

SPRING EDITION | MAY 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,

Just like that we are back to online learning. I cannot reiterate enough how appreciative I am of our student, parent, and staff's ability to adapt. Thank you! If you are anything like me, the past 14 months have been full of challenges. The uncertainty that surrounds so much of our lives is exhausting and I can appreciate all the different scenarios facing our families right now. I just want to take a moment to encourage each of you in the face of these challenges and remind you that we are here to support you and your child. Student engagement online has been great so far and I want to encourage everyone to maintain their routines, stay connected, and continue learning.

As a staff, we are still planning with the end in mind. Our provincial government is viewing this as a short circuit breaker and we will continue on with our in-class learning after the long weekend. That gives us 10 days of online teaching and then a sprint to the end of June to finish up our courses before final exams. Students are aware of the expectations of their teachers and need to be in constant contact with them, as they are available during regular school hours. The Meets students and teachers engage in is valuable class time that is required for success in their courses. Students can do this well over the next week-and-a-half. Our messaging from November/December remains the same for May. It is best if students maintain their routine, attend their classes virtually, stay connected to each other and their teachers, and continue learning. Again, we thank students, staff, and families for their dedicated support in keeping everyone safe, healthy, and engaged during this home stretch!

This time of year is normally split between managing the busyness of May with planning for the following school year. While the busyness of May feels different than normal, the planning for next year part of my day to day is bringing me optimism. Once again, BMC is growing! We are anticipating over 200 students next year.

Staff will engage in professional learning around addressing learning gaps in literacy and numeracy on our May 21 JEPD Day. We will continue to determine the best path forward in addressing these gaps, in addition to engaging in transition planning for next school year.

## Continued

As we look to next year, the staff at BMC will look different.

- Michael York will be joining our administrative team as vice principal, replacing Miss Townsend who is moving into the role of principal. Mr. York rejoins us after leading literacy at Pigeon Lake Regional School.
- Kaitlyn Erickson is being retained in a full-time role in the areas of ELA and Drama. Kaitlyn has brought instructional expertise along with boundless energy to our school this year and we are pleased to be able to keep her on.
- Joining Ms. Erickson in a full-time capacity is Judy Miller. Mrs. Miller has spent many years at BMC and we are thrilled to have her share her expertise on a full-time basis.
- Julian Moore has accepted a transfer to PLRS and will be departing for there at the end of the school year. We are thrilled for Mr. Moore and wish him the best in his move. Morgan Rauser will also be returning to PLRS full time. We are grateful for Miss Rauser pushing BMC forward in the area of inclusive education. In addition, I will be joining the administrative team at WCHS.
- We are in the process of hiring another Math/Science teacher.

We communicated our graduation plans to our grade 12 class last week. Currently, we are working on our online ceremony while also working with our graduation committee and staff to creatively celebrate our graduates. More details about our plan will be released when we confirm them.

We celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week recently and I couldn't think of a better week to celebrate our staff at BMC. Over the past 14 months, teachers have shifted between in-person and online, connecting with students throughout. I hear daily from parents about the connection their student has with a teacher at BMC and it reminds me of the hard work they do each day. I am grateful for the tremendous staff we have at BMC every week, but especially this week.

Our next Parent Advisory Committee meeting (all parents/guardians are welcome to attend!) will be on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM as a Zoom meeting. Please email or contact the school at 780-388-3900 or [bm@wrps11.ca](mailto:bm@wrps11.ca) to let us know if you would like the link to attend this meeting.

A reminder if you haven't signed up to discuss your child's progress with their teacher, please do! Please book online on the Bookings page of our website to make an appointment for Wednesday, May 19, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM.  
<https://www.buckmountain.ca/bookings>

Thank you to our families for your continued support of your children's learning and the BMC community.

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather,  
Jon Meyers

## Update from Judy Miller

I wanted to share an incredible opportunity that is taking place at Olds College this summer for youth across Canada. Industry sponsors and Olds College are hosting an AG Science camp on August 8 -13.

This opportunity is connected to the new innovative Agriculture Techgromoy Diploma at Olds College . This event is fully sponsored for 20 students who are chosen by a selection committee in June.

This is an excellent learning opportunity for any youth interested in careers in science, technology, agriculture, etc. Below is the website for youth who are interested in submitting their application for the selection process.

<https://www.oldscollege.ca/programs/high-school-learning/camps/ag-data-science-camp/index.html>

# Exam Schedule June 2021

Monday, June 21

National Indigenous Peoples Day (No Exams)

**Tuesday, June 22: Last Day of Classes**

Wednesday, June 23

9:00 am	Biology 30 Diploma Exam	Office
9:00-11:00	Biology 30 Final Exam	Room 170
9:00-11:00	English Language Arts 20-1	Room 144
9:00-11:00	English Language Arts 20-2	Room 143
9:00-11:00	Math 9	Room 145
9:00-11:00	Math 8	Room 165
9:00-11:00	Social Studies 7	Room 169

*Regular afternoon classes to follow exams for students who ride busses.*

Thursday, June 24

9:00 am	Chemistry 30 Diploma Exam	Office
9:00 -11:00	Chemistry 30 Final Exam	Room 141
9:00-11:00	Social Studies 10-1	Room 143
9:00-11:00	Social Studies 10-2	Room 169
9:00-11:00	Science 9	Room 145
9:00-11:00	Science 8	Room 165
9:00-11:00	Math 7	Room 144

Friday, June 25

School graduation ceremony & convocation

Monday, June 28

School exam make-up day - for all students who were unable to write their exams during the schedule above

- Students can be picked up by parents following exams (regular Bus drop-off and pick-up)
- All students leaving the building following their exam are expected to inform the office.
- Parents of students who are unable to attend final exams (for example due to quarantine) must contact the office. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis with their teacher.

