

NEWSLETTER THE MOUNTAINEER

UPDATES FOR THE PARENTS, GUARDIANS & STUDENTS OF BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL



Message from the Principal



Dear Learning Community;

It has been an eventful September, and despite the uncertainty we started the year with, in regards to education in Alberta, we did not let it slow us down. Lots is happening for students at Buck Mountain Central School, with many extracurricular activities being offered. Students are currently competing in volleyball and cross-country running. Last week, at the annual Rod Drebert Cross Country Run, our grade eight boys finished second overall in the team category, coached by Mr. Stewart. Shael Stevens and Wesley Elliott also recorded a couple of first place finishes in their categories, with Felix Morton finishing second in his race, and Clyde Morris coming in fourth at the competition. Drop-in basketball nights are also just around the corner as well, with the first event taking place after school on October 15, 2025, in preparation for a potential basketball season. The Student Council is recruiting members to plan events and advocate for their peers and community. Travel Club is also recruiting students, planning and raising money for a European adventure slated for 2027, and Mr. Caron's Nikaniwin group, focused on student leadership and cultural teachings, is kicking off on October 8, 2025. All students are welcome to get involved in our extracurriculars, and can touch base with teachers or the office for more information on any particular activity or group. An events calendar is regularly updated for students in our school galleria as well.

Our newly updated '[BMC 2025-2026 - School Handbook](#)' is now live and accessible to download on the [Buck Mountain Central School website](#). The purpose of the handbook is to provide current and prospective students and their parents or guardians with information on the routines, procedures, and learning expectations at our school. Students and parents or guardians are encouraged to review its contents. The handbook supplements [Wetaskiwin Regional Public School's Administrative Procedures](#), with regards to our context in Buck Lake.

Message from the Principal Continued

Tonight at 6pm, we will host our first attempt to establish a school council for the 2025-2026 school year. A minimum of five parents or guardians are required to form this council, which primarily serves to advise the school on behalf of the local community. If travel is a barrier, a Google Meet link can be accessed by emailing me.

We look forward to lots more opportunities for students in October, including a trip to the Citadel Theatre for our drama students with Mr. Kramer to witness a professional production, school photograph re-take day on October 16, 2025 and more. Please reach out to the school anytime to speak to me, request a call back from administration or gather information from our helpful office staff, if you ever have questions, ideas or concerns. Each month you will also receive one of these newsletters containing school information, a principal's message, and an update of where our school is in relation to board priorities, as one of the many ways we seek to ensure our learning community remains well-informed. Have an amazing day!

Board Priorities

1. Demonstrate our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and the spirit of the Calls to Action both which represent the beliefs and natural laws since time immemorial.

- At Buck Mountain Central School, teachers are committed to developing and applying foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit for the benefit of all students, as prescribed by Alberta's Teaching Quality Standard (2023). Professional development initiatives are made available to teachers throughout the school year to ensure they understand the historical, social, economic and political implications of:
 - treaties and agreements with First Nations;
 - legislation and agreements negotiated with Métis; and
 - residential schools and their legacy
 - Teachers at Buck Mountain Central School are also tasked with using the programs of study to provide opportunities for all students to develop a knowledge and understanding of, and respect for, the histories, cultures, languages, contributions, perspectives, experiences and contemporary contexts of First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
 - An Indigenous support worker, Mr Caron, is assigned to be at Buck Mountain Central School two days, out of a four day rotation. Their job description involves developing and fostering positive relationships with students and families, and working as a member of the learning team to support student success. At our school, the Indigenous support worker also engages student leaders through the Nikaniwin program, participates in School Support Team Meetings dedicated to the development of inclusion strategies for all students, leads staff and students to participate in cultural events and days of awareness, engages in phone calls, home visits and case conferences with families, collaborates on mitigating obstacles to success for students, and connects staff to authentic resources, including local Knowledge Keepers and Elders to support learning.
 - In September, staff and students wore orange shirts on September 29, 2025 in honour of Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The whole school then participated in a community 'Walk For Reconciliation,' including drumming, sacred songs, smudging and a water ceremony. On September 30, 2025, our school will be closed to honour those who were lost, and the survivors of Canada's residential school system.
 - Throughout the school year, staff and students will also be observing and participating in activities related to National Indigenous Peoples Day, National Indigenous History Month, National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, Moose Hide Campaign, Rock Your Mocs social media event and more.
 - When compared to 2024, our most recent Alberta Education Results Report (AERR) data indicates an over 13% increase in the percentage of parents, students and teachers who agree that their learning environments are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe.
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Class Spotlight

Mr. Schenk and Mrs. Keates shared some roping skills with the Jr. Ag students—but it turns out the students might have shown them a thing or two! We definitely have some amazing rodeo talent here at Buck Mountain.



Rod Drebert Cross Country

Another fantastic showing from our 23 Mustang runners in Wetaskiwin!

Individual highlights:

Clyde Morris – 4th place

Felix Morton – 2nd place

Shael Stevens – 1st place

Wesley Elliott – 1st place



BIG Thank You!

A big thank you to Grade 10 student leaders Lyla Muhlbach and Sophia Bohning for doing an excellent job hosting the 2024-2025 student awards this past Thursday night. Congratulations to all winners!

FSL Update

Welcome Back!!!

As the Family School Liaison, my main focus is to provide social and emotional support, crisis intervention and referral to community resources.

