

The Paw Print



R.I. Baker Middle School May 2021 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Happy Spring! It is so awesome to see some nice weather! During a time where a pandemic and it's restrictions can take so much away, I would like to focus this message on how we can give back.

RIBMS staff and students are going to spend the rest of the year trying to give back to the Coaldale community. With a population of almost 9000 residents, we have the opportunity to make a big impact starting with ourselves. We have committed to provide 5 different platforms to make a difference in Coaldale, and all we ask is we all take part when we can and spread the positivity.

Coaldale is a great community with lots of amazing people and businesses. Let's support each other, spread positive vibes, and teach our youth valuable lessons in the process.

See below for project dates and descriptions and how we can all do our part to make our wonderful community even better, and celebrate the accomplishments that came before us! If you have any questions on how you can participate feel free to call me at the school anytime!

Thank you,

Mr. Prebs



IMPORTANT DATES:

May 5 - Wally's Lunch

May 11 - RIMBS Parent Council Mtg 6:30

May 12 - Wiebe's Lunch

May 13 - Baker Community Cleanup

May 18 - KAHS Gr. 9 Virtual Information night

May 19 - A1 Lunch

May 21 - NO SCHOOL PD Day

May 24 - NO SCHOOL Victoria Day

May 25 - Baker Online Art Auction

May 26 - Coaldale Bakery Lunch

May 28 - Crazy Hair Day

R.I. Baker Middle School

Caring for CommUNITY Project



As we navigate through this school year, it is easy for students and staff to focus on the things we cannot do. We are choosing to focus on some things we can do to make our community a better place. We want to give back to the town we live in! For the rest of the school year we would like to do our part in recognizing our glass may be half full, but there is room to add to it.

During the next 10 weeks we have made it our project to bring our community even closer together and fill the buckets of others. Our goal is to help locals thrive during a time where it is sometimes difficult to. This is a community challenge...let's rise up and do our part on these FIVE special days!

Wednesday, April 28th

The Bakerfly Effect - We are going to publicly challenge community members to make another human happy on this day. This could be in the form of:

- Kind words
- A helping hand
- A gift of thanks
- Helping a community member in need
- Any random act of kindness



We ask that our community spend this day taking care of each other in all ways possible. One day can make many future days different. We will have an online forum on our website to anonymously celebrate the great ideas and acts of kindness that take place. Our hope is one day may turn into more! If someone makes your day...pay it forward!

Thursday, May 13th

Community Clean up - On this day our entire school will do our part to help make our town a better place. Each class in the school will have a dedicated area of the town to clean up. We challenge other community members to get outside and do the same. If we all put in a small amount of time and effort we can make a big difference. Let's see what we can do Coaldale!



Tuesday, May 25th

R.I. Baker Online Art Auction to Support Local Businesses - Student art will be polished, framed and put up for auction online. R.I. Baker will take the winning bids from each piece and purchase a gift card from a local business with 100% of the funds. Auction winners will get to have a local student piece of art, as well as a local gift card to spend. It is a WIN - WIN - WIN!!!



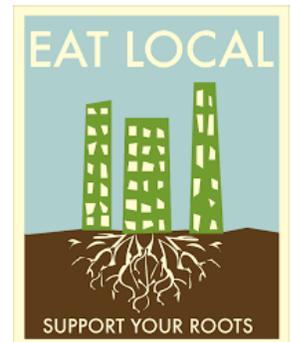
Monday, June 7th



Local Hero Drive Thru - On this day RIBMS will hold a drive thru starting at 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Any Coaldale community member can drive through our bus loop, pick up a hot dog and chips to go, and receive a Local Hero Card. Visitors will get a BBQ'd meal accompanied with a student celebrated local hero to learn about. Meals and cards will be prepared and packaged in a sanitized and COVID friendly way.

Monday, June 21st

EAT Lunch Local Challenge! - In lieu of our postponed annual Turkey Dinner, R.I. Baker Middle School will support local restaurants by feeding our entire school through local businesses only. We understand how restrictions have made a huge impact on our local establishments. We would like to do our part to help! On this day students will enjoy lunch from local restaurants and we challenge all Coaldale residents to do the same! Let's all eat great food and make someone's day!



Let's come together on these 5 days to make a difference in a community that we all love!



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Mr. Prebushewski made some visits mid April to Jennie Emery Elementary and Sunnyside School to “Meet and Greet” Grade 4 students that may be coming to R.I. Baker next year. This was an excellent opportunity to address any questions or concerns the students may have had regarding “Middle School” and all that entails.



Due to Covid restrictions, R.I. Baker will have a virtual “New Student Orientation” this year. Please watch your email, R.I. Baker website and the R.I. Baker Facebook page for further information regarding this promotional event!

***STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING R.I. BAKER FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Parents, as we plan for classes next year and look into staffing for the fall, could you please let us know ASAP if your child or children, grades 5-8, will not be attending RIBMS in the fall. Thank you!

PARENT COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is on May 11 at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

Please watch the RIBMS website to access the link for the meeting.

Thank you to all of those that have contributed their time and effort to the School Council this year! We encourage all parents who are interested in hearing about upcoming events at RI Baker and would like to provide input into their child’s education to virtually attend.



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Mr. Conrad is excited to announce that we will be offering an opportunity for grade 7 and 8 band students to start an after school band for May and June. Students were asked to express their intentions on Google Classroom; to join, or not to join?

Once numbers are finalized, Mr. Conrad will send an email to families to let them know which day of the week your child will be able to participate in the after school band program for his/her grade level. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Conrad via email. travis.conrad@pallisersd.ab.ca



ATHLETICS

BADMINTON CLUB

Thank you to everyone that participated in our badminton club. We saw a lot of growth in every player. We are hopeful that you will be able to apply those skills next year.



Special thank yous goes to Mr. Clifton, Ms. Hardy, Ms. Smart, Mrs. Kabi, Mr. Hornung, Miss De Jager and Mrs. Leusink for volunteering their time to coach.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB AND BASKETBALL CLUB

RI Baker will be running a volleyball club May 3rd to May 21st then basketball club May 25th to June 11th. Students will sign up online and remain in their class cohorts, the same as badminton. Information will be on the Baker website and the athletics website. We look forward to seeing students playing these sports again.



RI BAKER TRACK & FIELD MEET

As part of the physical education curriculum, we are excited to say that the annual R.I. Baker Track and Field Meet will occur. This year students will walk to Kate Andrews for the meet. To comply with COVID guidelines, students will run in their class cohorts, with their times being compared for placing. Field events will have proper spacing and cleaning between students. Each event will be taught in PE then students will have the opportunity to choose three events they would like to compete in.

The dates of the meets are:

Grade 5 - June 14th
Grade 6 - June 15th
Grade 7 - June 16th
Grade 8 - June 17th



Due to the unpredictable weather of Southern Alberta please make sure your child has adequate clothing for the day. Sunscreen, hats and water are a must even if the morning starts out cool. All students will be participating so please make sure they have proper clothing and footwear.

If you are available to volunteer to help with any of these meets or any time during these meets, please contact Mrs. Leusink for more information. We're looking forward to an amazing week!

YEARBOOK

YearBooks are still available to order at \$30 per copy. Please check your School Cash Online account to purchase your copy today. **Orders can still be made up until Monday, May 24th.**

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!

TEACHER REQUESTS

Late each spring, the JEES and RI Baker school administrators meet with the grade level teachers and our learning support teachers to place students in classrooms for the following year. Much deliberation goes into these assignments. Some of the things we consider include:

- Student needs - Learning assistant assignments
- Academic balance
- Behavior needs
- Class size
- Student relationships.

We create classes within each grade that are as similar as possible to each other. Many parent requests for a specific teacher, or to be with friends, make it very difficult to accomplish this. For this reason, parent requests for specific teachers, or to be with friends, will not be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Prebushewski at 403-345-3340.



ART CLUB

Art club is still going strong! We had an Earth and Environment theme during the month of April, and the theme for May will be artists of the Renaissance!

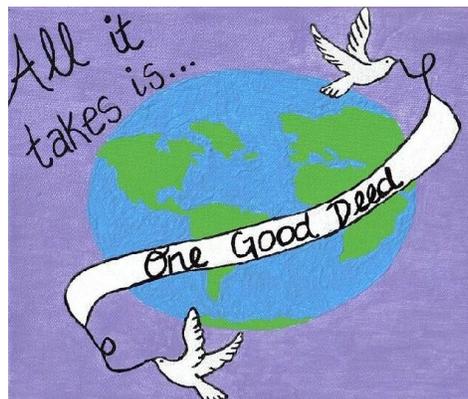


HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

**SUPPORT
LOCAL
BUSINESS**

Our “support local” approach to Hot Lunch this year has been well received by students and staff alike! Coaldale’s restaurants have done a fantastic job at providing a safe and convenient meal option for our RIBMS families - **THANK YOU!**

Thank you also, to Mrs. Suzana Neufeld for volunteering and helping this program be successful!



GRADE 5 POD

We would like to wish all mothers out there, a very happy "Mother's Day."

Language Arts

We have finished up our study of the novel, *Silverwing*, by Kenneth Oppel. Forming great paragraphs has been the focus of our writing units using mentor texts from the *Who Would Win?* series.. We will continue this by writing persuasive paragraphs about specific creatures and whether they should be perceived as a 'friend' or a 'foe' this month.

