

The Paw Print



R.I. Baker Middle School

February 2021 Newsletter

Principal's Message

We typically focus on caring for others this month, and without losing that theme, I'd also like to focus on caring for yourself. Specifically our outlooks and expressing gratitude. I was speaking with a student the other day and she was explaining how much she misses athletics and the toll it is taking on her well being and her attitude. It was a great dialogue and we both came to two realizations that could be shared with all staff, students and parents.

1. We all have a COVID experience that we can be angry with. Many people have had to give something up, take on something new, lost a job or gained 2 more they didn't want. Some have even lost loved ones. If we have to put school athletics aside for a year, listen to the band and choir become quiet, or miss out on some of our outside school passions such as swimming, dance or hockey, can we still be thankful? Can we still experience happiness and gratitude? It turns out that we can. We can practice passions at home, find new ones, look at our glass as half full, and be proud of what we have overcome. We still have much to give thanks for, and much to look forward to. Life is too short to walk around focusing on the negative.
2. How we choose to move forward is our choice. We all will have a story to tell from this last year, what do you want yours to sound like? The question was asked: "If your kids one day ask: how did you get through COVID 19 in 2020/2021, what would you want your answer to be?" We both agreed that we would want to be able to set a positive example with our answer.

I am so proud of our students and staff for being the example for the generations that will one day read our story. Thank you.

Mr Preb

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY** ♥

IMPORTANT DATES:

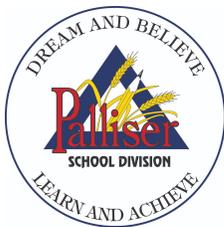
Feb 11 & 12 Bear Care
(Baker Wellness Initiative)

Feb 15-19 NO SCHOOL

Feb 24 - Pink Shirt Day

Feb 26 - Flannel Day





Staff and Parent COVID-19 Information

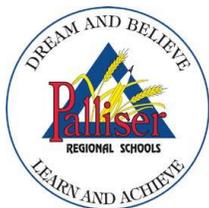
<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/covid-19-information/resources>

Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School (Updated Jan. 2021)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16998.aspx>

Back to School During COVID-19: FAQ (Updated Jan. 2021)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sch-back-school-covid-19-faq.pdf>



Palliser Resources for Parents & Teachers

Check out Palliser's Parent Page with the link below!

<https://sites.google.com/pallisersd.ab.ca/palliserresources>

Thank you to everyone so far for cooperating with our COVID-19 protocols.

And if you haven't already, please be sure to Thank our Custodians! They have been working tirelessly to keep RIBMS clean and safe!



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.**

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.schoolcashionline.com>

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.**



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 high striker. If a student has NOT filled out the google form to choose their sessions, please go to the RI Baker website and find the link for your grade level.

We are looking for some volunteers to help with this event.
Please contact megan.leusink@pallisersd.ab.ca if you are interested.

For more Health & Wellness Resources for Parents & Families

please check out the link below

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17212.aspx>

Also, Check out the monthly AHS newsletter for topics such as:

Healthy Sleep Habits

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sch-newsletter-healthy-teens-2021-01.pdf>

Being Active Outdoors

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sch-newsletter-healthy-teens-2020-10.pdf>



Cultivating Kindness

The benefits of kindness are remarkable! Kindness has been linked to decreased stress, reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, lowering blood pressure, and easing pain. It has been connected to increased happiness, improved overall wellbeing, and has the potential to prolong your life. Evidence has also shown that kindness can help children and teens to learn and do better in school.

It feels good when people are kind to us, but being kind to yourself and others, or even just watching an act of kindness happen can be good for you too. That's right... kindness is contagious! Kindness can be spread simply by seeing or experiencing it – when you're part of an act of kindness, you're likely to act in kind ways toward others.

ahs.ca/covidschools

Healthy Teens

November 2020 Parent Newsletter

Kindness has no boundaries. Everyone has the ability to give and receive kindness. It can involve simple gestures like opening the door for someone, shoveling snow from a public sidewalk, or smiling at others. It can also involve planned activities like volunteering at a community event or serving a meal to someone in need (remember to follow public health guidance for COVID-19).

Here are some ways that you can instill kindness in your teen:

- **Walk the talk** – Model kindness with your teen in your interactions with them and others.
- **Make it a rule** – Include kindness as part of your family rules or talk about kindness as one of your family values.
- **Broaden their horizon** – Encourage your teen to be kind to someone outside of their small circle of friends or family, like a new student in their class or a senior citizen in the community. It is important to show them that being kind should go beyond their social network.
- **Practice makes perfect** – As the old saying goes, the more we do it, the easier it becomes. As a family, try doing random acts of kindness in your neighbourhood or volunteer with a community organization.