I can provide counseling and support students with:

- emotional regulation, such as, anger, frustration, worry, anxiety, sadness, fear
- stress management
- coping strategies
- experiencing grief/loss
- changes within the family ie. separation/divorce, illness, family stress
- bullying
- conflict resolution/friendship challenges
- mental wellbeing

Suicide Risk Assessments and Violent Threat Risk Assessments are also the FSL responsibility.

I will be working closely with the BMC Student Support Team to assist students by identifying their strengths and building resilience so they may reach their full potential this school year.

I am also available to parents/guardians. If you have any questions/concerns regarding your child/family well-being, parenting strategies or are seeking a referral to community resources, please give me a call at the school or contact me by email.

This year I am available at school on Day 1s and Day 4s.

All Family School Liaison services are confidential.

Kandice Wynia – FSL, RPC, MPCC, CT

Travel Club

The Travel Club is off and running. So far, we have about 15 people who have joined or shown interest in joining. Ms. Harden and Mr. Wolney will be teacher chaperones for a 9-day trip to Spain and Portugal in 2027. We will be traveling with EF Educational Tours, an industry-leading, Canadian-based company that has been leading educational tours for 40 years. We will be traveling with students and teacher chaperones from Pigeon Lake Regional School as well. If you would like more information on the trip itinerary, costs, requirements, etc. please contact Ms. Harden at bailey.harden@wrps11.ca. She can provide a detailed description of the trip and information about how to sign up. It's definitely not too late to sign up! Students in grades 9-11 are eligible to join. We are always looking for fundraising opportunities. The Buck Lake Ag Society has asked us to help out with the annual Fall Supper and we jumped on the opportunity. The Travel Club will be completing the Highway Cleanup in May as well. If you have any other fundraising ideas, please let Mr. Wolney know. Thanks! Happy Fall!

Terry Fox Run



Community BBQ & Awards



Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox Run at Buck Mountain Central School was a huge success! Students and staff enjoyed the beautiful fall day as they made their way to the Buck Lake Hall. There, the Buck Lake Ag Society and Buck Lake Mercantile generously provided lunch before students headed back to the school.

The Terry Fox Run has been a long-standing tradition at Buck Mountain, and we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our amazing community!

Community BBQ & Awards

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who joined us at the community BBQ and Awards Night. We are so grateful to our parents and guardians for their constant support, to our teachers and EAs for their patience and dedication, and to our whole community here in Buck Lake and beyond for always supporting us.

Career Counselling & Graduation

I am excited to be back for another school year at Buck Mountain, and look forward to connecting with all high school students and discussing some post graduation plans and opportunities. October is a busy month for students. Post secondary applications will open on October 1st. This means Grade 12 students can begin to apply on that date. All students will need to create a My Alberta ID account so they can begin the application process. Please make sure you record your user name and password for the My Alberta ID account, because this is also the website used for student loans and applications for Rutherford Scholarship. Any students looking to apply can make an appointment to see me and I will help students walk through this process. I will be meeting with all Grade 12 students to answer any questions about applications and to solidify graduation plans in the upcoming weeks.

I would encourage all high school students to attend open houses in the month of October and November, the list of dates was emailed out to all students and parents in Grade 11 and 12. I have also posted an updated list on the school website of Fall Open House dates. This is a great opportunity to explore the many different careers available and tour a post secondary campus.

I am pleased to announce we have 4 students enrolled in Dual Credit opportunities through Olds College this semester. This shows a great pursuit of learning and takes maturity. I am so proud of these students who have decided to take on this challenge.

—Mrs. Judy Miller

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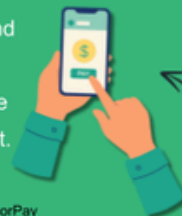
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Wetaskiwin
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WETASKIWIN REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT

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McMan | 50th Anniversary

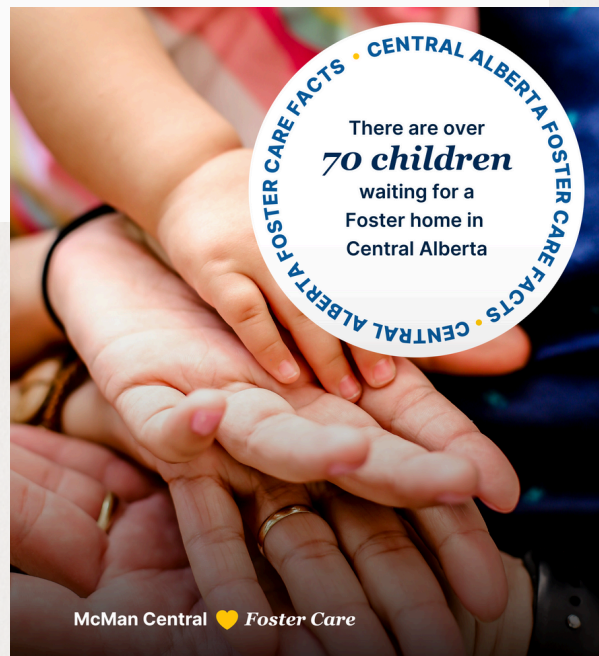
Good day!

As you may know, there is an urgent need for foster care beds for children and youth in the Central Region. As agency providers, like McMan Youth, Family, and Community Services, there just aren't enough homes for children and youth needing the safety and stability that environment can provide them. Through active recruitment, McMan is committed to provide 30 new beds to our Foster Care program to help meet this need. Attached is a poster that I am providing to you with hopes that you will fan it out within your own communities via any platforms that you may utilize for your own purposes. The Central region covers a vast geographical area, so any support with getting the word out is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Jacki Collisson, Foster Care Recruitment

403-227-5580



McMan Central ♥ Foster Care