## Breakfast Program

The breakfast program at Buck Mountain continues to thrive thanks to funding from the Breakfast Clubs of Canada and President's Choice Kids Eat Well grants. We hope these organizations will continue to support us in the upcoming years. We believe that in order for students to be ready to learn they need to be properly energized. An average of 60 students a day are accessing this program which is fantastic. Our program continues to evolve and we are trying to provide more daily fresh fruit options, new hot breakfast options in addition to the old favorites.

Judy Miller

# EVERGREEN CO-OPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarships are created to assist the Evergreen Co-op staff members and their families, as well as Evergreen Co-op members, to further their education.

## **Scholarship Value:**

Up to four scholarships of \$1,500.00 each, will be awarded to individuals throughout the Evergreen Co-op trading area. The number of recipients of the scholarships will be determined annually by the Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors.

## **Application Forms:**

The Evergreen Co-op Scholarship application forms may be obtained from Evergreen Co-op Administration Offices in the Rimbey Shopping Centre and the Rocky Mountain House Shopping Centre locations, as well as online.

## **Application Process & Submission Date:**

Applicants will need to submit a completed application and provide proof of acceptance and enrolment into the program which the scholarship is being applied for, prior to being awarded the Evergreen Co-op Scholarship.

A completed application form and all documentation must be returned to the Administration Office from which the application was received on/or before the close of business of the third Friday of August, or they can be emailed to: [info@evergreen.crs](mailto:info@evergreen.crs)

## **Eligibility:**

Applicants must be one of the following:

1. An Evergreen Co-op staff member and/or immediate family members.
2. Members of the Evergreen Co-op and/or immediate familymembers.

Applicants must indicate their Co-op involvement as well as their involvement in sports, community activities, volunteer activities, type and length of program entered, approximate annual cost of program and any other information deemed important.

Applicants must complete an application form and provide a minimum of two letters of reference from a teacher, employer, minister or coach. Must include at least one Community and one Educational reference letter.

## **Selection Process:**

The Scholarship Committee of the Evergreen Board of Directors will review the applications received and present its recommendations to the Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting for the final decision.

In making its decision on the successful applicants the Committee will consider the following items:

1. Co-op experience;
2. Financial need;
3. Community involvement (volunteer work, groups, etc.);
4. Work experience;
5. Program to be studied and cost of the program being studied;

All applicants will be notified, regardless of the outcome of their application, shortly following the September Board meeting.

The Committee may arrange an official presentation of the Awards at which time photos will be taken so that the Co-op can announce publicly the winners.

If the successful applicant is a graduating student(s), the scholarship winners may be recognized at a function at the student's school.



# Notes about PowerSchool

Students and families are encouraged to continue to access their attendance and achievement information in PowerSchool. If you need assistance in accessing your account, or creating one, please contact the office and our administrative assistants will support you. Students already have an account set up under their student number and password used for accessing their regular school account -- it is the same information used to log into a desktop computer at the school.

Please notice that if you are using the application on your cell phone, there are notification settings that are helpful to get real-time updates. During this session of learning at home, please note that attendance information is verified at the office at 3:30 each day. If you receive a notification that does seem right, you're welcome to contact the office, however we will take a bit more time verifying absences than if students were in the building. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

Another tool we will be using in PowerSchool this year is student course requests to create student class schedules for next year. This will be done right in this application instead of through Google Forms as we have done in the past. Each class will be taken through the process, however parents and guardians will also have access to see the requests students have made and to make changes as necessary. All course selections and requests must be complete by June 22nd, 2021.

## WRPS BYOD

WRPS is pleased to announce our adoption of a BYOD - Bring Your Own Device program to our schools. Students are encouraged to bring their own chromebook to school each day. This is an optional program and our school staff are working through some details to make this happen in our school. WRPS has partnered with Staples in Camrose and Leduc as one option for purchasing a chromebook and they can offer 6 or 12 month payment plans with zero interest. If you are interested in purchasing a chromebook for your child to use at home and at school please go to our BYOD Website pages or more information.



## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

### MAY

7-20 - Online Learning

18 - Online Parent Advisory Meeting 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

19 - Online Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

21 - No School, JEPD Day

24 - No School, Victoria Day

25 - Return To In Person Learning.

### JUNE

8 - Class Photo Day

22 - Last Day of Classes, Exams to follow - See Exam Schedule

25 - Graduation Celebration