

# The Paw Print



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

Happy  
New Year

### **Principal's Message**

Well, we made it! 2020 is behind us and we can come at 2021 with new energy and outlook. I have had the pleasure of seeing the students and staff back in the building this week with an energy I have missed. We are excited to bring forward new ideas and activities to our students and finish this school year strong.

One of these activities is Bear Care 2021. These will be two days designed to address mental wellness and self care. This day will benefit both staff and students and take time out to look at wellness as a whole. As always we will ensure this day addresses all the regulations out there and is a safe environment for everyone.

Finally, I would like to invite parents to our parent council meetings. It is a great way to stay informed, contribute to decisions, and brainstorm ways to make a great school even better.

I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for your hand in the best 2020 experience that we could give the students at RIBMS.

*Mr. Preb*

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Jan 1-3 - NO SCHOOL**

**Jan 4 - 8 Online Learning for ALL Grade levels**

**Jan 11 - In School Learning resumes for ALL Grade levels**

**Jan 20 - Twin Day**

**Jan 29 - PD Day NO SCHOOL**

**Feb 11-12 Bear Care**

**Feb 15-19 NO SCHOOL**

## Daily School Reminders

### Attendance - School Messenger

Students are only excused for an absence when a parent/guardian has excused them by either contacting the office or using the School Messenger App or automated phone number (1-844-260-7166) to report your student's attendance.



You can download the SchoolMessenger app for free on any mobile device!

**\*\*Also, Parents who use the PowerSchool App have the option of enabling Attendance notifications so they can be notified instantly when a student is marked absent, late, etc.**

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### School Fees & Extra Curricular Fees -



School Fees are now due, please access your School Cash Online account to see what your students' fees are for the year.

<https://palliserregional.schoolcashonline.com>

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### PS Parent/Student Portal

Did you know that you can access your child's report card and attendance, anytime you want, from your device? To successfully access the Parent Portal you will need to follow these steps:



1. Open an internet browser (Google) on your computer (this first step must be done on a computer, not a phone/handheld device)
2. Type **<https://ps.pallisersd.ab.ca/public>** into the address bar
3. If you haven't already done so, you will need to **Create an Account**. Fill in ALL the blanks under the **Parent Account Details** section. **Please choose/create your own unique Username and Password**. Please remember this information and keep it safe – this is what you will use to log in with at any later date.

**\*\*Please call the Office if you have not received your ACCESS ID and ACCESS PASSWORD from your students homeroom teacher.**



**Please contact Mr. Prebushewski at 403-345-3340 if you are able to help out at R.I. Baker in any of the following ways:**

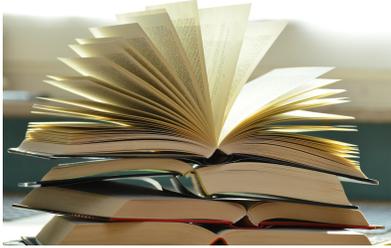
**Canteen:** 2 volunteers approximately 45 min/day  
(M-Th)

**Hot Lunch:** 1 volunteer approximately 1-2 hrs/week

**And various other school activities as they arise throughout the rest of this year!**



## January Library News



**‘A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.**

**The man who never reads lives only one.’”**

**George R.R. Martin**

The New Year is starting off with a great selection of new titles that were purchased from the recent “Virtual” Scholastic Book Fair.

Our library carries a large collection of fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels that cover a very wide range of interests as well as reading levels. The goal of our staff is to encourage students to appreciate the joys and benefits of reading and we are happy to give students suggestions and advice. We would once again like to thank all of you that supported our Virtual Scholastic Book fair. It was a different experience for you as well as us, but we thank you for your participation which has enabled us to get some new books.

Selecting the ‘just right’ book is often difficult for readers, especially struggling readers, and we strongly encourage your child to request assistance from either the librarians or their LA teachers if they are having difficulty achieving this.

RIBMS students will continue to have access to our library collection through our online software. Students can access **destinydiscover.com** from their computers at home or during specific Language Arts periods at school to reserve items they would like to read. All teachers encourage their students to always have at least one book for pleasure reading available to them during the school day to read once they have completed their assignments or have free time in class. Students also have the ability to renew their school library books on this website and are encouraged to do so.

Please be assured that the library takes all precautions to make sure books are quarantined appropriately prior to being delivered to students. We want to continue to be able to provide our readers with a safe experience and are following all suggested guidelines so that our students are able to continue enjoying the benefits and pleasures of reading!



## **Grade 5 POD Reminders :**

The grade 5 teachers felt that this was a good time to remind parents of a few items. In grade 5 we do not usually assign homework, however if class work is not completed, it does need to be completed at home. If a child is away for any period of time, it is their responsibility to find out what work they have missed. This can be done by checking each of their Google Classrooms for updates. If your child is going to be away, or is sick, please call the school office to inform them. As partners in your child's education, it is important that we work together to ensure that the students are attending school on a regular basis, and completing assignments.

