

WINTER | DECEMBER 2021

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

As we head into the holiday season, we thought it would be a great time to send out a newsletter to our community. It seems like we have so much to do before the holiday break, not to mention before the end of semester 1, which will be here before we know it!

One important note to families and students at this time of year is a reminder for students to dress appropriately for the weather. We hope to see warm winter jackets and appropriate footwear on all our students as they enter the school in the morning, specifically those coming to the school on the bus. We are thankful to all students who are changing their shoes at the door, from outdoor shoes to indoor ones, as it keeps the school neat and tidy, not to mention it reduces the snow being tracked into the school which can cause slipping hazards in the hallways.

Another important reminder to everyone, is that masking requirements have not changed. Students are expected to be wearing a mask on the bus, in common areas of the school, and in the classroom, unless their teacher has told them it is appropriate to remove their mask. We have seen an increase in the number of students arriving at school without a mask and are asking that parents double check with their child as they leave for school that they do have their mask with them for school.

There have been no changes to staffing in quarter 2. We have continued on with the same great team of educators from the start of the year. We will continue to keep our community updated with any changes to staffing.

The holiday season is upon us and we continue to be impressed with the kindness and generosity of our school community. We know that this year it is going to be extra special for many families, who will spend the holiday connecting with their loved ones and creating many great memories together. We also know that for some, the holidays can pose some challenges. If you are in need of support leading up to the holidays or when students return in the New Year, please reach out to the school, we may have resources that can help during a stressful time.

We wish you all of the best during the holidays. We encourage you all to enjoy some rest and relaxation during this time, so that we can all be rejuvenated come the New Year.

Miss . Nicole Townsend

Winter Inclusion Update

The school halls are abuzz with students and eagerly anticipating the holiday season. With this in mind, it can be difficult for kids to remember that we still have much learning to accomplish before a well deserved break. In order to make sure this learning is as impactful as possible, teachers are currently reviewing accommodations in individualized and adapted program plans (IPPS and APPS). They are specifically ensuring that learning goals are being met and considering how they may be better approached if needed.

After the break, semestered classes will begin moving towards exam season. The stress of this time can lead to anxiety in our students, especially if they are worried about results. One great way to overcome these challenges is to develop excellent study routines. If students in your home are looking to improve their study habits, or need to discuss learning strategies, please encourage them to speak with either myself or their classroom teachers.

Winter holidays are a wonderful time to connect with your child about their learning. Here are some easy strategies that do not require completing dreaded homework:

- Show and Tell: ask your child to bring home a project they are proud of and tell you all about it.
- Family Book Club: have your child borrow a book from our extensive library and take turns reading it to each other.
- Genius Hour: ask your child about a topic they are really interested in and spend an hour on google finding as much trivia as possible.
- Games and Gossip: play a board game or cards together and ask how school is going.
- Chef Show: have your child teach you how to make their favourite recipe from Home Ec. or foods class.

As always, if you have concerns about your child's learning, or would like to discuss strategies and accommodations for success, feel free to reach out through the schools phone number, or michael.york@wrps11.ca

Mr. Michael York

Basketball

When the snow flies, we know it is time for basketball players to get back on the court! After what seems like forever, BMC has three basketball teams, full of excited players of all ages.

This season the Junior Girls, Junior Boys, and Senior Boys will represent BMC in the Tri-county area leagues. The seasons have just started, however this is a reminder to parents that we are permitting $\frac{1}{3}$ capacity spectators for watching games. We ask that you enter and exit the building swiftly to allow for other families to come into the school when there is more than one game being hosted at BMC on the same night. We will keep players informed about other school's rules regarding spectators as we get more information.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Shane Cross who is coaching both the Junior Girls and Senior Boys teams. Shane is an experienced player and coach; we are fortunate to have him leading our basketball teams and over all programs.

We are currently in the process of securing a volunteer coach for the Junior Boys basketball team. Thank you to all the community members who reached out and offered to lend a hand!



Winter Celebrations

We value each day we spend teaching and learning with students at BMC. Below are some of the highlights since our fall newsletter:

Drama Presentations: At the end of quarter one, staff and students were treated to performances by the senior and junior drama classes. Thank you to Mr. Porter who took a lead role in organizing and practicing the productions. Great work to all those who participated!

Lock Down Drill: We completed a school wide lock down drill in November that staff and students executed well. We were thankful to our RCMP School Resource Officer who attended the drill and supported us in ensuring our practices and procedures met expectations for keeping our school community safe.