So now that you know a little more about kindness, why not give it a try?

Celebrate [World Kindness Day](#) on November 13th or take it a step further and challenge your family to an act of kindness a day for the entire month. Guaranteed you will feel the positive effects. Visit [Random Acts of Kindness](#) to get more kindness ideas for you and your family.

Many Albertans have been impacted physically, mentally, emotionally and financially as result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For information about supports available in Alberta visit: www.ahs.ca/helpintoughtimes

ahs.ca/covidschools

****LOST AND FOUND****



Our Lost and Found currently has several items wondering where their owners are! There are a couple lunch kits and several lonely hoodies & jackets that might come in handy as our weather gets colder out....

To avoid many students and many hands rummaging through these items, these items are currently laid out on a table in front of the Office.

Please have your child take a look!

Thanks!

RECESS EXPECTATIONS

R.I. Baker Middle School philosophy is that children need fresh air and exercise to enhance gross motor development, social skills and friendships. Exercise is overall good for the brain and body, especially this year! Our expectation is that all children need to be and are expected to be outside. This means that the students of R.I Baker need to come to school with appropriate clothing for our southern Alberta weather!



****NO School February 15-19****



**Please have a safe and enjoyable
Family Day Holiday and
Teachers Convention break**



March 10 & 11, 2021 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS **ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**In March, if AHS Public Health Guidelines permit, Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in person. However, if guidelines do not allow in person meetings, our March Parent Teacher Interviews will be held similarly to our November Interviews; virtually and by appointment only.

The online appointment booking system for Parent Teacher Interviews will be live March 1, 2021.

This system will be used for both scenarios, whether interviews are held in-person, or held virtually.

Please click on the link below and follow these simple instructions to book your PTI time slot:

<http://ribms.parentteacherconferences.net>

Click on the “Register” tab (top right corner)

Enter your Name, Phone Number, email address

Create a User ID and Password

Click “Register Now”

Click “Add a Student”

Enter Student’s name

Click “Insert”

Click on your Students Name when it appears.

Follow the instructions given on screen.

Click “View Calendar”

Click on the Time Slot you would like for your interview

Click “Book Appointment”

Repeat the above steps for the number of students you have at RI Baker.

Once you have all appointments booked, Click on “Print Appointments” and you will have a hard copy of your child’s appointment times.

Click “Log Out” (top right hand corner)



If interviews are to be held virtually, the platform we will be using to chat with Parents is Google Meet.

Once you have your appointment booked, the invites, links and instructions for accessing these online appointments will be posted on our website closer to the interview dates.

Please stay tuned for these important further instructions!

Notes from the Band Room



Hey RI Baker Musicians,
Even though you're missing your band classes, we hope you're still making music at home! We want you to know we miss hearing you play. While we have to put off the concerts a bit longer, keep singing, playing those instruments and looking forward to all the fun Mr. Conrad and the band program at Baker bring.

We know that being part of music groups is a highlight of the school experience for many, so parents, please keep encouraging your young musicians. We have a great program here at RI Baker and we want to keep your kids engaged.

Music is magic - it relaxes, inspires, soothes and cheers, like sunshine for the soul. We can't wait until you can share your music with us again!

From the Coaldale Musical Arts Society

Read all about it! - News from the Library

RI Baker Middle School students and staff participated in the "Read for 15" contest, as part of Family Literacy Day on Wednesday, January 27 to hopefully help Coaldale win the title of ***Alberta's Most Readerly Community!***

RIBMS had a grand total of 304 students and staff take part in this event!

Way to go Bears!

When Covid restrictions allows them to open, make sure to check out the Coaldale Public Library in person, in the meantime you can find them at www.coaldalelibrary.ca or on:



Twitter @coaldalelibrary



Instagram @coaldalelibrary

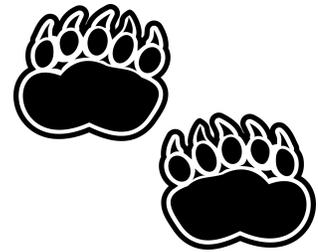


Facebook Coaldale Public Library



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.



Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is on February 24th, 2021

Why a Pink T-Shirt?