Some students are running out of a few of the basic supplies, and need pencils and/or erasers. Please check with your child to see if they are short any supplies.

Also, there are a few children who have been wearing their boots all day long. Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes to wear at school during the winter months.

**Language Arts:** We are currently wrapping up our short story writing unit by celebrating and sharing our student authors. Students have honed their writing skills with the use of writing prompts, following their story plot maps, as well as identifying parts of a story during read alouds. We will be exploring figurative language and poetry next. Students should continue to read 2 hours per week (or more!) each week outside of school.

**Math: 5A/5B:** We will be starting our division unit in Math and it will continue into February. I encourage students to practice their multiplication facts to make dividing easier.

**Math: 5C/5D:** We are wrapping up our division unit and have continued to review other operations throughout as addition, multiplication and subtraction are also used in long division. Students will have their Unit Test on Thursday, January 21st. Please have your child check their Google Classroom for updates and resources, especially if they have been absent.

**Science: 5A/5B:** We will be finishing up our unit on Weather in the first couple weeks back and then moving onto Electricity where students will look at building circuits and mechanisms using electricity, how to work with electricity safely, and how electricity affects our daily lives.

**Science: 5C/5D:** We have been reviewing our Wetlands unit and preparing with in class activities and a quiz. The quiz will be entered into PS but will be formative (not counting towards grade), to give some feedback to students and parents to better prepare for our upcoming Wetlands Unit Test on January 20th. Students will bring home a study guide on Friday, the 15th, and as always; reminders and resources are being posted on the Google Classroom. We will end the month starting our next Unit; Classroom Chemistry.

**Social Studies 5A/5B:** We are continuing our study of the Regions of Canada, focusing on the Canadian Shield region this month. Students will explore the landscape, resources, climate and history of this region. They will also have the opportunity to see a recreation of the route the voyageurs took during the fur trade in this region!

**Social Studies 5C/5D:** The Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Lowlands Unit Test marked the end of this unit. Congratulations, the class average was about 70%. We too will continue our study of Canada as we focus on the Canadian Shield Region. I will of course continue posting matching resources in the Google Classroom.

## **Grade 6 POD**

**Language Arts:** We will be finishing up our reading comprehension unit, focusing on the remaining reading comprehension strategies (questioning, visualizing, summarizing, and determining importance). At the end of this unit students will complete a project to demonstrate their learning. Ms. Cleland will continue to teach Language Arts to 6A and 6D, while Ms. Ruttan will now be teaching Language Arts to 6B and 6C.



**Math:** We will start our Data Relationships unit in January. In this unit, students will learn about different ways to gather data and present data, with a focus on bar graphs and line graphs. They will also practice reading and analyzing graphs. Please check with your child to make sure their ruler and pencil crayons are still available for this unit. Mrs. Peacock will now be teaching Math to 6A and 6D. Mrs. Holland will continue to teach Math to 6B and 6C.

**Science:** We are still busy working on our Sky Science unit! Start paying attention to the sky and the phases of the moon to help your child out with their science learning this month! Mrs. Peacock will continue teaching Science to 6A and 6D. Mrs. Holland will now teach Science to 6B and 6C.

**Social Studies:** We will be starting our Provincial Government unit this month. In this unit students will learn and investigate how our provincial government works, with respect to the people and processes involved. Ms. Ruttan will continue to teach Social Studies to 6B and 6C, while Ms. Cleland will now be teaching Social Studies to 6A and 6D.

## **Grade 7 POD**

**Language Arts A and B:** Welcome back! In LA we will be starting a debate and argumentative writing unit. We will be focusing on non-fiction texts, research skills, debate skills and persuasive, or argumentative, writing. Students will have a lot of choice on the topics they will debate and will have fun along the way.

**Math:** Welcome back! In January, students will continue to focus on the third unit, which consists of the addition and subtraction of integers. Following this short unit, the fourth unit will cover linear relationships, describing patterns, graphing a table of values, and analyzing graphs to draw conclusions. Mrs. Smart will be teaching 7A & 7B, and Mr. Hornung will be teaching 7C & 7D.

**Science:** We are all so excited to have the students back! This month will have students completing their Heat & Temperature unit and then moving into the Planet Earth unit around the end of January. Mrs. Smart will be teaching 7A & 7B, and Mr. Hornung will be teaching 7C & 7D.

**Social Studies:** We are continuing where students left off in Chapter 5 - about the British conquest over the Acadians and French and how this ultimately led to Canadian Confederation.



