

WINTER| NOVEMBER 2022

# 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

It is hard to believe that the school year is already twenty-five percent complete and we are well into quarter two. Buck Mountain Central School and WRPS have placed a focus on student and staff wellness this year, and the recent fall break saw everyone returning with refreshed minds and smiling faces. With the winter holiday break right around the corner, we look forward to the many festive ways to focus on healthy minds and spirits as a school.

There have been a couple of recent staffing adjustments. Firstly, we welcome Ms. Judith Sokolowsky to BMC. Judith comes to us as a local from Buck Lake, and will be filling the role of an Educational Assistant. This position was secured through a Jordan's Principle grant, and we are thrilled to have her joining us for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Secondly, Ms. Nicole Townsend will be taking a temporary leave of absence. In her place, I have been appointed as Acting Principal, and Mrs. Morgan Spruyt has taken on the role of Acting Vice-Principal. We look forward to Ms. Townsend rejoining us when able to, and are confident that the school will be well cared for in her absence.

Our annual BMC Holiday Dinner returns on December 19th. Staff and volunteers will be working hard to prepare all the usual delicious foods one might expect from a home cooked meal. This event is made possible through the financial support and hands-on volunteerism of our wonderful community, staff, and business sponsors. If you would like to consider donating to or volunteering at this event, please reach out to us in the office. We are also excited to be holding our annual Holiday Activity Day on December 22nd. Our Sense of Belonging team is hard at work planning events for students and staff to participate in. Our only hope is that it does not get snowed out again this year! Last of holiday related items: the Santa's Anonymous drive has begun and students are taking part in an MIA contest. The MIA group that collects the most food for donation will receive a pizza party.

Moving into the holiday season, we may expect that students will begin to miss days for various reasons, or arrive late due to (unfortunately) seasonable weather. Parents are encouraged to communicate planned absences ahead of time so that we can make arrangements for learning. Students should continue to email their teachers for missing work when able to.

Here is to hoping for mild, winter weather!

Mr. Michael York, Acting Principal

# Inclusion Update

Mr. Michael York

Although the cold weather has started to drift in, the school year has been energetic enough to keep our spirits high. Over the past month, teachers have been meeting in teams to discuss learning needs, and reaching out to our school success team whenever they sought additional supports. This partnership between all staff members ensures that all students get the best possible assistance in every aspect of learning.

Currently, we have formalized all Individualized Program Plans (IPPs) and are in the process of having them sent home for review, signing, and return. These documents, accessible solely by the teachers who instruct the targeted students, discuss learning plans for all students who need accommodations to their learning. Individualized program plans are determined through one or more of the following:

- Historical anecdotal evidence from teachers
- Literacy and numeracy diagnostic tests
- Level B tests
- Testing administered from program specialists (eg. Speech language pathologist, audiologist, etc.)

We are also preparing documentation for Alberta Education for accommodations on the January Diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests. These forms allow access to certain test conditions which help students be successful, and have already been sent home for review, signing, and return. Accommodations for exams are determined through one or more of the following:

- Individualized Program Plan (IPP)
- Historical classroom accommodations by teachers
- Adapted Program Plan (APP)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, or feel that they may need additional supports, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school phone number, or [michael.york@wrps11.ca](mailto:michael.york@wrps11.ca)

# Football Update

The football team had a successful year. We won our first 2 games and then struggled for a few games with injuries and some tough opponents. We ended up losing in the league championship to Hinton. Overall, we finished 4-5 which is a solid season considering we are the smallest school in the league and we had several season-ending injuries early in the season. Thanks to all those who supported Mustang Football over the years.



# Learning Team Update

WRPS is a learning organization. As educators, we know one of the greatest positive impacts on student learning is the collective efficacy of the teachers who serve them. Staff at Buck Mountain Central School are committed to the learning and collaborative processes we engage in during Directed Learning and on Professional Learning and Collaboration days. The information to follow is a spotlight on our learning journey so far this school year.

