

WINTER EDITION

THE MOUNTAINEER

At Buck Mountain Central School, we passionately engage our diverse students every day by genuinely connecting and supporting them on their learning journey towards high school completion and life beyond our doors.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Buck Mountain Families,

October has quickly come to a close, and teachers have been busy assessing students' current knowledge to personalize instruction in order to go deep into the curriculum and accurately report levels of mastery. But the first part of any school year must have a focus on fostering effective relationships with students. While connecting is important for all students, it is essential to those students who have or are experiencing trauma in their life. Unfortunately, the percentage of students in schools who have adverse childhood experiences is increasing dramatically. Author Katrina Schwartz writes about the importance of strong relationships with students and how they can mitigate some of the negatives caused by trauma in an article from earlier this year titled *Why Schools Should Be Organized to Prioritize Relationships*.

Every student in every school needs to have a go-to person. While that is most often the teacher, it can be anybody in the school. Adult relationships with students really do matter and what may seem to be almost trivial can mean so much to a student. Creating these connections is a focus of our staff Sense of Belonging collaborative team. As a staff we strive to do this on a daily basis.

We all have the responsibility to make a student feel valued and cared for and most times it just requires a little bit of time and attention. In my role as Principal, I have a different opportunity to engage with students than I did when I was a teacher. Regardless of position, though, we must recognize the importance of the adult relationship with students.

While we can never minimize the importance of academic goals in schools, they can never supersede the critical nature of relationships. For kids, whether experiencing adverse life experiences or not, the connection with an adult in the school is crucial. As a staff, we know that a strong adult relationship can prime learning. As such, the staff at BMC ensure that relationship building is always a priority!

- Jon Meyers

LEARNING SUPPORT UPDATE

Ms. Nicole Townsend

With the onset of fall, comes report cards! We have been working tirelessly to ensure that all reporting data is input into the new system correctly. There has been many hours put into getting ready for going live with the data (giving parent/student access), as well as working with WRPS support in navigating the program -- both from the classroom and the office!

While this has been our focus the past week or so, there are other really great things happening at BMC that you should know about, specifically the work of BMC's professional learning teams: Numeracy, Literacy, and Sense of Belonging. Here is a peak of what these teams have been up to -- both on Job Embedded Professional Development days and in meetings happening every 2 weeks.

Numeracy Team:

This collaborative team includes all of our math teachers and is focused on ensuring BMC students meet provincial standards not only in math as a whole subject, but specifically with regard to students' number sense. You might think of number sense as a combination of basic math operations, problem solving and logical reasoning skills, and mental math. We are using the results of a benchmark assessment to focus instruction on essential skills with a distinct focus on our junior high classes.

We are also using Math IXL (online platform, which students have usernames and passwords for) to further determine what each student needs more support in. From there targeted groups will be created. We are asking students to spend time at least one day per week, when they are not being pulled in to work with a teacher in small groups during FLEX, to spend some time on the Math IXL Diagnostics Arena. This is a much more efficient way to determine what areas need our teams instructional focus. Right now we are working with students on the concepts of multiples and factors which will impact all areas of math, at all grade levels.

Literacy Team:

This collaborative team is a strong coalition of our English Language Arts teachers. As with the numeracy team, these teachers needed data to inform how best to support our students with the fundamental skill of reading. To get this data we have used what is called Star Reading, an online platform. Students will do an assessment on this platform 3-4 times a year to see if progress is being made.

One key factor our literacy team has zoned in on is that many of our students do not currently share our joy for reading. It is likely that this is more a product of what books kids are reading (ones that do not keep their interest) and that in school we are simply not reading for enjoyment. One of these factors is in our control -- what books are we providing access to through both our library and classroom resources. As such the literacy team spent some time generating a list of great reads that we will be purchasing as a school. The goal is to have students develop mini book clubs and to take as much enjoyment in the process as they would streaming a show on Netflix or scrolling through their social media feeds!

So, what can you do to support us in cultivating a love of reading? You can talk to your child about the books they are reading at school or maybe schedule some at-home reading time.

The resources mentioned are on order, so we are just waiting on shipping. We are also looking for ways to expand our resources selection and have reached out to WRPS division supports for information regarding funding grants and other financial support to make this vision a reality.

