

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

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and in good spirits. Thank you to all of our students that have stepped up to the challenge of remote learning. To be thrust into a new way of learning in the middle of a semester is a big task. The feedback we have received is that our students are engaging in their studies and doing a terrific job of communicating with their teachers. Please keep up the good work and stay the course. I would also like to thank our parents and guardians for your support, understanding, and patience as we have developed and implemented a new way to provide our students the education they deserve.

As our Superintendent, Dr. Pearson, communicated, BMC teachers will cease providing support for students learning at home on Friday, June 19, 2020. This will allow teachers time to collect and mark any outstanding assignments and related school work during the week of June 22 – 26. During that week teachers will also finalize student marks and assign a final grade for the student's report card.

BMC is currently making preparations for the 2020 - 2021 school year and developing our Re-Entry Plan. Alberta schools have been directed by the Minister of Education to consider and plan for the following scenarios:

1. Normal operations
2. Schools are open for classes with some health restrictions that affect operations
3. Schools remain closed for classes – remote learning continues

As a school, we must plan and prepare for all three scenarios, as the COVID-19 pandemic may change at any time and we may be required to transition from one scenario to another with short notice. Students and parents will be provided with these plans once they are finalized. The planning process is complex and will continue to evolve as we receive more information from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We sincerely appreciate your patience as we navigate these unknown waters.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT.

Our staffing will look a bit different going into next year. We will be saying farewell to Mrs. Wassing and Mrs. Patterson, as they will be moving on from BMC. We have appreciated the energy and contributions they have brought to our school community and wish them well. In addition, Ms. Linde has retired. All the best to her as she transitions into this phase. We thank Ms. Linde for her years of service to the BMC community. Mrs. Plotts will be taking over this position. We are excited for her to take on this new challenge. We would also like to Welcome Mr. Wayne Caron, who will be working with the BMC community as our Indigenous Support Worker. Welcome, Mr. Caron! Finally, we say farewell to Mrs. Walker, as she has resigned her position in order to focus on raising her family. We wish her well in this important work!

Finally, we say farewell to our 2020 Grad Class. We were able to celebrate with a Graduation Parade through Buck Lake on May 29. We were happy to be able to celebrate with you, but know that it wasn't the same as it was supposed to be. We hope to be able to celebrate the BMC Graduating Class of 2020 with a ceremony when it is safe to do so in adherence with public health orders. We are uncertain of a timeline at this time.

Have a healthy and safe summer everyone!

Jon Meyers

REGISTRATION VERIFICATION FORMS

Mrs. Randi Tyler

Registration Verification Forms for the 2020/2021 school year have been mailed and emailed to parents and guardians. Please take a moment to review and return these forms to the school. We do require this information moving forward for next year so please complete these at your earliest convenience.

If you require additional copies of your students Registration Verification Forms please contact the school at 780-388-3900.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to bm@wrps11.ca, mailed to P.O. Box 30 Buck Lake, AB T0C 0T0 or drop off can be arranged if necessary.

TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLE USE & LOCKER USE AGREEMENT FORMS

Mrs. Randi Tyler

You will find a copy of the Technology Responsible Use Agreement and the Locker Use Agreement for each of your student(s) within the mail out you received today! Please take a moment to review and return these agreements to the school. We do require these agreements for next year so please complete these at your convenience.

If you require additional copies please contact the school at 780-388-3900.

Agreements can be scanned and emailed to bm@wrps11.ca, mailed to P.O. Box 30 Buck Lake, AB T0C 0T0 or drop off can be arranged if necessary.

LEARNING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC: STAFF REFLECTION

Miss. Nicole Townsend

On Sunday, March 15th, 2020 the province of Alberta announced that schools would be closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. School staff, families, and students all had the same information: schools would be closed the next day and the rest was up for all of us to navigate as best we could.

At BMC we have learned a great deal in this process, although at times it feels a bit like trying to build a plane while it is in the air! We found out that we were more prepared than we thought to take on this challenge. This is largely due to the support of our community. The patience and perseverance of our students has been fundamental on this journey.

This is not to say that there haven't been mis-steps or challenges each day as we try to take the next step forward, given what information we have at that moment. As a school community, some of the greatest lessons we will grow from are the things that didn't go well or right the first time around. Over the past 10 weeks Google classrooms have transformed, video meetings have had many pet guest-stars, and we have become much more aware of how much (or in some instances, how little) comfort and confidence this generation of students has with computers. The latter is also true about students talking on the phone!