The idea came from two incredible Nova Scotia high school students in 2007. When a fellow student was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt, they decided to take a stand. They went out and bought pink shirts to give to fellow students to show their support for a boy who was being bullied simply for wearing a pink shirt.



Please wear pink and stand up against bullying



Our Breakfast & Snack Program is back!!

RIBMS is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the **PC Children's Charity** to help us provide some healthy snacks for our hungry "Bears" (AKA our students!) A variety of muffins and fresh fruit are provided daily and have been well received so far. Thank you **PC Children's Charity** for feeding our hungry minds!



feeding hungry minds



Communication From Throughout the Grades



Grade 5 Pod

LA: We have been working through a Poetry unit with a focus on figurative language such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole, alliteration, personification and onomatopoeia. Students have been identifying examples while participating in a 'Shel Silverstein Best Poem Contest'. Our class read aloud, *Silverwing* by Kenneth Opel, is a great lead in to our next unit which is our Nonfiction unit.

Math: 5C/5D: We are continuing with our Place Value Unit that we started the last week of January, now venturing into the world of decimal numbers up to the thousandths place, and whole numbers up to the millions place. Students will learn to write whole and decimal numbers in standard, written and expanded form and to translate from one form to another. *Please continue to quiz your child on their basic math skills; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. A trip to the supermarket is a great way to observe and discuss decimal numbers as well as practicing how to round prices up to the nearest whole number!*

Math: 5A/5B: We are continuing to work on division and will be looking at long division of 3 digit numbers by 1 digit number. Students are encouraged to work on their multiplication facts to help them with division and all aspects of math.

Social 5A/5B: We are finishing up our study of the Canadian Shield region by encouraging travelers to come to this wonderful region by creating travel brochures. Next up in our studies we will be looking at Canada's smallest region, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Lowlands region!

Social 5C/5D: The last part of our Canadian Shield studies include the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) and the March West. Our discovery of Canada will continue its westward journey with the Interior Plains Region in February, and the Cordillera in March.

Science: 5C/5D: We are continuing with our new Unit: Classroom Chemistry, which we started the last week of January. Students will investigate which substances are soluble, states of matter, and various chemical and physical reactions that take place when different substances mix. We will create some fun (covid friendly) experiments in class too!

Science: 5A/5B: We will be studying 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.

Grade 6 Pod

LA: We will be finishing up our Reading Comprehension unit with a final project to demonstrate our mastery of the strategies learned in class. Once completed, we will move into our story writing unit. This unit will focus on format, grammar, parts of plot, story vocabulary, editing, while providing students with the opportunity to express their creativity.



Math 6B and 6C: After completing our unit on Data Relationships, we will be moving on to Coordinate Geometry and Motion Geometry. Students will learn about ordered pairs, and perform translations, reflections and rotations of shapes on a coordinate grid. Students will need to have their ruler and pencil crayons for this unit, so please be sure to check if your child still has these supplies or if replacements need to be purchased. Please also double check that your child still has a basic calculator, which will be needed for the remainder of the year.

Science 6B and 6C: We will continue to learn about concepts from our Sky Science unit as we begin the month of February. By the end of the month, we will be moving on to our Air, Aerodynamics and Flight unit. In this large unit, we will be looking at the properties of air and how moving air impacts air pressure and flight, as well as learning about how birds, insects and aircraft can achieve flight. This unit will allow students to participate in a variety of hands-on activities and experiments.

Math 6A and 6D: We will be finishing up our Data Relationships unit. Our unit following Data Relationships will be Geometry. The focus of the Geometry unit will be on placing plotting ordered pairs, performing translations, reflections and rotations of different shapes on coordinate grids.

Science 6A and 6D: In Science, we will begin to take a look at Air and Aerodynamics. We will be looking at the properties of air and the fact that it takes up space, has mass, exerts pressure and is made up of gases. We are going to be doing lots of hands-on experiments to study the effect that air has on us and the things on Earth.

Social Studies: This month, the students will be working on their Provincial Government unit, with a reenactment of the Alberta Legislature. After that, we will be moving on to the birthplace of democracy: Ancient Greece. There we will discover the roots of democracy, what it looked like, and how it affects us today.

Grade 7 Pod

LA - C and D: This month we will continue to work on our debate and argumentative writing skills. Students have been practicing mini debates with one another, and learning how to articulate and organize their thoughts and claims. We will be continuing our writers workshop, where students will work on and present a ‘rant’ in video form as their final product. After the break we will be starting our poetry unit.



