

The Paw Print

R.I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Important

Dates:

September 8—Library opens for the school year

September 9—Meet the Teacher (5:30-7:30)

September 9—Parent Meeting for Volleyball (7:30)

September 18—Picture Day

September 23—LSAA Cross Country meet



WELCOME BACK TO RIBMS 2015/2016!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning families as well as those that are new RIBMS. It is our hope that you have seized the chance to reenergize over the summer and are excited and ready for what we know will be a great new year.

This newsletter is intended to supplement the regular end of month newsletter as we felt there were some important dates and activities that we wanted to make you aware of sooner than later. Newsletters will be sent at the end of each month. Please stay tuned throughout the year for all the wonderful happenings at R I Baker.

This year we are proud to introduce a group of dedicated educational professionals who are eager to contribute to the RIBMS team. Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members:

Miss. Lindsey Hagen—Vice Principal/Grade 6

Mr. Brody Turnbull—Grade 7

Mr. Michael Willems—Grade 6

Miss. McKenna Golding—Grade 5

Mrs. Jodi Pilling -Educational Assistant

Our Website & Twitter Accounts:

We'd like to remind everyone that RIBMS, as well as all schools in the Palliser School District, have websites. Copies of our newsletters, homework assignments, teacher contact info & upcoming special events are all examples of what you can find on our website. Check it out at www.ribms.ca

This September we have also launched a twitter feed at are now live at [@RIBMS](https://twitter.com/RIBMS). Please feel invited to follow us and join in the conversation on Twitter as we strive to enhance our communication channels with staff, students, families and the community of Coaldale.

MEET THE TEACHER

We hope to see you at our Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 5:30-7:30.

Staff will be serving up burgers from 5:30-6:30. Following dinner there will be an opportunity to visit with teachers in their classrooms and our evening will conclude with an assembly hosted by Mr. Prebushewski at 7:00.

Principals Message

As the new principal of RI Baker Middle School, I welcome you to the start of the 15-16 school year! I am eagerly anticipating a successful and rewarding school year. I am very excited to work at a school that will radiate of school pride and respect. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff, parents and community to provide an exceptional educational experience for all Baker students.

For those of you who I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting, please allow me to introduce myself. For the last two years I have served as the Vice Principal at RI Baker Middle school. I have learned a lot about the school and community and I am very excited to watch this school grow in all areas. Before my time at RI Baker I was Vice Principal at Coalhurst Elementary. I have a wonderful and supportive wife and two very busy boys that keep me running from rink to rink.

I recognize the start of middle school can signal feelings of both excitement and trepidation, and I thank you for entrusting your children to the RIBMS staff. We do not take lightly our responsibility in ensuring your children experience a highly-engaging educational experience in a safe and nurturing environment, and we are thrilled to partner with our families as they turn the page to the next chapter in their children's academic story.

I am excited and honored to be a part of the RI Baker Middle School team for what I know will be an amazing school year. Those who know me know that I truly have an open door policy, and I welcome your questions, concerns, and input at any time throughout the school year.

Proud to be a Baker Bear,

Jason Prebushewski

ONLINE PAYMENTS COMING SOON!

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. School related expenses are will be online soon for you to make payment.

Parents please register!

Here's how:

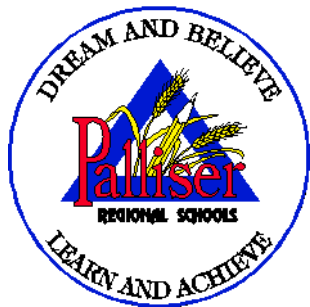


Step 1: Go to this website: <https://palliserregional.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

Thank you parents



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

#101, 3305 - 18 Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 5S1

Phone: 403-328-4111 Toll-free: 877-667-1234

Fax: 403-380-6890 www.pallisersd.ab.ca

September 2015

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to a new school year!

This year Palliser Regional Schools is committed to continuing our literacy journey, as reflected in our continued theme “Leadership in Literacy.”

How we support students to achieve literacy and the critical thinking skills they need is a complex recipe, and each of us — students, parents, teachers, support staff — can contribute key ingredients to the mix. Identifying those key factors of success was the focus of two important conversations in our division over the past few years. The first was “A Community Conversation,” held in May 2012, when students, parents, staff and others gathered for Palliser’s first division-wide stakeholder meeting. The follow-up, “A Community Conversation 2015,” was held in May.

Over the course a very short and productive afternoon, we talked in small table groups, sharing experiences and ideas from our own schools and communities. We had students at almost every table sharing their insights. We had representation from every corner of our large and unique division.

As a starting point we reviewed the factors of success identified by participants in the 2012 session. None of those factors, participants told us, were any less vital in 2015. One glaring omission was identified — leadership. One suggestion was that all the factors of success are so interconnected and interdependent that they should be displayed as a web, rather than a list. (You can download the final report at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/download/34404>.)

Interestingly, Palliser already has such a web. We call it our Effectiveness Model. Through concentric circles, we reflect expectations for students, teachers, principals and myself, as Superintendent. The outer ring is the Board of Trustees and their role in establishing vision, policies and a culture of accountability.

The document is rich with information, drawing from Board policy, the ministerial order on student learning, teaching quality standards and decades of Effective Schools research. While not every employee group is represented by name, every person in Palliser should see their role reflected in the circles, as either directly supportive of the teacher and/or principal or part of the organizational leadership that keeps our school system functioning in support of our students.