## **Grade 8 POD**

**Language Arts 8B & 8D (Mrs. Netzel):** Happy New Year! In the remainder of January, we will be finishing up our stories “The Hockey Sweater” and “The Monkey’s Paw.” We will then be focusing on writing a graphic character sketch based on the movie, The Princess Bride to learn about the essay format and reinforce effective writing skills. We will also continue with our Boy on the Wooden Box memoir.

**Math (Mrs. Berry-Furtado/Mrs. Friesen):** During the month of January, we will be working through Chapter 7: Data & Probability. This has us critiquing the representation of data through various graphs (circle, bar, double-bar, line, double-line and pictographs). Then we will continue to look at probability, as we have in previous years. This includes comparing theoretical and experimental probability of independent events. We have opted to change the order of content to better facilitate online vs. in-person instruction. When we complete Chapter 7, we will most likely pick back up with Chapter 4: Patterns & Relations.

**Science (Mrs. Friesen/Mrs. Berry-Furtado):** In January, we will be finishing up the Fresh and Saltwater Systems unit. Then we will get back into the Cells and Body Systems unit, which we had put on hold when we transitioned to online learning.

**Social Studies: (Mr. Smith/Mrs. McDougall):** With the Renaissance unit complete, students will begin their studies of the Aztecs. These people are a very proud and noble tribe that lived in the area of Mexico and made many lasting contributions to the “New World”. We will be starting with learning about their religious beliefs and their geography.

**Language Arts (Mr. Smith):** We will be starting a “Stand Up For Human Rights” unit. Our focus is going to be on non-fiction literature as well as research writing. We will be looking at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and using it as a reference to the past. I am very excited about this unit and I believe that the students are as well.



## Bear Care (Baker Wellness Initiative)

*“Nobody Cares like a Bear”*



With the challenging times our students and staff have been dealing with, we thought a focus on wellness would be an appropriate event to replace our Winter Active Day, which would be difficult to facilitate due to current COVID regulations.

The event will run February 11 & 12 and have students participating in eight sessions with a wellness focus. Students will have some choice as to their sessions, where their cohort will divide in two. An email with additional information and a google form, where students will select which sessions they would like to participate in, will be sent out through students' individual email addresses in January.

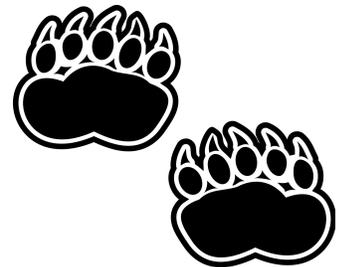
Some of the sessions included are: yoga, cooking class, macrame keychain making, various art sessions, outdoor sports, making a tropical plant garden and a car smash.

We are looking for some volunteers to help with this event. Please contact [megan.leusink@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:megan.leusink@pallisersd.ab.ca) if you are interested.



## A Rundown of Bears Athletics

We continue to wait for guidance from our school division and AHS. If it would be considered safe to do so, any opportunities to participate will be shared through school announcements, posters and the athletics website.





With a **one-time application fee** of **\$29.99** kids can ski & snowboard for free across Canada!

### The SnowPass benefits include:

- Access to multiple ski areas across Canada. Return to your favorite hills and try new ones.
  - You can ski not once, but TWICE at every participating ski area
    - Fresh air and exercise.
    - Fun with Family and Friends.
    - Memories that last a lifetime.

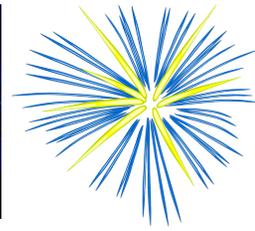
Use your SnowPass at

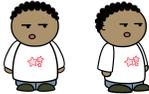


Today!

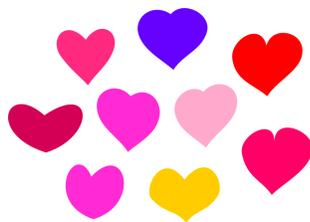
<https://snowpass.ca/>

# January



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Happy New Year! NO SCHOOL
4 Online Learning for <b>ALL Grade levels</b>	5 Online Learning for <b>ALL Grade levels</b>	6 Online Learning for <b>ALL Grade levels</b>	7 Online Learning for <b>ALL Grade levels</b>	8 Online Learning for <b>ALL Grade levels</b>
11 First Day Back to School for In Person Learning!	12	13	14	15
18	19	20 Twin Day! 	21	22
25	26	27	28	29 NO SCHOOL PD DAY

# February 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11 <b>Bear Care (Baker Wellness Initiative)</b>	12 <b>Bear Care (Baker Wellness Initiative)</b>
15 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	16 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	17 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	18 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	19 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
22	23	24	25	26 <b>Flannel Day!</b> 