Each staff member is a valued member of at least one of the following learning teams:

**Literacy** - This team is dedicated to continuing a culture of literacy at Buck Mountain. This looks like students and staff having a shared value of reading, knowing that students who read well will be more prepared to succeed in all subject areas. Currently, the learning team has embedded dedicated time for reading and writing for all students in grades 7-10 during Directed Learning time. This year, the writing is focused on literacy across curricular subjects, and students will be exploring science, math, and social through writing tasks. Through regular feedback on this written work and engaging conversations about books, we think students will become passionate about reading and writing. This learning team is also reviewing the data collected from Star Reading tests across these grade levels to ensure students have support and plans in place if they are not reading at their current grade level. All students are getting regular practice of literacy concepts through the newly acquired license of IXL for ELA.

**Numeracy** - this team is dedicated to developing numeracy rich learning environments. Staff members are currently participating in a book study of Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics, by Peter Liljedahl, in an effort to better shape the physical learning environment to impact student understanding of mathematics. Another strategy that the numeracy team is working on is to support students in thinking of themselves as problem solvers. This is a big challenge at BMC, many of our math learners are not confident, nor do they believe they are capable of experiencing success in math. The team has also administered a pre-assessment to determine where students in each classroom are at as well as areas of strength and areas for continued growth. A complement to this is the data collected through Math IXL, which students continue to have access to. If parents would like log-on information sent home, please contact your child's teacher.

**Sense of Belonging** - This team of teachers and support staff plan the activities for Mustangs in Action, held on Fridays during Directed Learning. Through these learning activities the goal is for students to feel more connected, increase participation in the classroom and in school-wide events or extracurricular activities, support students in setting and achieving goals, and to teach students how to advocate for themselves and their school. We know that students who have a strong sense of belonging in a school are more likely to experience academic success. We look forward to what this team has planned for us next!

If you're interested in learning more about directed learning, check out this post on our WRPS website.

## Exciting Career Opportunity!

WRPS has a job opening for a full-time custodian in the Alder Flats-Buck Mountain-Winfield area. This position is perfect for the individual who is looking for great benefits, pension and paid time off. The shift for this position is 12 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The right applicant will have the ability to work independently and although previous custodial experience is an asset, paid training will be provided. If you would like more information on this position, please call the Plant Facilities office at 780-352-8078 extension 21 or email Mark at mark.thronson@wrps11.ca.

## Wellness Worker Update

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Hi everyone! My name is Peyton Schneider (Miss Peyton) and I am BMC's new Wellness Coach. I have finished my BA in Psychology and am planning on pursuing my Masters degree next fall.

As a Wellness Coach, I provide mental health promotion and prevention programming through the Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools Initiative (MHCB) for students in Buck Mountain Central School, as well as Alder Flats Elementary School and Winfield School. Our programming is based on research and best practice literature that demonstrates that mental and emotional wellbeing can be developed, nurtured and supported through promotion and prevention efforts.

When I work in classrooms, students are learning about mental health related topics that are age appropriate, such as test anxiety, goal setting, and stress reduction or coping skills. We also can dive a bit deeper and have open conversations about mental distress and mental illness, and how to seek out support when you need it. We also get to do fun things, usually while learning a coping skill or concept, that help youth manage their stress and practice self-care or form healthy and strong relationships with their peers.

Outside of the school, our team provides community-based programming periodically, mainly during July and August. We also sit on committees and boards to try and reduce barriers and improve access to support and services for children, youth and families by finding grants and advocating for our communities.

MHCB has been around since 2005, and the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools program was one of the very first. That being said, our MHCB program has only recently expanded to offer consistent programming in the western part of Wetaskiwin County as of 2019. To learn more about the WRPS Wellness Support Team, the MHCB initiative and our programs, please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/wrps11.ca/mhcb/home>

What can I offer you?

- Are you looking for information about supports and services available to you? I can help!
- Looking for resources on a topic related to mental health? Send me an email!

Please note that the one thing I do not offer is counseling or one on one support. I am happy to refer you to the school's FSLW, Lesley Cropper, or to one of the mental health clinics around our area. If transportation is a barrier for you, there are many telehealth options that are also available to residents of the County of Wetaskiwin.

Please reach out with any further questions!