Social Studies 5A/5B

In May, students will be wrapping up the Arctic region with presentations they have put together highlighting their knowledge of the landforms, First Nations, resources and climate. From here we will travel to the Cordillera and Interior Plains regions to compare and contrast these two final regions on our exploration of Canada's geographical regions.

Social 5C/5D

We are one week into the Cordillera Region and hope to have it concluded a few days before the May long weekend. At that point we will jump into the formation of Canada as a nation, and explore some of the major events, or people who helped shape Canada into the strong vibrant country it is today.

Science C and D: We started our Electricity and Magnetism Unit mid April and have been investigating hazards with electricity in the home, as well as how protons, neutrons and electrons operate within an Atom. We will be planning to build individual circuits towards the end of May.

Math C and D: We have started our measurement unit where we will learn about linear measurement; (cm, m, km), capacity; (mL and L), as well as volume; (cm³ and m³). This includes learning about perimeter and area including right angles and creating different types of rectangles. We will wrap up the month with a fun project where students will plan, design, and build their own zoos!

Science 5A/B: We have started our last unit this year, Chemistry. The students will explore the properties of matter and how different substances react to each other. Students will get to complete experiments with different materials and create mixtures.

Math 5A/B: We will be moving onto motion geometry where students perform movements of shapes on a grid. After that we will begin fractions. We will study how to represent, write, compare and order fractions.



GRADE 6 POD

Language Arts

6A/D - Cleland: Happy Spring all! This month in language arts our focus will be on writing. We will go over a few different grammar things with a focus on sentence structure! We will likewise review narrative and paragraph writing. To end the month we will begin on our poetry unit. I am so happy to be back in the classroom after just over two months away for surgery! Happy May.

6B/C: We will be beginning our newspaper unit this month. Students will have the opportunity to further hone their writing skills as they practice and apply their knowledge of how to synthesize information to create effective, cohesive articles. As we progress through this unit we will be reviewing elements of writing, with attention to paragraph structure, grammar and punctuation, and proper format.

Social

6A/D - Cleland: In Social, we will be finishing up our Democracy in Ancient Athens unit. We will then jump into our last big unit, the Iroquois Confederacy. Here we will learn about different First Nations tribes and how they came to decisions as a group.

6B/C: Students have learned a lot about democracy thus far, from its early roots in Ancient Athens to its modern day application at the local and provincial levels. This month we will be finishing our unit on Ancient Athens, the birthplace of democracy, before turning our attention to the beginnings of democracy in Eastern Canada. This last major unit in Social Studies will focus on the Iroquois Confederacy, examining the role and application of decision making by consensus.

Science

6A/D: Students are working on their flight projects this month. Each week they will be working on a different task. They have finished their parachute task where they had to design, build, and test their parachutes. Be sure to ask them about the different tasks they're working on! Students are putting a lot of hard work into applying their learning in a hands on way!

6B/C: Now that students have explored the properties of air, Bernouilli's Principle, parachutes, hot air balloons, and paper airplanes, we will complete our Air, Aerodynamics and Flight unit by learning about how birds and insects fly. Once we finish this unit, we will move on to the start of our final unit of the year: Evidence and Investigation. In this unit, students will explore and interpret a variety of "evidence", including footprints, handwriting samples, ink samples, and fingerprints.

Math

6B/C: Students are now ready to start the Measurement unit, where we will explore angles and angle relationships, perimeter, the area of rectangles and squares, and the volume of rectangular prisms. Students will need a protractor for this unit. We will then move onto our Multiplication and Division of Decimals unit in late May. Some students have lost or broken their calculators. Please ask your child if his/her calculator needs to be replaced, as this will be an important tool for the rest of the school year.

GRADE 7 POD

Language Arts

7A and 7B: We are in the middle of our research unit Our Stories, Our Voices. Students are picking a person, place or event of their choice that is historically significant to Canada. They will create an informational text, with images, that will teach and inform their target audience about their chosen topic.

7C and 7D: The C's and D's have recently completed a mini-unit on the Holocaust as an introduction to the novel The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas will serve as our "mentor text" and students will then have the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned in class to their own personal choice of novel.

Social

7A and 7B: As we begin the month of May, students will be completing chapter 8 and writing a unit test on the Road to Confederation (chapters 5-8). We will then move into Chapter 9 that focuses on the Red River Metis uprisings and Louis Riel. We are privileged to have some Metis Elders visit us this month and show us a bit of the Alberta Metis culture and how post-confederation issues have affected them.

7C and 7D: Students have just wrapped up the Road to Confederation unit in Social Studies and are looking forward to a more in depth look at the Red River Metis uprisings, as well as the life of Louis Riel in chapter 9. Lessons, notes, video clips, etc., will be available for students on Google Classroom as they are covered in class.