LEARNING SUPPORT UPDATE CONTINUED

Sense of Belonging Team:

We are so fortunate to have such caring, supportive individuals contributing to this learning team. In order to reach our vision: a school community where all learners feel safe, supported, and celebrated, we recognize the relationships will form the foundation for all learning. This collaborative team is tasked with seeking student and community feedback about how we are doing in this regard, as well as putting together actionable items to address areas for growth at BMC.

To date, students have completed a specific survey focused on students' perceptions of how connected they are to staff, as well as their level of comfort with being their true, authentic self within the walls of our school. We have found that we are doing a pretty good job meeting students' needs (or so they tell us) in this regard, but moving forward we have some strategies in place to ensure that we are effectively communicating to all students how invested we are in not only their learning journey, but also in supporting and connecting with them as individuals.

SANTA'S ANONYMOUS AND FOOD BANK DRIVE

Ms. Brenda Linde

It's that time of year again and boy did it go by fast. The drive is on for Santa's Anonymous and Food Bank. All food items must be non-perishable (canned, dried, jarred, powdered, boxed, or bagged).

Families in need - if you know of a family in the Alder Flats, Buck Lake or Winfield areas that require assistance over the holiday season please contact Ms. Addario or Ms. Linde. Alternatively you can contact Lois Gilbertson at 780-682-2388 or 780-621-2448, or the Winfield Health Unit 780-682-4755.

The competition is on! Each tag group has been assigned a playing cards (similar to a bingo card). Each card has 25 squares containing a product item. You will not see the card but the spaces will be filled weekly, so each group can see their progress. For the group that has the best (or most completed) cards, will have a choice of ice cream cake or pizza & pop. The goal is to try & complete all 13 cards – if a group does this then they will get both ice cream cake & pizza & pop.

Adopt-A-Family – if you or a group would like to adopt-a-family to provide a food hamper to a family please see Ms Lesley Addario or Ms Brenda Linde to be assigned an anonymous family. You will be provided the gender & age of each family member. You will be given a check list of what should be in each hamper, but this does not mean you need to provide all the items but as many as you can. Gifts are not a requirement, or if you do provide them they do not have to be wrapped.

We ask each & everyone to help our less fortunate community families to have a joyous & wonderful holiday season.

New members required – this maybe the last year for this drive as the coordinator Lois Gilbertson maybe leaving the area in the near future. If you are interested in taking on this very confidential program please contact Lois at 780-682-2388 or 780-621-2448.



GREETINGS FROM THE CAREER CORNER

Mrs. Judy Miller

I have met with all Grade 12 students to review credit counts and qualifications for graduation. Any students who require any additional information can make an appointment to see me. I have just started meeting with the Grade 11 students, and we will begin the career exploration process. I would encourage any student that is struggling with the process to do some career exploration on the Alis website <https://alis.alberta.ca/> or mybluepint <https://app.myblueprint.ca> . Both these websites have aptitude surveys that help students generate career matches. I am very glad to hear that many high school students have attended or are planning on attending a post-secondary open house.

Please check the school website for upcoming open house dates, as I would encourage all high school students to attend at least one.

One final note, summer work experience hours must be submitted to the office by November 15, 2019. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mrs. Judy Miller

The breakfast program at Buck Mountain is up and running again this year. Breakfast programs ensure that all students have reliable access to nutritious food in a safe and supportive environment, in order to positively impact health and learning. We know that early mornings, busy schedules and long bus rides can impact our student's breakfast routine. We feel that serving breakfast is essential to student learning. In September, we served a total of 734 breakfasts to students. In October, we are on track to serve 1000 breakfasts. This program receives some funding from Breakfast clubs of Canada and therefore must follow their nutritional guidelines in order to qualify. We also receive some local company support and personal donations. If you are interested in knowing more or ways to support our breakfast program, please contact me at the school.

THANK YOU

Buck Mountain Central School would like to express the utmost appreciation for Secure Energy and their generosity at our school events year after year. Our Everyone Needs a Little BMC Event would not have been the success that it was without your delicious burgers and amazing volunteers. Thank you from all of us.



CHEER TEAM

Ms. Lyric LaBrie

The Junior High Mustangs Cheer team is excited to be going into their third competitive season. Alongside the juniors, there will be 8 eager senior high athletes who will be competing in a specialty division for the first time. Both teams will be travelling to cities such as: Edmonton, Stony Plain, Red Deer, and Saint Albert to compete in four different competitions against teams from across Alberta.