The most fundamental thing that we keep coming back to is how do we grow stronger relationships and partners in learning through internet and telephone connections? At BMC we strongly believe that relationships are the cornerstone of all the work done in schools. We are grateful that we had strong relationships with students and families prior to transitioning into remote learning. That being said, the work of relationship building is never done.

It is important that we continue to acknowledge that each student and family have experienced this pandemic differently. Our role as a school is to ensure each student and family has an opportunity to be engaged in ongoing learning during school closures. There are so many variables that are out of our control, and out of the control of students and families. We firmly believe that all students and families are doing what they can to participate in ongoing learning.

Some of the greatest experiences school staff have had during the closures have been the unique connections they have made with individual students and families. We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to connect on an ongoing basis and are hopeful that this will lead to even stronger relationships in the fall.

COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 2020-2021

Miss. Nicole Townsend

At this time we do not know what school will look like in September, however we do know we need to collect information about what courses (including options) students would prefer to be enrolled in. We are collecting this information via Google Forms sent directly to student WRPS email addresses. Senior high students (including grade 9s) have already been contacted, with junior high students to follow. Students: please check your email for this form.

Please contact Miss Townsend with any questions.

WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING AT BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Online learning has been going O.K. My favourite part is that I don't have to get up at 6 a.m. every morning. The most challenging part for me, is that sometimes I can't find my work. A typical school day for me is I sit down on my couch and go from classroom to classroom. My favourite class for online learning is LA.



Odin Mabbutt

Online learning has been going good. I like that I get to stay at home and have more family time. The one thing I have found challenging is that sometimes it is difficult to find what I need, or it can be hard to hand in assignments. Usually I work at the kitchen counter on my school work and then when I am done for the day, I go do my chores. I would like to shout out to all the teachers that are working really hard, and also to my friends that are keeping me occupied by emailing me.



Anna Akins-Nelson

I miss school. I like going to school a lot more than learning online. I find it easy to do the work because I can talk to my teachers whenever I need, and I can work whenever it is easier for me. The thing I don't like about school being online, is that I have to type everything out. I would rather do everything by paper and pencil. I usually do my school work on my bed. I would like to say "Hi" to all of my teachers.



Dakota Clark

Switching to online learning has been quite challenging. I completely had to change my year plans and all of my resources had to be modified and changed for online learning. I also miss connecting with students face to face. Seeing them by a camera is not the same. The one thing that I have enjoyed is that I have gotten to know students better in a non-academic sense. I have gotten to meet pets and farm animals, I have been privileged to meet siblings and family members, and I have gotten to see how talented my students are outside of the classroom. It is something that I am grateful for, even though I miss them terribly. A typical school day for me is quite busy. (Not in any particular order) I check my emails, mark assignments, update Powerschool, call home, Google Meets, give feedback, make videos, plan next week, etc. My days are jammed packed and have been flying by! Only a few more weeks of school left. I want to let all the BMC students know that we miss them, school isn't the same without them here. I hope that they have a great summer, can relax, and I look forward to seeing them again in the fall!

Online learning has been going pretty good for me. My favourite part is that I get home cooked lunches everyday. The most challenging part has been finding the motivation to do school work everyday. A typical school day for me looks like waking up, eating breakfast, turning on my laptop, opening my emails and doing my work.