Science

Students will be beginning our fifth and final unit by the end of this month, which is Structures and Forces. Students will investigate the properties of materials being used to build structures, and test these materials under different loads and forces. They will examine the different ways that structural components are configured and investigate strength and stability. Students will also learn how science and technology link together in developing safe and efficient designs that meet human needs.

Math

In May students will be finishing unit 7 which focuses on data analysis and probability. Here, using mean, median, mode, and range, they will collect, display and analyze data to solve problems. They will also dive into unit 8 which focuses on geometry and measurement! This will have students performing geometric constructions as well as exploring coordinate planes and transformations of shapes.



GRADE 8 POD

Language Arts (Netzel 8B & 8D): We are still in the midst of our literature study unit. For a good part of May, we will be continuing with *Freak the Mighty*. Students are engaging in class discussions about analyzing plot elements, identifying figurative and literary devices, recognizing themes, and will start preparing for the unit culminating activity. Happy Mother's Day to all of you awesome moms of our students!

Language Arts (Smith 8A & 8C): We are working our way through our persuasive writing unit where students are learning the power of language, images and music when it comes to persuasion. We have studied propaganda, advertising (commercials and billboards) as well as social media. We are building towards our end project where students will be asked to create a product and create an advertisement campaign that encompasses a commercial, a magazine ad and a social media presence. None of these things will be published anywhere and students are not required to use any form of social media in class to complete this project.

Social (Smith 8A & 8C; McDougall/Clifton 8B and 8D): We have begun our journey through the Japan Unit. Students will learn about Japan's geography as well as their way of life before the Americans came. This is known as the Edo Period in Japan and this time period really illustrates the foundations of the Japanese culture.

Science: Our primary focus in May will be on Light & Optics. When learning about light, students will 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.

Math: We will complete Chapter 6: Prisms & Cylinders before the long weekend in May. Then, we will tackle our final chapter in Math: Chapter 8. This chapter will focus on Geometry. Specifically, students will investigate tessellations and will conclude with a project as its overall assessment.





A Virtual Parent Info Night for parents of incoming KAHS Gr.9 students will be held on May 11th @7:15pm.



This will be a welcome to the KAHS school community, where they will go over some important information and provide time for parents to ask any questions they might have, as their child makes the transition into senior high school.

Current RIBMS Grade 8 parents should receive an invite from KAHS by email, however, if any parents do not receive the invite, please contact Jo-Anna Meurs directly at KAHS.

Jo-Anna Meurs, B.Sc., B.Ed.
Career and Academic Counsellor
Kate Andrews High School (403) 345-3383



We know that 2020/21 has been a time of uncertainty and as parents, it has been a challenge to find a balance in keeping our children safe while supporting fun and physical activity with their peers. The Lethbridge Ringette Association has been able to continue to offer great on-ice experiences within the guidelines set by both the City of Lethbridge and the provincial government. Normally, we can invite families to attend a Come Try Ringette event to allow you and your children to get a sense of what to expect. However, considering current events, we would invite you to check out our website at <https://www.lethbridgeringette.ca> where in addition to finding relevant information, you can also watch a promotional video produced for us by tourism Lethbridge. We hope to see you at the rink in September!

The Coaldale Spartans football program will be holding their annual spring camp on **Friday May 28th from 1pm to 4pm** and **Saturday May 29th from 10 am to 3 pm**. It is free to participate. Any students interested in coming out to try a new sport or experienced players wanting to get back into it before the upcoming season are encouraged to come out. The camp will consist of drills and skills specific to different positions in football and potentially some flag games on the Saturday.

Players are encouraged to bring cleats, a mouth guard and their own water. We will be designing the camp with COVID-19 protocols in place. We were able to have a successful season last fall and there were no cases of COVID transmission linked back to any football practices or games for the entire season in fall of 2020. Players can check the Coaldale Spartans Community Facebook page for more details in the coming weeks. Thank you and we hope to see as many of you out as possible!



Thank you,
The Coaldale Spartans Football Program

May 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5 Wally's Lunch	6	7
10	11 RIBMS Parent Council Mtg 6:30pm KAHS Virtual Parent Info Night 7:15pm	12 Wiebe's Lunch	13 RIBMS Community Clean Up Day	14
17	18	19 A1 Lunch	20	21 NO SCHOOL PD Day
24 NO SCHOOL Victoria Day	25 RIBMS Online Art Auction	26 Coaldale Bakery Lunch	27	28 Crazy Hair Day 
31				

June 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7 RIBMS Local Hero BBQ Drive Thru	8	9	10	11
14	15	16 Sunglasses Day 	17	18
21 National Indigenous Peoples Day RIBMS Eat Lunch Local Challenge	22	23	24	25 Last Day of School
28	29	30	 <p>Have an awesome Summer!</p>	