BASKETBALL

Ms. Nicole Townsend

As volleyball is wrapping up, just a note that basketball is right around the corner; often senior teams start in early November and junior teams begin closer to December.

Currently we have the following volunteers for coaching:

- SR Boys - looking for a community coach
- SR Girls - Miss Townsend
- JR Boys - Shane Cross (Community Coach)
- JR Girls - Melodie Winterhault (Community Coach) & Mr Meyers

Stay tuned to school announcements, posters, and social media posts for information about practices. League games will not start until closer to December.

PEER MENTORING

Ms. Nicole Townsend

We have began the peer mentoring program again at BMC. Through this program we connect junior high students with high school role models who will have a positive impact on mentee's well being and in some instances, their academics.

This program is open to all highschool students who are in good academic standing and are positive, contributing members of our school community. It will take place once per week during FLEX and is completely voluntary, however once peer mentors are paired with junior high students, their commitment is an expectation. High school students have the opportunity to earn credits toward high school graduation in this program, so parent permission is required to participate. Students have this information already and will need to get their paperwork to the office by November 8th.

Right now, high school students are being trained on what good mentorship looks like and what boundaries are necessary to ensure everyone's safety and privacy. Once mentors are trained, they will be paired with junior high students who have been suggested by staff. We chose these mentees based on the strengths and shared interests of their mentor and try to be as inclusive as possible. If your child receives an invitation (an invite will be given directly to students) and you have questions or concerns, please contact me! Invitations will go out to junior high students by November 15th. We are very proud of the impact peer mentoring has had in past years, with mentors and mentees alike. It is always time I look forward to each week!



SR, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Ms. Amanda Neumann

This has been a great season of volleyball for the BMC Sr. Girls team! Since our first practice and game the team has come so far in terms of skills and mentality. With our first practice and game being a week apart, the girls team has steadily grown into a strong, competitive team. I have seen more growth in skills and team spirit on this team than I have seen in any past team that I have coached. There are so many powerhouses on the team, all players have excellent hitting capacity, and teamwork. Our team has become the underdog of the league, and challenge each and every team in every game and every set. I am so proud of the team that has been put together this year, and I can't wait to see how they perform at their tournament in Vegreville on November the 9th. Thanks for a wonderful season!

BAND CONCERT

Mrs. Morgan Spruyt

December 12th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

All community and family members are welcome to attend.

Students are asked to arrive no later than 630 p.m. in concert attire:
Black Bottoms for Jr. High Students - Shirts provided.
Concert Uniform for High School Students.

Admission is free and we will be collecting food bank donations. As a band fundraiser we will be doing a bake sale. We are asking families to send in festive baked goods, that will be sold before the concert, during intermission and after the concert. The Concert is a mandatory event for band students to attend. If there are extenuating circumstances please contact Mrs. Spruyt at the school.

TWIN DAY WINNERS



THE 2019 SR. GIRLS TEAM

Chloe Begg
Nicole Groeneveld
Hailey Gomolchuk
Briana Patterson
Demi Anquist
Peyton Zingle
Brooklyn Brown
Lily Alexander
Olivia Lazarowich
Jayden Williams

JR. GIRLS & BOYS WRAP UP

November 5th
After School



CASINO FUNDRAISER FOR BAND

Parents of band students are needed to volunteer for the Casino Fundraiser taking place in January. More information will be sent home with your child.



BUCK MOUNTAIN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

With the holiday season fast approaching, Buck Mountain Central School is starting to plan for our annual Christmas dinner. This dinner is only made possible with the generous donations from companies, community groups and members. The students and staff of our school look forward to this dinner every year. This dinner gives each student in our school the opportunity to have a Christmas dinner, as we have some students that don't get the opportunity to partake in a traditional holiday meal.

The menu for the Christmas dinner will consist of turkey, dressing, buns, gravy, potatoes, ham, vegetables, desserts and all the fixings.

If you are interested in donating in the form of financial or goods in kind, please contact Randi Tyler at Buck Mountain Central School at 780-388-3900 or by email at bm@wrps11.ca.

