

NEW YEAR EDITION

THE MOUNTAINEER

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

Dear Parents & Guardians,

2021 has arrived - Happy New Year! Once again our hallways and classrooms are quiet, but we were happy to see so many students online! We are looking forward to having everyone back in person next Monday, January 11.

January is always a good month for learning. Students are well settled into their classrooms and are nearing completion of Quarter 2/Semester 1. Now we are well into Term two and the learning journey continues. Thank you to our teachers for their hard work in preparing for and delivering online learning since the end of November. Though they were not given much more notice of this transition than in the spring, teachers have prepared for this scenario throughout this school year. I have regularly attended Meets in all classes and we had great attendance and engagement! Students are happy to see their teachers and are engaged in their learning. We appreciate the support families are providing our students as we journey through this together. Please contact your student's teachers if you have any questions.

We are excited to have students return to in-school classes Monday, January 11. Upon their return, we will continue to focus on the four priorities for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Keep students and staff safe
2. Lower anxiety about our 'new normal'
3. Make students laugh & feel cared about
4. Teach students something

We would like to welcome Miss Kaitlyn Erickson to our BMC staff! Miss Erickson will be filling in for Mrs. Morgan Spruyt while she is off on maternity leave. We wish Mrs. Spruyt all the best!

Final Exams for Quarter 2/Semester 1 will take place January 27 & 28 during class time.

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We will be having a Grad Meeting for grade 12 students and parents Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 pm. In addition, our next Parent Advisory Committee meeting (all parents/guardians are welcome to attend!) will be on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm. These will both be Zoom meetings. Please email or contact the school at 780-388-3900 or bm@wrps11.ca to let us know if you want the link to attend either of these meetings.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of BMC. We are so fortunate to work with our Mustangs!

Sincerely,
Jon Meyers

NOTE FROM MISS TOWNSEND

As you know, beginning on November 30, students began engaging in online, at home. While transitioning online has not been without challenges, we are very proud of students, families, and school staff who have demonstrated their resiliency and commitment to learning.

Regardless of how students are accessing their learning, online or in person, it is important to remember that school staff are here to help. If you, as a student or caregiver, are experiencing difficulties with students' academics, and the many things that come along with it, it is essential that the classroom teacher is the first contact for support. This individual will be best situated to determine what supports are necessary and know who to refer students to or seek support from, if the challenge extends beyond their classroom. At BMC, we are deeply passionate about setting students up for success.

Much like our students, classroom teachers and educational assistants have met the changes this school year head on, with a grace and determination that is to be admired. We know this will continue into the new year. No matter the challenges ahead, we will face them together. If you've noticed that any particular staff member has made a positive impact on learning, you are encouraged to reach out to let them know. Words of encouragement and expressions of gratitude are powerful, especially during an uncertain time like this.

It may be of interest to students and families to know that our attendance data indicates that students stayed engaged in their learning over the time we have been in at home learning. We did see approximately a 3% increase in absences while classes have been held online. Given many contextual variables, you may have expected that number to be higher; I know I certainly did. Students should be very proud of how they have responded to this change in delivery of instruction. In two grades, grade 8 and grade 12, attendance data indicates a decrease in absences! That is extraordinary!

January is a great time to review student gradebooks on PowerSchool. If you are not sure about your login information, please contact the school office. If you are a student, it is your 5 digit ID number and your password that you use to check your email!

Speaking of email, during online learning students may or may not have stayed on top of their inboxes. As many of you know, Google Classroom sends automated email updates when information, assessments, or course materials are posted. Unfortunately this is not a setting teachers can adjust, it is just how the program works. We advise students to use a priority inbox to eliminate the clutter, sending all emails from Google Classroom to a separate inbox. Check out how to do that on your own [here](#).

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Lastly, a reminder that quarter 2 and semester 1 will be ending soon. With the change of quarters, student schedules will also change. Those are available in PowerSchool and will be distributed directly to students in the last week of January. Quarter 3 begins on February 1st. This will last until the start of Quarter 4 on April 20th. Junior high students were all emailed options selections forms, please ensure these are completed as soon as students are able. Senior high students have already made these selections. Change to schedules will be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact the office to engage in this discussion, where you will be directed to the appropriate person to speak with.