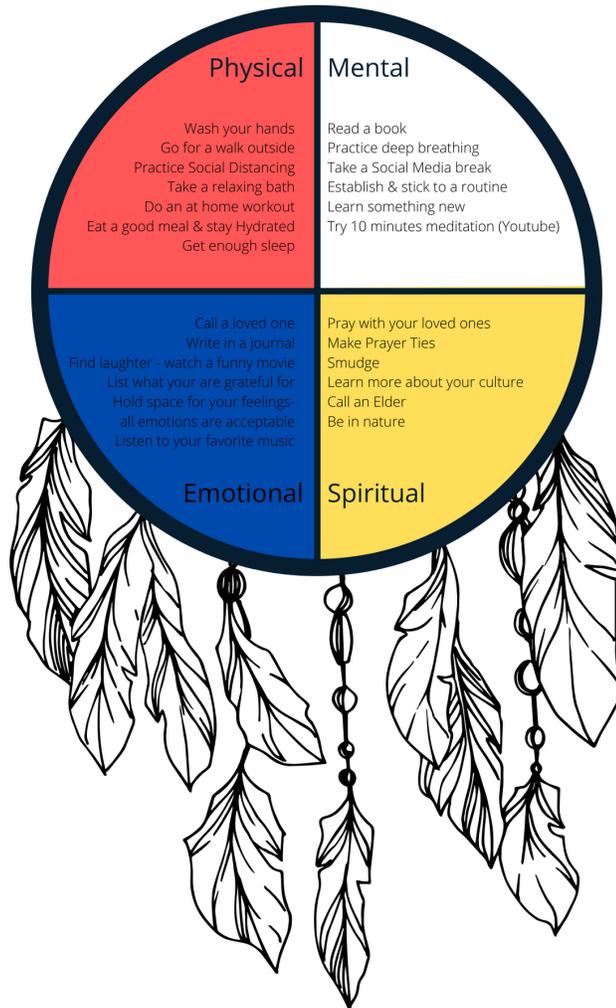


Erich Pietsch

Mrs. Spruyt



SELF CARE DURING COVID 19: MEDICINE WHEEL



GRADE 7 ORIENTATION

Miss. Nicole Townsend

Due to school closures, we were unable to invite the incoming grade 7 class to Buck Mountain Central School for an orientation this spring. We are hoping that we will be able to do an orientation in the fall, prior to resuming regular classes. This will be planned on a regular school day, during school hours. In the meantime, know that we have planned for all grade 7 required options to take place during Semester 1, meaning that they will not need to make any choices prior to joining us. Once they have had some time in those options we will open up Semester 2 choices.

All incoming grade 7 students should plan to attend registration (August 26th & 27th) so that they may become familiar with their lockers, layout of the school, and their daily schedule.

Please contact Miss Townsend with any questions.

GRADUATION MESSAGE

The staff at BMC wish we could give all of you the graduation you deserve at this time. We wish I could give all your parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles the chance to hear your name ring out, and see you walk across that stage and receive your diploma. We wish we could gather and take pictures and celebrate what you've accomplished.

But maybe you've gained something more important than any of that. Maybe as very young people you know something powerful: that you have been tested, and you did not falter. You kept going.

And although you're entering a very different world from the one you expected, it's a world that needs you. And nothing in life is better than being needed.

I know—and your parents know and your teachers know—that you are ready for what lies ahead.

Because you are the great Class of 2020. And you did not give up.

Jon Meyers

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020



Emily Adams
Isaiah Akins-Nelson
Morgan Belanger
Colin Block



Devyn Brault
Issac Browning
Mackenzie Dooper
Josee Frere



Devon Henry
Peter Murray
Tristen Narkaus
Abigail Parker



Emily Pietsch
Jake Ricard
Melissa Schwengler
Daniel Simms



Jordyn Smith
Elisa Wilbers
Jaden Williams
Sam Woytowich



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

June

June 19th: Last Day of classes

June 29th: Report Cards Mailed Out

August

August 26th - 27th: Registration

More Than Mental Health **Covid-19** *More Than Moms*
Mental Health Reminder

Get Dressed Even if it's just into comfort clothes, this will help you feel more productive and less in a rut.	Do Your Hair/Makeup Even if you're not going anywhere this can help make you feel "normal" in a very chaotic time. People also often feel relaxed when doing hair or makeup and you deserve that.
Eat New Healthy Recipes If you can, eat a variety of food and try different recipes. This will give your day variety and keep your body feeling healthy.	Get Some Fresh Air Fresh air will help you not feel so cooped up or "stuck" in your home. Getting outside would be best but even standing at a window will be beneficial.
Be Creative Try doing new activities or bring back old ones. Getting creative is a great way to keep your spirits up and your mind relaxed.	Unplug Everyone everywhere is talking about the virus. Turn off your devices and get some well deserved time away.
Stay Connected Even though we can't go visiting, make sure you stay connected. A good way is video chatting or even just a phone call. This will help you and the people you are talking to feel less isolated.	Reach Out Mental health is always important but it is especially important during times like this. Reach out if you need to and remember to check in with your friends and family. We are all in this together!