Sincerely, Randi Tyler
Administrative Assistant & Librarian
Buck Mountain Central School

POWERSCHOOL TIPS

- Download the app for your phone. Parents and students have been reporting how great it is.
- Are you seeing 0% in some of your child's options? We know this is happening and are troubleshooting as to why - currently it is that there is not enough data to generate a grade for that course. When in doubt contact the teacher or the office for assistance.
- Edit your preferences in the app so that you do not see "GPA" or "Fees balance" - we will not be using these features.

If you have any questions or would like to offer us feedback on how to support parents and students, please contact the office. We are counting on our school community to alert us to anything that needs our attention!

FUNDSCRIP

The BMC Parent Fundraising Committee is using Fundscrip to fund raise for our school. FundScrip is an established, Canada-wide fundraising program in which your supporters pay for their shopping (groceries, gas, home & garden, entertainment, restaurants, and much more) with gift cards. Each purchase automatically includes a donation to your cause.

To support us please visit <http://www.fundscrip.com/> and enter the invitation code ZYSMHQ.

PARENT POWERSCHOOL LOGIN

Mrs. Randi Tyler

We have a new student database program called PowerSchool. Parents, your old user IDs and passwords for the Maplewood system will no longer work. On Friday, October 18th, 2019 your child was sent home a letter with new login information. If you did not receive this, please call our office at 780-388-3900 and we will provide you with your activation code.

Also, you can download the PowerSchool app from the Apple or Google Play stores. You will be asked for a school code before you can log in. The code is: QMZX



FSLW UPDATE

Ms. Lesley Addario

Wednesday November 13th - Anti- Bullying

The Pembina Crisis Connection Society will be here to do a presentation on Anti-Bullying. We are going to define the vocabulary and look to identify different forms and examples of dating abuse. We will look to understand the roles of the abuser, victim/survivor and bystander and describe basic steps that a bystander can take to help someone experiencing bullying. This will be for junior high students.

Monday November 18th - Joe Social Media

We will be talking about personal branding elements of social media allowing kids to start writing a positive digital history. We'll talk about awareness of the potential impact of your posts, the legalities of unsolicited messages, requests and protecting mental health. They will also learn about how their behavior today will follow them into the future. **For the Parents, we will be talking about how to start a social media conversation with your kids. What "Safe" looks like in a social world, and how to guide your children and yourself, in a positive manner.**

Wednesday November 27th - Love is Not Abuse

The Pembina Crisis Connection Society will be here to do a presentation on Love is Not Abuse. They will be teaching us how to identify different forms of dating abuse and identify characteristics of healthy relationships.

GRIZZLY ULTRA

Mrs. Erin Klatt

This year BMC was very represented at the Grizzly Ultra in Canmore on Thanksgiving weekend. Between current and alumni students we had 5 teams!!! Mrs Hutchinson's team saw Riley McLay, Maddie Hutchinson and Zach Seigel rock it! Jay Hopfe along with his sister Jordan cruises to the finish and the team of Lily Alexander, Mackenzie Dooper, Briana Patterson, Max Schwengler and Bryce Seigel knocked it out of the park. Thank you to all our students and families for making the 2019 Grizzly one to remember!





MARK YOUR CALENDERS

November:

- 8 - Report Cards Distributed
- 8 - Jersey Day
- 11 - Remembrance Day (No School)
- 12 - Day in Lieu of PTI (No School)
- 13 - Anti-Bullying Presentation
- 18 - School Photo Retake Day
- 18 - Joe Social Media Presentation (Students & Parents)
- 20 - Parent-Teacher Interviews (4:00-7:00)
- 22 - Job-Embedded Staff Development Day (No School)
- 29 - Band Parents Meeting (4:30)

December:

- 6 - Job-Embedded Staff Development Day (No School)
- 12 - Christmas Concert
- 18 - School Christmas Dinner
- 20 - Last Day of School Before Christmas Break
- 20 - Christmas Activity Day

January:

- 6 - *First Day Back Following Christmas Break*
- 13 - *English 30-1/30-2 Diploma (Part A)*
- 16 - *Parent Advisory Meeting (4:00)*
- 22 - *Math 30-1/30-2 Diploma*
- 23 - *English 30-1/30-2 Diploma (Part B)*
- 23 - *Last Day of Senior High Classes*
- 24 - 30 - *Exam Week*
- 28 - *Chemistry 30 Diploma*
- 30 - *Ski Trip - Rabbit Hill*
- 31 - *Job-Embedded Staff Development Day (No School)*