Thank you,  
Peyton Schneider  
[peyton.schneider@wrps11.ca](mailto:peyton.schneider@wrps11.ca)

## Cheer Update

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The cheer team is working hard to create a routine to compete with for the 2023 season. They will be competing in 3 competitions in February and March.

Red Carpet Cheer Challenge in Red Deer Westerner Parkland Pavillion Feb 11-12/23  
True North Cheer Championships at The Edmonton Expo Center Mar 3-5/23  
Rise Up Cheer Challenge at West Edmonton Mall Mar 17-18/23

Let's Go Mustangs!

# Santa Anonymous Food Donations

It is that time of year again; it is the season of giving.

Let's do our best to make sure every family in our community has a wonderful Christmas.

The following is a list of some things that you can donate. This is just a list to help you get an idea. If you can think of anything else, a family might want or need please feel free to donate that as well. However, all items must be non perishable.

This year the competition to who can bring the most items will be between our BMC MIA Groups. The MIA team with the most items will win a pizza lunch in the New Year.

Thank you for your support.

Cereal  
Peanut Butter  
Stuffing mix  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Canned Tomatoes  
Canned Tuna  
Canned corn  
Granola Bars  
Juice Boxes  
Oatmeal  
Pasta

Spaghetti Sauce  
Desert Mix  
Apple Sauce  
Soups  
Canned Beans  
Rice  
Crackers  
Jams  
Flour  
Baby food

Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Soap



## BMC Parent Advisory Council

So far this year we as a Parent Council have met 3 times. We have continued with the online platform, it seems easier for parents to join this way as we are all getting back into the swing of things having kids busy again in their sports. This year we have seen some changes in our Council. We have elected a new president Mrs. Donna Glenn. Additionally we have elected a new vice President, Mrs. Heidi Plotts and a new Secretary, Mrs. Lisa Grover. Continuing in the Treasurer role is Mrs. Shannon Hancock. We are seeing more and more new faces joining in our meetings which is amazing, the more voices we have the better. We generally meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. On November 4th the PAC parents hosted a free Family Movie night. Popcorn, pop and candy bags were available for purchase. Thank you to Kristen Willows, Barb Borowic, Donna Glenn and Mr York for staying to supervise the movie and Thank you to Shannon Hancock for purchasing the popcorn and butter. We would also like to send a heartfelt Thank you to the Winfield Ag society for donating their popcorn machine to our school! Our next Family Movie night will be held on January 27, 2023. The PAC parents also put on a pancake breakfast for students and staff on November 14. Thank you to Donna Glenn and Barb Borowic for preparing and serving the food and to Lisa Grover for purchasing all of the supplies. Our next Meeting will be held on January 18th 2023 at 7pm.

Sincerely,

Heidi Plotts  
BMC PAC Vice President



## Bus Drivers Wanted

WRPS local contractors are currently seeking dedicated and safety-minded School Bus Drivers to join our team. This is an essential role that offers job security, a flexible schedule and allows you to make a difference on the front line by transporting our children to school safely.

We offer free personalized training, competitive wages, and flexibility within your personal life.

- Consistent and predictable part-time hours. Perfect for a stay-at-home parent, entrepreneur, or retiree!
- **Free Class 2 training. \$5000 value**
- Competitive wages with the opportunity to take on additional work
- Bring your preschool-aged children to work with you
- Summers, weekends, and holidays off

### Job Description

Drivers are responsible for safely transporting students daily and must be committed to safety and customer service.

As a School Bus Driver, you will work a split shift, driving approximately 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. You will be assigned a route that falls between the hours of 6:30 am - 9:00 am in the morning and between 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm in the afternoon. Drivers work during the school year and are given time off in July and August, as well as weekends and all school breaks.

### Requirements

- **Will provide free Class 2 upgrade training for the right candidate. \$5000 value**
- No more than 3 demerits on your driving record
- Clear criminal record and vulnerable sector search

To find out more about these opportunities, please email [transportation@wrps11.ca](mailto:transportation@wrps11.ca)

*Inspiring students to become the best they can be.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

### November

25th - Photo Re-Take Day

### December

9th - PLC Day, No School  
19th - School Holiday Dinner  
22nd - Holiday Activity Day

**December 23rd - January 6th - Holiday Break**

### January

9th - Back to School