

SPRING | MARCH 2023

THE MOUNTAINEER

Updates for the parents, guardians & students of Buck Mountain Central School



MISSION:

At Buck Mountain Central School, we passionately engage our diverse students every day by genuinely connecting and supporting them on their learning journey towards high school completion and life beyond our doors.

Message from the Principal

First semester has come and gone and we are well underway in semester 2 classes. Soon enough, the snow will melt away and spring will be upon us. What a great time for a newsletter!

In the education world, springtime is all about planning! Although much of our planning is not yet finalized, the learning calendar for the 2023-2024 school year has been set. Be sure to check it out on the WRPS website. Students will be back in school August 30, 2023.

Another important aspect of planning is gathering information from parents, guardians, students, and staff. We are currently completing the Alberta Education Assurance Survey as staff and students at the school. Grade 7 and 10 students are surveyed, and parents and guardians of these students receive an invitation to participate in the survey through the mail. If you need a desktop computer to complete the survey, we are opening up our computer lab/library to families on March 15th during Parent Teacher Interviews. The survey closes on March 17th.

Registration for next year is now online if families would like to get started on that. Follow the links on our website. Students will be given the opportunity to make course selections and request options classes online via PowerSchool in April. Parents and guardians will also be able to see the student requests screen on their PowerSchool Portal; notice will be sent out to families when the request screens are activated.

We would also like to keep our community informed of recent staffing changes: In February we welcomed Mr. Durose back to the BMC team; he is taking on some ELA classes, Literacy 8 and 9, as well as junior computers. This has caused some transitions for other teachers, with the greater picture in mind given upcoming maternity leaves. Speaking of which, this week Mrs. Spruyt has started her Maternity Leave; we can't wait to meet Baby Spruyt! Miss Harden has joined our team full time, taking over a few of Mrs. Spruyt's classes, as well as planning to transition to Miss Neumann's classes in April. As you know, I will begin my Maternity Leave mid-April, which means that Mr. York will be taking on the role of Principal and Miss Neumann the role of Vice Principal. Additionally, we are welcoming Mr. Bearisto to the BMC team, part time as a supply teacher, to cover the role Miss Harden was filling. Congratulations to all staff who are taking on new roles and classes, we are confident that all changes made are in the best interest of all students, setting them up for success this semester.

Career Counselor Update

Students from Buck Mountain had the opportunity to attend a post secondary fair, hosted by Breton High School, a school part of Wild Rose School Division, on March 8. Our school success coach, Judy Miller, hyped the event to our high school students and let them sign up on their own. In the end, she had a full busload of kids. Thirteen post secondary institutions were at the fair to answer questions and provide information with respect to further education. The students found the afternoon to be very informative and many had to be pushed out the doors to make it back to BMC for the afternoon buses. They went home with many pamphlets and swag from prospective colleges and universities.

We are consistently looking for new opportunities to prepare students for life beyond high school, and this was a fantastic opportunity to let them see 'what's out there'. We are incredibly thankful for Breton High School for extending an offer to participate. While we may be a part of two different school divisions, moments like these are a way to remind us that "they are all our students", and that our learning community is larger than we see.

Any students interested in a career in the natural resource sector. The Junior Forest Ranger program is a paid summer job that exposes students to careers in this area. The work projects may include trail building, stream assessments, wildfire clean up, flora and fauna identification and much more. Crew members must be 16 -18 years old, in good physical health and prepared to live and work outdoors. If this is something you might be interested in please contact Mrs. Miller for application information or visit www.albertajfr.ca. Applications close on April 1st.



Graduation 2023

Graduation Convocation and Banquet will be held on May 26th, 2023.

Our next parent and student meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15th at 7 pm at BMC. This meeting we will discuss the program for convocation, academic awards, and process for nominating speakers at the event.

The school is hosting convocation and the grad class is hosting the banquet. We view these two events, while organized and funded separately, as a complementary celebration for our graduates and their great accomplishment. The grad class has been fundraising to support the banquet event, so keep an eye out for information around the community for opportunities to support the grad class with costs associated with hosting the banquet.

Our individual graduation photos will happen on March 17th, a PLC day. Students have been signing up for time slots and parent phone calls are coming home to support anyone who has not yet made an appointment.

Finally, the date to be eligible for convocation is May 5th, 2023, meaning by that date all students need to be on track for graduation, which means passing grades, completion of work experience hours, and completion of learning commons credits. This is also the deadline to pay the \$50 Convocation fee. On this date, any outstanding fees will mean that the student is not participating in convocation at BMC. Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding how to pay this fee.

Inclusion Update

Second semester is well underway and the activity days combined with snow days have made it a bit more turbulent than usual. With so many disruptions to learning, it can become difficult to keep track of due dates and assignments. Students and families should continue to check their PowerSchool and Google Classroom for updates to classes, especially in the event of absences during regular school days. Email is also a quick and convenient way to get in touch with teachers for a little extra help or clarification.

We are just halfway through quarter 3, which means that the semester is about 25% complete. With this in mind, it is a great time for students to check in with their teachers on their progress. By asking for study strategies or tips for improvement now, students are giving themselves plenty of time to change things up for success. I am always available to chat if parents or students are seeing learning concerns beyond this.