This year has been so very unique, it does not feel like we should already be preparing for the second half of the school year. Regardless of how students engage in learning, it will certainly be a school year we will all remember. Let's make the effort to experience as many positive moments as possible while we navigate this journey together.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

There are several dual credit courses that you can take in the second semester! Some highlights include Intro to Veterinary Profession, Horticulture, Intro to Psychology, and Medical Terminology.

Please take a look at the courses available and if you are interested and meet the prerequisites, you can apply by filling out the WRPS Application and the College application form. All applications MUST be in by Wednesday, January 13th.

[WRPS Dual Credit Courses 2021](#)

[WRPS Dual Credit Application Form](#)

Send all applications to dual.credit@wrps11.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks,

Theresa Armstrong, M. ED, B. ED, B. PE

Vocational Coach, Wetaskiwin School Division (WRPS)

theresa.armstrong@wrps11.ca

FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON

Everyone experiences stress even at the best of times. When you add the holidays and a pandemic that feeling only intensifies. If you need help, are just looking for an outlet or would like to be connected to resources in our area; please feel free to reach out. I am available by email at Lesley.Addario@wrsp11.ca or by phone at 780 388 3900.

BMC HOLIDAY CHEER CHALLENGE

Thank you to everyone who participated in helping us count down to the holidays in our Holiday Cheer Challenge. The creativity and involvement of students and staff was just what we needed to get into the holiday spirit.

Congratulations to our winner Brayden Redman!

JR & SR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

2020 Junior High and High School Rodeos have wrapped up for the fall. These Buck Mountain Students have been very successful and are representing our school and our community very well. District 2 is a very competitive district with approximately 200 students.

Makayla Willows - 7th Barrel Racing, 12th Break Away Roping, 15th Pole Bending
Nicole Groenveld- 15th Break Away Roping, 37th Pole Bending, 28th Barrel Racing
Quinn Going Rycroft- 12th Pole Pole Bending, 15th Barrel Racing
Maya Willows - 7th Barrel Racing, 11th Goat Tying, 21st Pole Bending
Talia Willows Cross -5th Pole Bending, 13th Barrel Racing, 10th Goat Tying
Nash Loewen - 4th Bull Riding

These students will start competing again in April in hopes to qualify for the Alberta High School Rodeo finals June 4-6 in Olds and the Junior High School Rodeo Finals May 29-30 in Nanton.

Congratulations on a job well done and good luck in the spring BMC Students!!

JANUARY TEACHING

January: P̄k̄V̄r̄c̄ [kisê-p̄sim] - Great Moon

The trees are shivering off ice crystals and snow from the cold month, signaling the eagles to come make way for the other birds who will return in the spring.

Wayne P. Caron
Indigenous Support Worker
BMC, Alder Flats, Falun & Lakedell Schools

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

JANUARY

11 - Student return to in person learning
21 - Online Grad Meeting @ 7 p.m.
26 - Online Parent Advisory Meeting @ 7 p.m.
27-28 - Exam Days
28 - Quarter 2/ Semester 1 Ends
29 - No School - JESD Day

FEBRUARY

1 - Quarter 3 / Semester 2 Begins
4-5 - No School - Teachers Convention
15 - No School - Family Day
26 - No School - JESD Day

**Do you want to help your child thrive
and promote positive behavior?
Do you want to help your child avoid
risky behaviour?**

FREE PARENTING WORKSHOP

DATE: Wednesday, January 20th.

TIME: 12:15pm - 1:00pm

LOCATION: Zoom Session

(link will be sent via email the day before the workshop)

Developmental assets are the building blocks of healthy development that help children grow up caring, responsible and resilient.

You will learn about these assets as well as:

- Factors that contribute to the healthy development of children & youth.
- What you can do to help build skills, experiences and opportunities for your child.
- How building on young people's strengths can help prevent alcohol and drug abuse and other risky behaviours.

SPARC red deer

TO REGISTER: go to
www.sparcreddeer.ca