Holiday decoration: Our custodians continue to go above and beyond to create a festive atmosphere in the halls and galleries at BMC. Thank you to Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. Friesen for decorating these spaces. It brings joy and excitement into the classroom!

Reading 15: In quarter 2 we began our brand new complementary course, Reading 15, it is for high school students interested in spending more time reading, all the while earning credit toward high school graduation. Mr. Wolney has taken on this new course and has brought his passion for great literature, as well as wide knowledge and experience supporting students' reading. This course is designed to build upon the great culture of literacy developing at BMC and ignite a passion and joy of reading among our learning community. This week the class will take a field trip to explore the Wee Book Inn in Edmonton on a guided tour.

3D Printing: Miss K has her junior high Career and Technology Foundations students working with our new 3D printers in her quarter 2 class. Some high school students are even volunteering time to help younger students successfully use this new technology. Thank you WRPS Ed Tech for securing these resources for BMC - our students are learning so much!

Chromebooks: Last week, our IT department brought out replacement and new chromebooks to fill our now 7 chromebook carts. We now have 157 chromebooks for students to use, which means that we are essentially at a 1-1 chromebook ratio at BMC! Thank you to all the WRPS technology team for making this happen!

Graduation 2022

On November 30th, parents and students of the graduating class met virtually. There are two components of our graduation celebrations, which are planned and organized separately. The first event is the convocation planned and organized by BMC staff. The second event is the banquet, which will be planned and organized by a committee of volunteers (parents and students) who will take the lead on behalf of the graduates. The banquet is considered a separate event because it is not planned or hosted by the school.

The date of BMC Convocation Ceremonies is set to be **May 27th, 2022** and will begin around 4 pm. Graduates eligibility requirements must be met by May 6th, 2022 to participate in convocation.

The next meeting for planning for convocation ceremonies will be on March 15th at 7 pm, and at this time, the meeting will be virtual.

Students should expect to hear from the student/parent committee about meeting to make a commitment for different fundraisers to support the cost of hosting a banquet.

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: Check out the display currently being constructed in the library to highlight the great books we have filled our library with over the past several years in order to update our collection. When you hear stories about people who love to read, their stories all start with a great book. Additionally during Directed Learning, students in grade 7-10 are working on paragraph writing in the 100 word challenge. Many students are close to achieving grade level expectations with their writing and this extra seminar once a week is difference making. Finally, one other great thing happening due to the work of our Literacy team is senior high students reading to our junior high students and vice versa during directed learning.

Numeracy: Our learning team has been working to determine what does it mean to be numerate? This has been a great starting point for common planning among teachers to create greater coherence in instruction, year to year. One of the first content areas focused on is learning fractions and fraction operations. Additionally, the numeracy team has planned for and have started small group interventions during directed learning once per week. We hope to see students experience greater success and therefore increase their confidence when working in the area of math!

Sense of Belonging: This team continues to plan for Teacher Advisory group Fridays during directed learning. Students have logged into My Blueprint and done some introductory surveys about interests and motivations to better serve them when goal setting for the future. Additionally, we have created team banners and mascots, as well as will be participating in holiday themed activities in these groups. Currently the group is also trying to take action to encourage positive student citizenship to address challenges at the school with regard to respecting school property, for example the vandalism happening to washrooms and the damage happening to school chromebooks. We know that students will lead the way in positive changes to school culture and we hope to inspire positive, engaged citizenship. Finally, this group of staff has also taken on the Respect in Schools training to further their own, individual learning.

Interested to learn more about our learning teams?
Check out our School Learning Success Story and Plan at
<https://www.buckmountain.ca/about/plans-reports>



Santa's Anonymous

The Holidays are quickly approaching and now more than ever our community is need of your support. Santa's Anonymous is back and accepting non-perishable food items. Boxes will be out all around town and throughout our school. Please donate what you can. It does not matter how big or small, every little bit helps.

Also, just to make things more interesting here at Buck Mountain we have set up a friendly competition between all the grades. The grade that brings in the most items by December 16th, will win a class pizza lunch in the new year.

Thank you for your support!

Tis' the Season for Holiday Activities!

While Mr. Stewart takes the kids skating on December 17th, you may be wondering what everyone else is up to! Annually, those who remain at the school have worked hard to put together different opportunities for students to enjoy for the day at BMC. This year is no different; the team at BMC has stepped up again to provide a variety of choices for students to enjoy! I am so thankful to all of those who put together these activities. Without them this day would not be possible.

It's an all hands on deck type of day where all staff members are interacting and participating in these activities with students. It is a memorable day for all and we are grateful to be able to host this day!

Here's a snapshot of some of the things we have planned for the 17th:

9:00-10:45 A Holiday Classic Film

Followed by:

- Crafts led by Mrs. Glenn
- Baking led by Miss Gordon
- Indigenous Activities led by Mrs. Plotts and Mr. Caron
- Game room led by Mr. York
- Gym Activities led by Miss Neumann
- Holiday Film led by Miss Kwirant

Happy Holidays from the Sense of Belonging Team at BMC!

Holiday Dinner

Each year Buck Mountain Central School hosts a holiday dinner for all of our staff and students. This dinner is only made possible with the generous donations from companies, community groups and members.

The students and staff of our school look forward to this dinner every year. This event gives each student in our school the opportunity to have a traditional holiday dinner. The menu for the Christmas dinner will consist of turkey, dressing, buns, gravy, potatoes, ham, vegetables, desserts and all the fixings.

Thank you to the following donors: Greenroad Farms Ltd., Alder Flats Legion, Alder Flats & Buck Lake Agricultural Societies, Buck Mountain Central School Fundraising Society, Wetaskiwin Zone 5 Fire Department, High Land Logging & Slashing Ltd. & Village Market.

Art Sale

Buck Mountain Central School is giving the first right of refusal to the original artist on their painting by offering a donation to the school.

Artists will have until February 15 2022 to claim their artwork.

Any art not claimed on or before February 15 2022, by the original artist will be auctioned off.

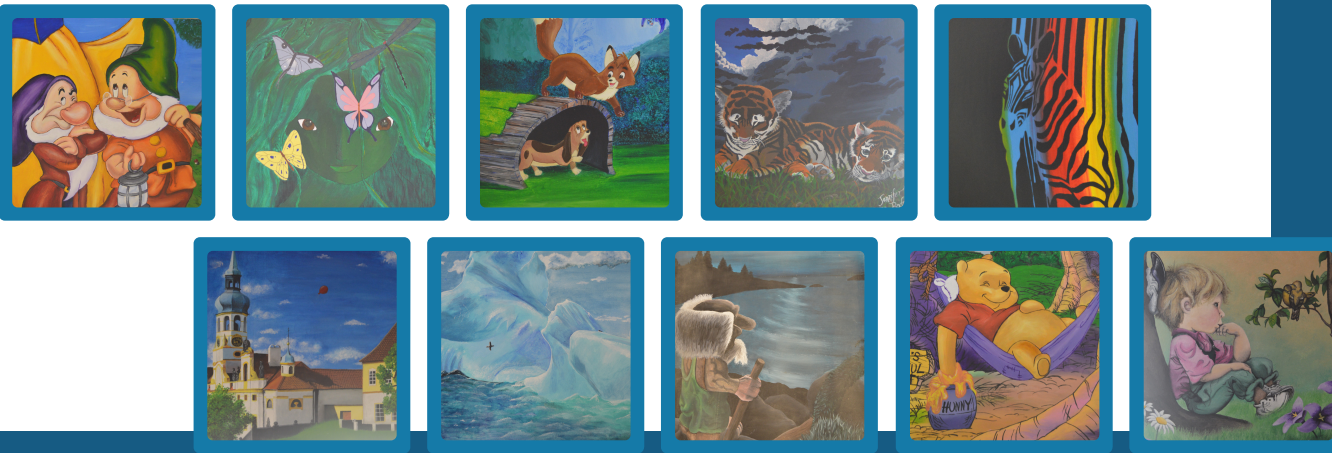
All funds raised will be used to support school wide initiatives; including award sponsorships & school wide events

Please note: We have taken high resolutions photos of all artwork to be sold and will continue to feature the work of all past students.

All art can be viewed [HERE](#)

Any further questions please contact the school 780-388-3900 or bm@wrps11.ca

Cheques payable to: Buck Mountain Central School



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

DECEMBER

- 13 - Holiday Dinner for Everyone
- 14- Ugly Sweater Day
- 15 - PJ Day & Hot Chocolate & Candy Canes
- 16 - Holiday Cheer Day
- 17 - Holiday Activity Day
- Last day of classes before break
- 20 - 31 - No School, Holiday Break

JANUARY

- 03 - Classes Resume
- 11 - ELA 30-1/30-2 Diploma - Part A
- 17 - Online PAC Meeting @7:00 p.m.
- 20 - Math 30-1/30-2 Diploma
- 21 - ELA 30-1/30-2 Diploma - Part B
- 24 - 27 - Exam Week, schedule to follow
- 25 - Biology 30 Diploma