

SPRING EDITION | MARCH 2021

THE MOUNTAINEER

Updates for the parents 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

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Almost one year ago, our world changed when in-school learning was canceled in March 2020. In March 2021, we are happy to have students in our building each day and thank students, staff, and families for their dedicated support in keeping everyone safe and healthy!

Teachers in our province virtually attended their respective teachers' conventions during the month of February. One of the sessions I attended was around helping kids develop resiliency in response to anxiety with Dr. Alex Russell. Though difficult, Dr. Russell encouraged attendees to help kids develop flow, which he defined as the middle ground between panic and boredom (rather than ping-ponging between the two extremes). He asserted this can be done by allowing kids to experience non-catastrophic failure when they are developmentally ready (for example, the parental role of homework police should end as students enter grade 7). As teachers, we want to assure you that you kids are in good hands at BMC. We recognize that they'll all have their ups and downs, but we want to work with you in addressing the learning behavior challenges they may face.

Teaching staff also engaged in professional learning around addressing learning gaps in literacy and numeracy on our February 26 JEPD Day. We looked at this through the lens of our new [WRPS Board Priorities](#) and the work that our entire WRPS leadership team is engaging in. As a staff, we are looking to determine the best path forward to address learning gaps. Through our 'sprint' goals (1-4 weeks), we are attempting different strategies as we look toward planning for next school year.

Due to a shift in district staffing, we are pleased to announce Judy Miller's role as our Success Coach has been expanded to include Vocational Coach as well. Mrs. Miller has extensive experience in this area and we are grateful for the guidance she provides our school community. We wish Mrs. Armstrong well.

Continued.

Our next Parent Advisory Committee meeting (all parents/guardians are welcome to attend!) will be on Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM as a Zoom meeting. Please email or contact the school at 780-388-3900 or bm@wrps11.ca to let us know if you would like the link to attend this meeting.

Please take the opportunity to fill out a [short survey](#) as we look towards planning for next school year. This will allow us to gather parent insight into our school. Thank you in advance.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place online March 18 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Please book online on the [Bookings](#) page of our website.

Thank you to our families for your continued support of your children's learning and our school. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jon Meyers

Update from Miss Addario

On Thursday March 18, Buck Mountain students from grade 9 to 12 will be participating in a virtual presentation from Health Canada.

The Health Canada Know More public awareness initiative aims to engage teens and young adults on the facts surrounding the opioid crisis and health risks associated with problematic opioid use.

During the sessions, student are encouraged to learn about opioids through interactive activities covering the following topics:

- What are opioids?
- What is fentanyl?
- Overdose awareness and understanding the crisis in Canada
- Signs of an overdose
- The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act
- Addressing stigma towards people who use drugs

Following the presentation, as always I will be available to support students who may have additional questions or require access to resources related to this topic or not, please feel free to reach out.

I am available by email at Lesley.Addario@wrps11.ca or by phone at 780 388 3900.

Apply to Join the "Minister's Youth Council"



Student voices are critical to our education system.

The 41 members of this year's Minister's Youth Council are sharing their diverse views with the government and contributing to Alberta's education system. While facing the challenges of COVID-19, these hard-working youth have been meeting on Zoom – a change from the in-person meetings in normal times – and continue to have many meaningful and fun experiences as they learn about and share their perspectives on topics like leadership, the education system, government, mental health, post-secondary and much more.

Looking to next year, the government announced the start of recruitment for the 2021/22 Minister's Youth Council. They are looking for approximately 40 junior and senior high school students, ages 14 to 19, with diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from all regions of Alberta. Of those 40, they will accept up to eight returning council members and at least 32 new members. The council will continue to give students the opportunity to make an impact on education, build their leadership skills at the provincial level and leave a legacy that will last well into the future.

Students can apply until March 24, 2021. For more information and instructions on how students can apply, please visit alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx.

Notes about PowerSchool - Grade and Attendance

We are now well on our way in Semester 2 and that means some students and parents may have questions about why their grades seem like they are changing a lot or not very much at all.

First off, the best way to ensure that you're seeing all of the data all of the time is to set the date range you are view to be the full year. If you are viewing the semester that works as well, but you would have to change it part way through the year. If you're viewing a highschool students' grade the specific quarter view works well enough, it is when you're viewing junior high school students' information that it can cause confusion.

Secondly if you're looking at PowerSchool, either the app or online throughout the school day, please know that attendance information is verified daily at 3:30. If there is a mistake in your child's attendance please contact the school the following day. This also goes for if you receive a SchoolMessenger call and have questions. We can change attendance information after that specific school day. Thank you to all the families who are contacting the school to inform us of students' absences - this helps us manage the information more efficiently. Remember there are 8 periods each day that attendance is taken!

As always, please contact the office if you have any questions or need to clarify any information. We are here to help and love knowing that parents and students are online checking their achievement information.

If you need help in setting up your parent account for PowerSchool, please call us and we will walk you through it!

School Graduation Portraits

Please follow the below instructions to secure a slot for Graduation Portraits on March 25th, 2021.

To book your appointment for your School Graduation Portraits, please go to www.prestigeporraits.ca

- Click on "locate your school", enter your city and province and find your school in the list, select your school and type your first and last name.
- If you are unable to locate your name, please call Alexis or Chelsea at Lifetouch 780-437-2431 to book your appointment.
- Choose the time that suits your schedule and follow the prompts to book it.
- You can pay online for your convenience.
- You will get a confirmation email - should you need to change your appointment, you can access your profile at www.prestigeporraits.ca . 16 proofs will arrive in the mail 15 to 20 days after your photo appointment.

A Celebration of Alberta Ag

Friday, April 9, 2021, 7 to 9 p.m. - [Registration Details](#)

Olds College's A Celebration of Alberta Ag is a free two-hour live streamed event in celebration of Alberta's agriculture industry and the important role that it plays in our world.

Streamed live from the Olds College campus, the evening's program will include an appearance by Alberta born country music star – Corb Lund, as well as showcasing our hands-on program offering and student experience, celebrate our industry partners, and as always, help to bring awareness and raise funds for student bursaries.



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

MARCH

- 4 - Online Grad Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 16 - Online Parent Advisory Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 18 - Online Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 25 - JEPD Day: No School

Spring Break: March 25th - April 5th, 2021: No School

APRIL

- 6 - Return to School
- 19 - Quarter 3 Ends
- 20 - Quarter 4 Begins
- 30 - JEPD Day: No School