

SEMESTER TWO 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

Welcome to Semester 2!

Senior High students have made it through their first set of final exams and are on to the second half of the year.

As we move forward, we sadly say goodbye to Mrs. Erin Klatt. Mrs. Klatt has chosen to follow her love of the great outdoors in pursuing back-country guiding and capturing the beauty of nature through photography. She has impacted many lives during her time as part of the Buck Mountain community and will be missed by students, staff, and the community at large. Best of luck in your new pursuits, Mrs. Klatt! We also bid farewell to Mr. Dennis Asp. Though he was only with us a short time, we appreciate the imprint he has left on BMC. We welcome Mr. Ben Meuser to our school. Mr. Meuser will be taking on Industrial Arts and Construction, along with junior high Science, Language Arts and Phys. Ed.

Winter weather is officially upon us now. Students need to remember to dress appropriately for the conditions. For our students who drive, please remember to take extra care as the road conditions can be very poor at this time of year.

Mr. Jon Meyers

## CAREER COUNSELLOR

*Mrs. Judy Miller*

Applications for post secondary institutions are open until the end of March with some programs continuing to accept applications until they are full. Any students with questions regarding post secondary can make an appointment to see me at any time. Students who are looking for information about careers, scholarships, trade opportunities or aptitude tests can also look for information on myblueprint or on the government website alis. I have included the link: <https://alis.alberta.ca/>

I am planning on conducting meetings with each Grade 10 student in the second semester to begin some preliminary academic planning.

## LEARNING SUPPORT UPDATE - A NOTE ABOUT ATTENDANCE.

*Ms. Nicole Townsend*

Can you believe that we are halfway through the 2019/2020 school year? So far, this year has been a busy one for BMC, so now seems like the perfect time to remind students and families about the importance of regular school attendance.

For the most part, we are doing a great job in getting students to school regularly. Research shows that regular school attendance contributes to positive academic outcomes. When students miss more than 10%, their achievement and most importantly, their learning suffers. To put this into perspective, a student who misses 1 day out of a five day week is absent 20% of the time.

When a student is absent more than 10%, BMC staff work hard to put extra supports in place for students. This includes scheduled time one on one with classroom teachers, educational assistants, and in some instances with our success coach, Judy Miller or myself, the learning support teacher. So, what do we ask of parents and students?

Parents: do your best to keep us informed. If you know your child will be absent, give us a call. From there, we can determine if we need to set up a plan to support their learning outside the regular structures of the school day.

Students: be prepared to get caught up. Many students can do this self-directed, which is great, however have a conversation with your teachers about what learning and assignments should take priority! Plan ahead whenever possible!

That brings us to the attendance concern of coming late or leaving class early. Often students do not realize how much time they are missing from class on any given day. That time adds up and will have an impact. Additionally, when students come to class late, it is often disruptive to the rest of the class, causing an even more negative impact on learning.

Parents, head over to your PowerSchool parent portal and take a look at your student's 'tardies', that will give you a good indication of whether or not you need to be checking in with your child and their teacher(s) about getting to class on time. If you're not set up on PowerSchool, call the school and we can help you out or give you the information on your child's lates. Moving into semester two, students who are chronically late can expect to be assigned at FLEX or lunch time to make up for missed learning.

At BMC we believe that all students are capable of learning at high levels. Regular school attendance and punctuality contribute to student success and will help students develop skills that will be essential to their lives beyond the walls of BMC. Currently, on average, BMC students have an 84% attendance rate. Our goal is to see an increase by 5% in the second semester. If you have any questions about setting up support for your child due to known or planned absences, please contact me at the school, via phone or email. Unrelated to attendance, if you or your student have any questions related to additional or unique support, please contact me to set up a meeting.

# SENIOR BASKETBALL

*Ms. Nicole Townsend & Mrs. Erin Klatt*

Our senior basketball season is in full swing, set to wrap up at the beginning of March. Although we have limited participation on both girls' and boys' teams, we have some of the most dedicated players representing BMC on the court. These students are playing through injuries, showing up for early morning practices, staying late for evening practices, and spending each lunch hour in the gym shooting hoops!

The season started off with a tough opponent, Breton, who bested both teams. We learned a lot from that game and the girls went on to beat Warburg the following week. The boys continued to gel together, with some extra focus on a set offense, they defeated Calmar just before the Christmas break! Following the two week break and lots of turkey, the teams faced Calmar again - with the same outcome: a win for the boys and loss for the girls!

The girls' team has had some tough losses (by less than a ten point margin), even when they were playing games with only one or two spares on the bench. This season we have some really talented players who are working hard on coming together as a team, as well as working on discipline so that we stay out of foul trouble in those tight games.

The boys' team also struggled to get a large roster. This has been extra challenging with one of our leading scores out for the rest of the season due to a persistent knee injury. The team will have to work hard to replace his leadership on the court, but it is a challenge they are definitely up for! We may be a small team, but our opponents are no match for our persistence and grit on the court.