Lastly, Individual Program Plans are being updated for new classes in Semester 2. If your child has an IPP, you will be asked to review goals made by teachers to support their learning. Parent Teacher Interviews in an excellent time for this process, and also lends itself well to speak with teachers about the learning needs of your child. Parent Teacher Interviews are Wednesday, March 15, but the process will be ongoing if you are unable to attend.

Hockey Hooky

On March 2nd, Buck Mountain Central School & Pigeon Lake Regional School hosted an outdoor hockey game in Falun to support the Ben Stelter Fund.

We welcomed both players and spectators with a donation to the cause and our Buck Mountain community did not disappoint. The game raised almost \$4000.00 for the Ben Stelter Fund with Buck Mountain raising \$1,471! We would thank everyone who made a donation to this amazing cause and a special thank you to some of our community business:

Slingin' dirt contracting
All Choice Rentals
Miller Animal Control

Thank you to Neil Brown from PLACE, Craig Brooks from Pigeon Lake Regional and Tim Stewart and Eric Wolney for organizing. It was an amazing day of hockey, cheering and sunshine and we hope to make this an annual event!



Learning Team Updates

BMC Learning Teams Update:

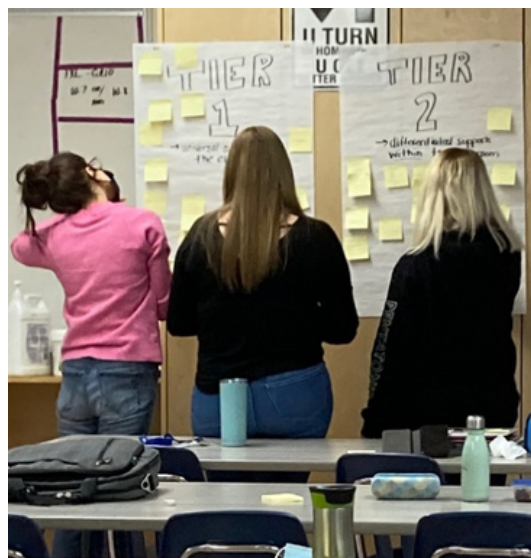
As we have celebrated before, BMC staff learning teams are doing great things for our school. Here is a quick update about what the teams have been up to:

Literacy: All grade 7-10 students have recently completed a Star Reading assessment (online reading test) to capture their progress from the start of the year. The results are used to inform instruction, in addition to providing data for reading groups during directed learning. Our BMC Literacy Team has begun a pilot reading incentive program for a lucky group of students. They are doing a month long reading challenge, working with parents and caregivers to set up reading goals and will wrap up the program with a chance to win reading prizes. The intent is to work out the details of what a school wide reading incentive program could look like at BMC. Finally, an ongoing project for this learning team has been to select a book for “One School, One Book” in the 2023-2024 school year. We are please to announce that Cenovus Energy has agreed to fund this project and every student and teacher will receive a copy of the selected book at the start of next school year. This is a targeted strategy to support a love of reading and support a positive sense of sense of belonging initiatives in the school.

Numeracy: Our Numeracy team continues to bring “Thinking Tasks” to directed learning for students in grade 7-10 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, which on occasion also happen in math classes. These tasks are associated with the book “Building Thinking Classrooms in K-12 Mathematics” by Peter Liljedahl which has been a learning resource our numeracy teachers have been engaged with since the fall. We believe all students are able to be successful in math classes, at all levels. The work we are doing to support students in being good problem solvers, thinking about numeracy challenges in different ways, and working collaboratively with other students in the class, especially when they are able to show their thinking on a whiteboard for the whole class to see has are well researched and proven strategies to improve learning.

Sense of Belonging: Our sense of belonging learning team continues to plan weekly activities for Mustangs in Action groups. This dedicated time during directed learning each Friday ensures that there is built-in time in our weekly schedule to connect with and sustain meaningful relationships with students. Our hope is that the mini lessons are engaging and empower students on their learning journey toward high school completion. Additionally this learning team plans many of our school wide activities, for example Hockey Hooky.

As a whole school learning team, we have also been dedicating time on PLC days to develop a continuum of supports. This involves all staff working together to identify supports that are effective and areas that we need to continue searching for more effective supports. It is meaningful work that ultimately benefits BMC students.



Badminton

Jr. Badminton will be kicking off this week with the first practice on Tuesday, March 14th from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. All Junior High students are welcome to attend.

We are looking for a Senior High Coach for this season, if you are interested in coaching please contact the school at bm@wrps11.ca or 780-388-3900



SOARING GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

ATTENTION ALL BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL STUDENTS!

WOULD YOU LIKE A SAY IN HOW TO SPEND \$3000 IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

JOIN US AT PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 15TH FROM 4-7

FREE PROVIDED SNACKS:

- POPCORN
- CANDY



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

March

- 15th - Parent Teacher Interviews - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 15th - Soaring Grant Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
- 15th - Parent Graduation Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 16th - Student Council Dance - 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
- 17th - No School, PLD Day
- 17th - Graduation Photo Day

April 24th - 31st - Spring Break, No School

April

- 6th - PAC Movie Night
- 7th - No School, Good Friday
- 10th - No School, Easter Monday
- 28th - No School, PLC Day \