Parents should also be reassured at the significance of community relationships and partnerships between home, school and community at all levels that is critical to student success.

Working together this year, we will support every student to the highest level of success possible. There’s room for everyone in Palliser. Find yourself on our Effectiveness Model (<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/download/17560>) and let’s provide that supportive web for all of our students.

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent

Palliser Regional Schools



Athletics

VOLLEYBALL

LSAA and County teams have now been selected for both boys and girls. Try outs were very well attended and we would like to thank all of the students who came out and did their best. We are looking forward to watching and cheering on our volleyball teams this year.



Stay tuned for more details about club volleyball.



CROSS COUNTRY

Mr. Tonin and Mrs. Vegter are hosting a cross country running club that goes on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-4:00.

Everyone is welcome to join!

Volunteers Needed!

- Our school canteen is now open. We are currently looking for individuals who like to volunteer. If you may be interested in shopping for supplies or assisting during our busy lunch time rush please contact the office. Hot lunches will be starting in October; please stay tuned for more information regarding those meals.
- Our annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 25th here in Coal-dale. This event helps support Pod Parties, fieldtrips, and all those little extras to enrich the learning experiences of our Bears. We will need parents to help with patrolling cross-walks, and walking or running with students. Again, please contact the office if you are able to support us in this event.

September 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 First Day of School	2	3	4	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL Labour Day	8 Library opens Beginner Band Clinic @ RIBMS (4-6)	9 Meet the Teacher (5:30-7:30) Parent Volleyball Meeting (7:30) Beginner Band Clinic @ St. Joe's (5:30-7:30)	10 Grade 7/8 Hockey students on ice	11	12
13	14 Grade 5/6 Hockey students on ice	15	16	17	18 Picture Day <i>Birds of Prey Volleyball Tournament</i>	19
20	21	22	23 LSAA Cross Country	24	25 Walk-a-thon <i>Little Storm Volleyball Tournament</i>	26
27	28	29	30			



Nurture with Nature!



Reconnecting teens with nature has been shown to help them focus in school, boost a positive attitude and increase physical activity. Youth are certainly losing touch with the outdoors—a Canadian study shows that the number of children and youth who play outside at school decreases from 87% to 17% between grades 3 and 11. Seventy percent of youth spend an hour or less outdoors daily.

The effects of exposing and connecting teens to nature are widespread and valuable. Older children who spend more time outside are not only more physically active but also have healthier body weights. Physical activity in outdoor environments improves mental health even more than in other settings and this makes less irritable teenagers.

These improvements in mood and outlook can contribute to better body image and self esteem. Consistent, positive relationships also exist between students' exposure to nature, test scores and graduation rates.

How can parents help:

- Involve your teen in planning—hikes, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, camping. A personal investment is a powerful way to help connect teens to the natural world around them.
- A garden of their own can help provide youth with structure as they compete with pressures from all areas of their lives. Control over what gets cultivated and maintenance of the fruits of their labor offers both physical and mental outlets.
- Advocate for more time outside for your teens at school, be it through extra gym classes outside or making outdoor learning a part of other class lessons.

For more information and ideas, visit the Children and Nature Network at www.childrenandnature.org.

Does your child's school have an AMA Youth Run Club?

The Alberta Medical Association (AMA) and Ever Active Schools have brought a free, award-winning program for school-aged children to Alberta schools. We can provide your school with resources and support – from scratch or to enrich an existing run club. Learn about how to get your child's school involved at www.everactive.org/alberta-medical-association-youth-run-club.

Teen Driver Safety

Driving is a risky experience for all of us but it is most risky for teenagers in their first year of unsupervised driving. Car crashes are the leading cause of death among teens in Alberta. Not all risk is bad; risk is a necessary part of healthy teen development. It is important that teens take Smart Risks when driving. For more information on the smart risk approach visit: www.albertahealthservices.ca/4938.asp

Encourage your teen to Look First. This means being prepared to drive, every time by checking road conditions and mapping routes before they get into their car. It is also important to check tires, adjust seats and rearview mirrors before driving. Remind your teen to Buckle up, no matter how short the drive. It is the law. Teens can Get Trained by taking a driver's ed course from an unbiased expert who has years of experience teaching new drivers. Enforce with your teen that it is the law to Drive sober. Set a rule against drinking and driving.

Aside from encouraging your teen to take smart risks when driving, there are many things you can do to help keep your teen safe:

- 1) Set a good example behind the wheel by modeling the smart risk behaviours above. Always wear your seatbelt, never speed and be respectful of other drivers and pedestrians on the road.
- 2) In addition to driver's ed, teach your teen how to drive under your supervision in low risk conditions before moving up to more risky situations.
- 3) Stay informed about Alberta's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws and start a conversation with your teen about it.
- 4) Using the [Parent/Teen Driving Agreement](#) with your teen can help you with all of these things. This agreement will help you start and keep an open, honest dialogue with your teen about their driving behaviour. It will also help you work together to set boundaries and build trust.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

Our school board is offering you the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance provides protection against unexpected costs arising from accidental injuries. The program is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, while at home and in school;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans, such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);
- Out-of-province or country emergency medical expenses.

If your address changes during the school year, your Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada.

Insurance premiums for children are \$14.50 or \$33.50 per year, depending on the plan selected. A discount is available for families with 3 or more children. Adults age 20 to 64 can also be insured for \$32.00 per year.

For more information or to apply online, please visit www.kidsplus.ca, or speak with a Kids Plus™ Client Service Administrator at **1-800-556-7411**.



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