LA - A and B: We are working on debate and argumentative writing. We have had some light-hearted debates to practice and now we will be getting into more serious topics and learn how to research and debate them as effectively as possible.

Math - This month in Math we will be wrapping up our fourth unit on Patterns and Linear Relations. As February closes out, we’ll continue developing our understanding of Patterns and Relations through the exploration of Equations, where we will learn to solve single-variable algebraic equations.

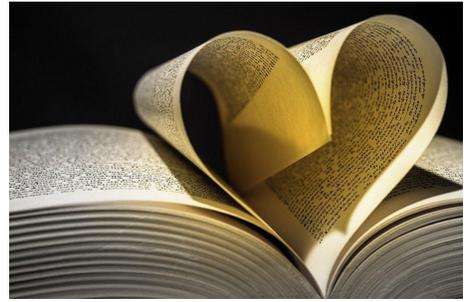
Science - Students began the third unit, Planet Earth, in January and will be continuing this unit in February. In Science, students will be exploring and observing; rocks, minerals, the rock cycle, erosion and weathering, layers of the Earth as well as earthquakes, volcanoes, fossils and fossil fuels.

Social Studies - C and D: In Social Studies students are finishing up Chapter 5, “War and British Conquest,” with students writing their unit quiz before the February break. Starting this month, students are taking turns bringing the news of the world into the classroom with our ‘Current Events Spotlight.’ This is a great opportunity for students to bring in interesting and relevant news articles to share with their class, and relate current events to our Social Studies curriculum. After the break, students will delve into the American War of Independence, the war of 1812 and eventually confederation. To go along with this material, Ms. Hardy will be reading aloud the fictional book “Bully Boys” by Canadian author Eric Walters.

Social Studies - A and B: In Social, we are finishing up the portion of the curriculum about pre-confederation history by learning about the British conquest of New France/Canada and how that affected different groups of people in many ways, such as the Mik'maq and Acadians. We will also be learning about the Seven Years War, the War of 1812 and how that all led to the American Revolution and why that affected the peoples of Canada. This will lead us into post-confederation history in February.

Grade 8 Pod

Language Arts 8A & 8D (Mrs. Netzel)- Wow! Where did January go? Students will be working on writing a graphic essay based on a character from the film The Princess Bride. This will focus on structured essay format with a focus on developing an effective thesis statement, concise topic sentences, developed supporting details, etc... We will also be finishing up our novel, The Boy on the Wooden Box. As always, I encourage students to engage in reading at home, in addition to their independent novels as school.



Math (Mrs. Berry-Furtado/Mrs. Friesen) - Our focus for the month of February will be working through Chapter 4: Patterns & Relations. It begins with students analyzing linear relations through equations, graphs and tables of values. Next, we will explore solving equations. This is an extension of Math 7 and again, we will utilize algebra-tiles to help us understand all of the steps required to solve different equations. Next up is Chapter 5: Pythagorean Theorem.

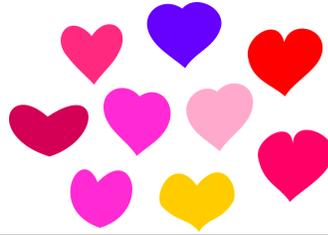
Science (Mrs. Berry-Furtado/Mrs. Friesen) - We are in the middle of the cells unit. In February, we will focus on learning the intricacies of how cells function and contribute to the functions of multicellular organisms.

Social Studies (Mr. Smith A/C) - We have begun our Aztec unit and students are enjoying the content so far. Students have created a wax museum of the Aztec emperor Moctezuma. We now shift to the way in which the Aztecs organized their society. The focus of the unit is to see what happens when two similar worldviews collide (Spanish and Aztecs).

Social Studies (Mrs. McDougall 8B; 8D w/Clifton) - We have been working with our year long essential question, “If there are many sides to a story, then what is truth?”, and we’ve had some really interesting and meaningful conversations. We will continue to look at and discuss current events, and this month we will round out our understanding of the Aztec worldview before beginning to understand the Spanish perspective.

Language Arts (Mr. Smith) - We are working on our ‘Stand Up For Human Rights Unit’. So far we have looked into the story of Anne Frank and the long lasting impact of the holocaust on the world. Students will be preparing a speech that they will present to the “United Nations” based on a human rights issue of their choosing.

February 2021



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

March 2021



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Parent Teacher Interviews | 11 Parent Teacher Interviews | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 St Patrick's Day  | 18 | 19 Division Wide PD Day- NO SCHOOL |
| 22 Funky Sock Day!  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |