

# The Paw Print



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



### Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that spring is already here. We have had quite a year with many challenges, successes, and changes. As of late, R.I. Baker has had many students and staff asked to stay home for two weeks of quarantine. When AHS dictates, I am required to send home groups of students and staff who were considered to be in close contact with a positive case of COVID 19.

All of the staff at RIBMS are working really hard to ensure that the students in classes and at home are getting the best education under these circumstances. We have had to resort to our teachers covering classes due to a shortage in substitute teachers and we have used the breaks in their day to do this. I am extremely proud of the flexibility and commitment our staff and students have shown over the past few weeks.

When we see waves like this, it is extremely important to not send your child to school if they are experiencing ANY symptoms. We can minimize the spread if we all do our part. While we would be able to transition to online learning in an emergency, we know that it is not ideal and we would prefer a face-to-face, hands-on learning environment.

I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming break in the safest way possible.

Happy Easter!

*Mr. Jason Prebushewski*

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**April 2 through 9 -**  
NO SCHOOL  
Easter Holidays

**April 14 -** Spring Pictures

**April 16 -** Green Shirt Day

**April 20 -** Western Day

**April 30 -** NO SCHOOL  
PD Day

## RIBMS Dress Code

as per the R.I. Baker Middle School Handbook



The primary objective at RIBMS is the academic success of all students; consequently, the dress policy allows for the conditions most conducive to learning, that students can work comfortably and without distracting or disturbing others. The key principles of the policy call for dress to be CLEAN, NEAT and MODEST.

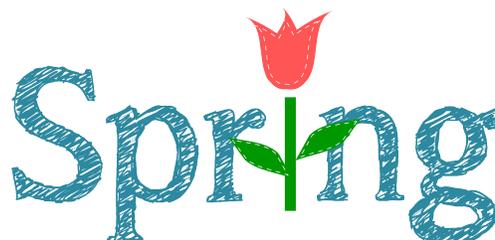
Students dressed inappropriately will be asked by their homeroom teacher to go to their lockers and change into appropriate clothing. It is understood that students will do this quickly and that the inappropriate clothing will be covered FOR THE DAY. If no appropriate clothing is available, the students will be directed to the office to either call home for suitable clothing, or be provided with clean clothing at the office. If a student needs to wait for a parent to bring appropriate clothing, the student will wear what is provided at the office for the interim, in order that the student can return to the classroom as soon as possible. The student can then go to the office at the next break to change into the appropriate clothing supplied by the parent.

Specific items that will not be worn to school include:

- Slippers
- Any revealing tank tops or halter tops
- Transparent or see-through fabrics
- Short tops that expose the midriff at ANY time
- Low cut tops
- Short shorts, skirt, or skorts ( length will be at staff members discretion)
- T-shirts that are in poor taste\*
- Large winter jackets and coats are not to be worn in the classrooms
- Clothing that is designated underwear should be kept undercover

\*the dress code policy specifically prohibits clothing that contains logos or advertisements for drugs, alcohol, weapons or tobacco; that contains or implies messages with sexual innuendo, or that appears to promote racism, discrimination, hate or illegal activities.

The dress policy applies to all school activities – dances, field trips, PE classes and extra-curricular sports practices, etc.



## GRADE 5 POD NEWS

There are a number of students who need to replenish their pencil, scissor and whiteboard marker supply for the remaining of the year. Please check with your child to see if they are one of these students.

As the weather is constantly changing, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the outside recesses.

Hope that you all have a very Hoppy Easter.

**Language Arts:** We are currently diving into nonfiction texts, learning to identify and understand the function of various text features to gain a greater comprehension from the text. The mentor texts we are currently using are from the *Who Would Win?* series by Jerry Pallotta. We are also finishing up our class read aloud, *Silverwing*, continuing to compare it to the cartoon version and relate it to our non-fiction studies (even though it is a fiction novel).

**Math: 5A/5B** - We will be continuing Motion Geometry where we will draw shapes and move them to new positions on a grid. Next we will be moving on to Fraction where students will read, write, compare and draw fractions.

**Math 5C/5D** - Despite 5C being at school and 5D being at home for online learning at the end of March, we were able to wrap up learning about adding, subtracting and rounding decimal numbers successfully. When we return from the break in April, students will begin to translate decimal numbers to fractions, and learn about equivalent fractions.

**Science: 5A/5B** - We will finish up our unit on Electricity and Magnetism and then moving on to Chemistry where students will look at properties of different substances and how they interact with other things.

**Science 5C/5D** - Parents were notified in March that our Chemistry unit test would be rescheduled to Tuesday, April 13th to ensure access to an in person assessment. Study guides were handed out / emailed before the break. This will conclude our Chemistry Unit, and we will begin looking at Electricity.

**Social 5A & 5B:** April will have us moving into the Arctic Region on our exploration of the geographical regions of Canada. From there, we will travel west to the Cordillera region!



## GRADE 6 POD NEWS

### **Language Arts:**

This month we will turn our attention to the more mechanical aspects of writing. In our grammar unit we will learn about the correct use of conventions to convey meaning. Our main focus will be on proper punctuation and sentence structure, providing students with the skills they need to be able to recognize and correct errors within writing.

**Math 6B and 6C:** Students in 6B and 6C have recently completed their Fractions unit, and we have now started their unit on Ratios and Percent. In this unit, students will explore what ratios are, and they will create proportional ratios. We will also explore the relationship between fractions and ratios, decimals, and percent. Once we complete Ratios and Percent, we will start our Measurement unit, where we will be learning about angles, perimeter, area and volume.

**Science 6B and 6C:** So far in our Air, Aerodynamics and Flight unit, students have explored the properties of air, as well as the concept of air resistance. Students recently completed their parachute design for our class parachute contest. In April, we will be concentrating on the forces involved in flight, and how airplanes, birds and insects achieve flight. We will also have a paper airplane contest where students can once again apply their knowledge of flight to try to build the most effective paper airplane to complete a series of tasks.

**Science 6A and 6D:** We are coming to the end of our Air and Aerodynamics unit and will be starting our Flight unit in science. We are excited to start our Flight unit because we get to put our previous learning to use by creating experiments that prove what we know about Air and Aerodynamics. A few of the projects we will be building are egg carrying parachutes, paper airplanes, and propulsion devices! Be sure to ask what your child is working on in science this month!

**Social:** In Social, we have begun our unit on Ancient Athens. We have been looking at the birthplace of democracy, discussing how much democracy has changed-- or not changed-- in the last 2500 years. Following Greece, we will be studying consensus and the Iroquois Confederacy.



## GRADE 7 POD NEWS

**Language Arts 7A and 7B:** We are finishing our poetry unit with Mrs Wielenga this month. She is only with us for a couple more weeks and we are sad to see her go! Next we will be working on a research unit that will incorporate historical fiction, non-fiction and informational writing.

**Language Arts 7C and 7D:** We are finishing up our March Madness poetry unit this month, with the top poem or pop song to be determined soon! Coming up next we will be starting our informational writing unit which will be having students travel virtually around the world and writing travel blogs!

**Math:** All classes of math 7 are well into the sixth unit, which focuses on shape and space. Students are using direct and indirect measurement to solve problems focusing on diameter, radius, area and circumference of a circle as well as area of a triangle and parallelogram. From here students will move into the seventh unit that focuses on statistics and probability. They will collect, display and analyze data to solve problems and use experimental or theoretical probabilities to represent and solve problems involving uncertainty.

**Science:** We are currently working our way through our fourth unit: Plants for Food & Fibre. Students are learning about producing useful plant products, techniques used for selecting and breeding plant varieties, and options available to maximize yield.

**Social:** We are now steadily moving towards Confederation with chapters 8 and 9-- the moment where the Canada we know today is officially established. We will be focusing on important moments that created the country of Canada, and focusing on how those moments have shaped us, and still affect us today.



## **GRADE 8 POD NEWS**

**Language Arts:** Students are busy working on our unit entitled “Worth Fighting For,” in which we will center our focus on the novel, Freak the Mighty. This will ignite ideas and discussions about adventures, friendships and fighting for what we believe in. Students are diving into a deep study of this literary text.

**8A/8C -Smith:** In April, we will be finishing up our “Stand up for human rights” unit and we will be starting our unit titled “Mixed Messages” where we will be looking at the world of advertisements and current cultural trends and what messages they send. This unit will focus on persuasive writing as well as students continuing to develop their own sense of self through expression of ideas.

**Math:** In April, we will both finish Chapter 5: Pythagorean Theorem and begin Chapter 6: Surface Area & Volume. In Grade 8, there is a focus on 3D objects. These 3D objects include: rectangular prisms, triangular prisms & cylinders. We begin by understanding the nets of these 3D objects. Next, students will learn to develop and apply formulas for determining the surface area and volume of these 3D objects. Finally, students will solve problems regarding surface area and volume of 3D objects. As this is a rather extensive chapter, it will take us into May to finish.

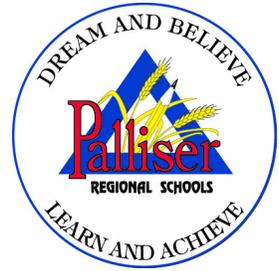
**Science:** In the month of April, we will wrap up our Biology unit with a focus on systems within the body. Next, students will focus on Unit D: Light & Optics. Our understanding of the world is based largely on what we see - both directly and aided by optical devices that improve and extend our vision. Such tools as the microscope and telescope have helped extend knowledge in a variety of science fields, from the study of cells and to the study of the nature of light itself. In learning about light, students investigate its interactions with different materials and interpret its behavior using a geometric ray model. Students then use their understanding of light to interpret a variety of light-based technologies and contemplate new technologies we may use in the future.

**Social: McDougall & Clifton B/D:** When we return after Spring break, we will be diving into our final unit, Japan: From Isolation to Adaptation. Here we will look at the Japanese culture with a lense of worldview, while also exploring what happens when an isolated culture comes into contact with western powers.

**Smith A/C:** By April we will be wrapping up our second major unit, the Aztecs. We will be finishing off with our major project which will be writing their first essay in social studies this year. The students loved this unit and were continuously, actively engaged in discussion and debate in terms of the concepts we learned. Mid way through April we will begin our third and final unit, Japan. Here we will begin to look at the Japanese culture with a lense of worldview, while likewise exploring what happens when an isolated culture comes into contact with western powers. We will also be comparing the concepts we learn in this unit to the concepts from previous units, looking at the big picture and seeing how it all connects.



## Palliser School Division International Student Program



Please join us in welcoming Simeon Dupriez to R.I. Baker. Simeon is a student from France that will be entering grade 8 after the Easter Break. Simeon will attend Baker after his 2 weeks of quarantine.

**We are excited to meet him!**  
**Welcome Simeon!**



**GOLD:** Adora Kitchens and Cabinetry • Airway Refrigeration • Avail LLP • Coaldale Dental Centre • Coaldale Pet Clinic • Coaldale Pharmasave • C.V. Benefits • Good Health Dispensary • Home Hardware • Intercontinental Truck Body • Kasko Cattle • Kustom CSN Collision Centre • Leonard D. Fast Law • Metal Craft Heating & Air Conditioning • RealEstate Centre • Sylvan Learning • UFA-Kelly James • Van Rijn Electric-A Division of Neu-Lite • Westland Insurance

**SILVER:** Dairy Queen • DRV Tansport • Flaman • Franco's Restaurant • Kinette Club of Coaldale • Land O' Lakes Dental • Minuteman Press • NAPA Auto Parts • North and Company LLP • **BRONZE:** Artisan Homes • Bargain! Shop • Bill's Electric • Bos Sod Farms • Chicken Feed Quilts • Ezzo Stop N Go • Handsome Welding • Herman's Carpets • Land O' Lakes Golf & Country Club • McDonald's • Nutri-Source • Pizza Hut • Runners Soul • Winks

## ATHLETICS



### **Badminton Club**

We are excited that the badminton club has been able to safely run in our gym. Students who signed up have been participating since the beginning of March and the club will continue until the end of April.

\*There is no badminton club the week of Easter break\*

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## Art Club

There will be no art club Google Meet on Saturday, April 2nd, as well as no meet on Saturday, April 9th for Easter holidays.

We will return with a new lesson and Google Meet on Saturday, April 16th at 10:00am. Keep an eye on the Art Club classroom for more info!

