthy during COVID-19. The information below is current as of June 3, 2020.



This is general information and should not replace the advice of your health professional. Alberta Health Services is not liable in any way for actions based on the use of this information. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International License. Contact [NutritionResources@ahs.ca](mailto:NutritionResources@ahs.ca) © Alberta Health Services (Jun 2020)

# Yearbook 2020-2021

## YES, THERE WILL BE A YEARBOOK THIS YEAR!

We might want to forget 2020-2021, but we certainly won't. The yearbook staff has been working hard and has overcome challenging circumstances to create a book that documents this historic year.

**This is one book you will want to have!**

Take a peek at our cover design =====>>>>>



We are continuing to crowdsource from students pictures of projects, awards, and ways that they are making the best of the school year.

**Look for a follow-up email of how you can help us tell the story of this year with THEIR stories!**


***Copies are limited. We don't have the ability to order extras, so guarantee your copy TODAY.***

**From our yearbook staff to your family, we hope you are staying safe and well!**

[ORDER YEARBOOK](#)

SPOILER ALERT

## IT'S LOVED FOREVER




The hand-written notes from classmates.  
Actual PRINTED photos.  
The chance to look back at outdated hairstyles. All this and more is why there's nothing like a yearbook.

[ORDER YEARBOOK](#)


**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Even during these unusual times, the yearbook team is working hard to create a yearbook that is one-of-a-kind and reflects the unique moments that students are experiencing this year.

[ORDER YEARBOOK](#)



**FOR STUDENTS.  
BY STUDENTS.**



# March 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9 Parent Council Mtg 6:30pm	10	11	12
15	16	17 Parent Teacher Interviews <b>St Patrick's Day</b> 	18 Parent Teacher Interviews	19 Division Wide PD Day- <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
22 <b>Funky Sock Day!</b> 	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

# April 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 Good Friday <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	6 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	7 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	8 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	9 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
12	13	14 <b>Spring Pictures</b>	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30 PD Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>