If you haven't had the opportunity to take in a game, be sure to mark our next home game on your calendar: February 12th we host HTA, with the girls starting at 5 PM and the boys to follow at around 6:15. The sportsmanship, talent, and passion for the game are a treat for any spectator, no matter what you know about the game of basketball.

Our teams would like to send a special "thank you" out to our volunteers for the season:

Bobbi Zingle - for stepping up to be the head coach the senior boys. This season, we didn't need a volunteer who was an expert at the game, we needed someone as committed to our students as Bobbi is!

Shane Cross - Speaking of experts on the game... Shane gets a shout out for donating so much of his time and expertise to supporting Bobbi in coaching the senior boys, in addition to the work he is already doing with both of our junior basketball teams.

Shauna Begg - Thank you for working with the senior girl's team, bright and early at our morning practices.

Student Scorekeepers - we have an outstanding crew of grade ten students who score keep all of our home games, which makes hosting that much easier. From the coaches and players, "thank you!"



## CARDBOARD BOAT RACES

Mrs. Erin Klatt

Good luck to the two teams representing BMC at the Northern Alberta Cardboard Boat Races on Feb. 3rd at NAIT! We have a junior high team composed of Zack Siegel, Laken Flemming, Faythe Robinson and Jaylah Woods. Representing the Sr. high we have Jay Hopfe, Hawkin Narkaus, Chloe Begg and Brooklyn Pinder. For those not familiar with the event, students spend the morning building their boats (jr's get 2 - 4'x8' sheets of cardboard, sr's get 4 - 4'x4' sheets - plus a roll of duct tape & a roll of packing tape); after lunch they take their boats to the pool - one team member gets in the boat & races the length of the pool. If the boat survives this, they come back to the shallow end & put 3 of their team members in the boat and try to float for one minute! All in all, it is a fun day that has students problem solving and working together. Thank-you to Mrs. Hopfe for helping get the sr. team there!

## CHEER TEAM

Ms. Lyric LaBrie



Rise Up Cheer Challenge  
Saturday, February 8, 2020  
Heritage Pavillion, Stony Plain



Red Deer Cheer & Dance Challenge  
Saturday, February 22, 2020  
Lindsay Thurber High School



ACA True North Cheer & Dance Championships  
Sat Feb 29, 2020  
Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton



Cheerific Western Cheer Challenge  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
St. Albert Catholic High School (SENIOR HIGH ONLY)



Congratulations to the junior cheer team for hitting a zero deduction routine and bringing home a second place banner. Way to go!

## 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.

## BUCK MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI CLUB

*Mr. Tim Stewart*

The Buck Mountain Nordic Ski Club will start up Wednesday January 29th from 3:30pm - 5:00pm, running Wednesdays with other nights to be announced (random Tuesdays and Thursdays), weather permitting through the winter. Students, parents and community members are welcome to join at no cost.

A huge thank you to AltaGas & Cross Country Canada for our ski grant and our other financial supporters that are making this possible: WRPS School Board, Buck Lake Ag. Society, Weyerhaeuser, Alder Flats Ag. Society BMC Parent Fundraising Group, & Alder Flats Fitness Club. Also a big thanks to all that took the time to write support letters.

## FAREWELL FROM KLATT

*Mrs. Erin Klatt*

As most people know I have resigned my position from Buck Mountain. BMC has been my home for the past 13 years and has helped shape the person I am today. I wanted to say Thank-you to all the staff, parents/guardians, community and students that have supported me over the years and wish everyone all the best. I will truly miss each and everyone of you! Hopefully I will run into you on the trails.

## BREAKFAST PROGRAM

*Mrs. Judy Miller*

Students continue to enjoy the breakfast program at BMC, with approximately 1700 breakfasts being served in November and December. Hot breakfasts are generally served on Tuesday and Thursdays which is definitely the most popular. We believe that one of the greatest barriers to learning is hunger, this program addresses this concern. The breakfast program is partially funded by Breakfast Clubs of Canada but the remainder of the program is funded by donations. If you would like to donate please feel free to contact the school.





## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

### *February*

- 3 - First day of Semester 2
- 3 - S1 Report Cards Distributed
- 3 - Cardboard Boat Races
- 3 - Flex Assembly
- 5 - Talent Show Fail Dinner Theatre
- 6 - No School: Teachers Convention
- 7 - No School: Teachers Convention
- 17 - Family Day: No School
- 28 - Job-Embedded Staff Development Day
- 28 - Graduation Photo Day

### **March**

- 12 - Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 19 - Last Day of School for Students Before Spring Break
- 20 - Job-Embedded Staff Development Day
- 23-27 - Spring Break
- 30- Day in Lieu of PTI: No School
- 31 - First Day Back Following Spring Break

## Great Futures Savings Program

**Parent  
Info  
Night**

**Monday,  
February 10**

Supper at 5:15pm and  
Presentation at 6:00pm

- No Cost to attend
- Childcare provided



To RSVP or for more info contact Justin at 780-352-4643 ext 38 or email [justin@wetaskiwinyouth.ca](mailto:justin@wetaskiwinyouth.ca)

Can't attend the session...start the application by visiting: [www.MySmartFuture.org/bgcc](http://www.MySmartFuture.org/bgcc)