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## Friday, April 16 - RIBMS will wear “Green”

In honour of the Logan Boulet Effect, in support of organ donor awareness and registration across Canada.



**\*April 7, 2021 is the official GREEN SHIRT DAY FOR ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS AND REGISTRATION**

## Notes from the Band Room

As a principal of a school with one of the most successful band programs in the province, it has been hard for me to watch a program so special be put on pause. We have a great tradition of programs that have served our Baker students well and I would like to assure parents that we will always work within the ever changing AHS guidelines to bring you the best version of band and music that we can. Although we cannot predict the future, I am hopeful things will get much closer to normal for next year, and I do hope to hear the music fill the halls at Baker as soon as possible.

Please see the following message from the Coaldale Musical Arts Society - Mr. Prebs



**Hey RI Baker Musicians,**

**Spring is here and while we've missed the annual band trips and dessert concert this year, there are still lots of great music memories to come in the years ahead. In the meantime, keep those fingers, ears and embouchures in shape. The excellent Baker music programs will return and all of us, especially Mr. Conrad, can't wait to hear you all play again. Music makes life more beautiful!**

**From the Coaldale Musical Arts Society**

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## YEARBOOK

Year Books are still available to order at \$30 per copy. Please check your School Cash Online account to purchase your copy today.

Yearbooks will be distributed to students in September 2021, that way we can include all RI Baker events right up to the end of the 2020 / 2021 school year!



**Spring pictures  
let you be you!**

Wednesday, April 14, 2021  
R I Baker Middle School

**What to Expect:**

-  Students are photographed on Picture Day
-  Images sent home with your child
-  Review pictures & purchase on mylifetouch.ca

All students will be photographed. Please notify your child's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your child. Your child may be included in a group picture if recruited by the school. Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 866-457-8212.

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## Easter Event

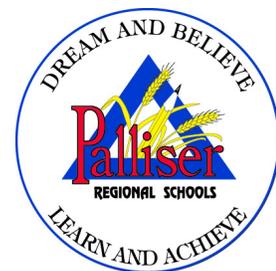
**Date:** April 3, 2021 11:00am to 2:30 pm

On Saturday, April 3, get outside, get active and join the Easter Bunny with your household family in the Easter Family Scavenger Hunt. Capture funny family photos throughout Coaldale as you collect points for doing a number of crazy fun activities (you will get bonus points for being in costume). A \$300 gift card(s) to the business(s) of your choice is up for grabs for the winning family of the Scavenger Hunt and a \$100 dollar gift card is waiting for the family decked out in the best costumes. The scavenger hunt starts at 11:00am in Millennium Park beside the HUB and the Easter Bunny will hand out Easter candy bags to all scavenger hunt participants 14 years old and younger after the hunt. Between 11:00am and 2:30pm there will also be a Little Chicks Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones in your family at Millennium Park. Be sure to bring a camera or phone to take pictures. Covid rules and protocols will be in place.

The Easter Bunny will also be helping the Coaldale Food Bank as it hosts a fundraiser "take-out" hot dog lunch from 11:30am to 2:30pm in Millennium Park (dependent on COVID restrictions) during and after the scavenger hunt. Lunch will be by donation and will be meant to take home to enjoy (please wear a mask when ordering and picking up). Please show your support for the Coaldale Food Bank through your generous donation.

Visit [www.coaldale.ca/easterevent](http://www.coaldale.ca/easterevent) to register!

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## Palliser Town Bus passes available July 2

For families seeking busing for their children to attend classes at Coaldale schools, there is busing available depending on the distance to the school (if they live within a 2.4 km radius from their designated school), and demand.

Parents must first contact Palliser Regional Schools at (403) 380-2612 to determine if they are eligible for the service and whether they will be required to pay the \$260 fee. Bus passes will be available at the Coaldale Town Office starting July 2.

Students that live 2.4 km or more from the school they are attending and have been regular bus students in the past, do not need to call or purchase passes.

## Mental Health: Coping and Connection for Children & Families During COVID-19

Children react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. Coping with COVID-19 calmly and confidently, can help you support your child. Here are some things you can do to support your child.

### Get the facts about COVID-19.

Find a few credible sources of information. Understanding the latest facts about the outbreak and knowing where to turn for reliable information can help you talk to your kids open and honestly and help them think more realistically about the risk visit, <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>

### Check in with your child, encourage questions to make sense of the current situation.

- Start by asking your child what they know about this situation.
- Pay attention to what your child says and really listen with your head and heart.
- Encourage them to talk about their feelings and thoughts. If they have difficulty expressing their emotions in words, help them express their feelings through creativity (e.g., drawing, music).
- Accept their feelings without judging. Emotions come and go. It's okay to feel sad, upset, or distressed. In most cases, these feelings won't last long. It's how we act when we feel these emotions that can get us into trouble.
- Answer questions calmly, reassuringly, and honestly. Give answers that your child will understand for their age and ability.
- Correct misinformation.
- Avoid telling them not to worry. The goal is to help your child realistically evaluate risk based on reliable information.
- Focus on how they can protect themselves and others from getting sick.
- Ask your child to come to you if they have questions or concerns as they may hear strange things or see strange things and wonder if they are true.
- Provide comfort and be patient.
- Check on your child's feelings on a regular basis.

### Encourage positive activities and thoughts of safety

Continue doing regular activities (e.g., having family meals, bedtime routines, games, movies, faith activities, keeping physically active, listening to music). It helps provide a sense of security and safety. Talk about all of the people who are working hard to prevent the spread of illness and how you and your child can help protect yourselves and the community too (e.g., good handwashing, coughing or sneezing into your elbow).

### Self-care for parents and caregivers

The high volume of information, concerns, and potential uncertainty in these situations can be overwhelming. Care for yourself by keeping routines, eating healthy meals, getting enough sleep, keeping physically active, staying connected, and handling stress. Take deep breaths and breaks to handle stress. Be honest about your feelings and show that you can still do things, and finish tasks, even if you're feeling worried. Look for creative ways to adapt your go-to activities, as needed, (and perhaps discover new opportunities to enhance your wellness and self-care). You are best able to support your children when you take care of yourself too.



### Limit media coverage

Keep informed but limit your time for media and social media. It can leave you and your children feeling overwhelmed. (<https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/screen-time-and-digital-media>)

### Seek support and continued connections

If you need to isolate yourself from others, call, text, email, video conference, and communicate through social media. You can also try playing online games with friends or family to keep entertained and connected with others.

### Keep active

Although it's tough to stay indoors away from friends and sports we enjoy, we can still keep those screens away and be active. There are a lot of physical activities that can be done in our homes with each other. Look with your loved ones for small space activities that would be fun and would keep you physically active. Here are two great ideas:

1. Riverbank – This is an indoor version of Red Light, Green Light that is a lot of fun.
  - Form a line with string, tape, or an item already on the ground.
  - The leader will yell "river," "bank," or "riverbank."
  - Players hop forward when they hear "river" and backward when they hear "bank."
  - When the leader calls out "riverbank," players hop sideways with one foot in the river and one foot in the bank.
  - Add an additional physical activity component by having participants do jumping jacks when they make a mistake before rejoining the game.
2. Everyone Around Me
  - Form a circle with chairs or specific spots on the floor with tape or string.
  - Select one person to stand in the middle (without a chair or space) as the caller.
  - The caller shouts out a fact about himself or herself. Example: Everyone around me wearing a blue shirt.
  - Anyone wearing a blue shirt must find a new seat as quickly as possible, including the caller.
  - The person left without a chair or spot becomes the caller.

*Adapted from: asphaltgreen.org*

### Be mindful of how you speak

Rather than placing blame on certain communities or groups of people, put people first. This is a person who has the COVID-19 virus.

### Need more help?

If your child is having on-going trouble coping with their emotions or is experiencing symptoms of stress (e.g., problems with sleep, goes back to having separation anxiety, needs a large amount of reassurance, stops having interest in friends, does repetitive behaviours such as excessive hand washing) ask your healthcare professional for help.

# April 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 Good Friday <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	6 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	7 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	8 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	9 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
12	13	14 <b>Spring Pictures</b> 	15	16  <b>Wear Green!</b>
19	20 <b>Western Day</b> 	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PD Day

# May 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> PD Day
24 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Victoria Day	25	26	27	28 <b>Crazy Hair Day</b> 
31				