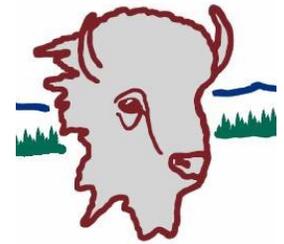


REACH
For
Success!

2017-18 Introductory Newsletter!!



September 5, 2017

BHPS Staff!

We have three new staff members here at BHPS this year. Please stay tuned for future newsletters as these people get a chance to introduce themselves in a little more detail. You are welcome to come in at any time and meet these new faces, and even to say hello to those you already recognize.

School Timetable

8:42- Beginning Day Bell
8:44-Announcements & Period 1
9:18-Period 2 Begins
9:51-Period 3 Begins
10:24- Recess Bell
10:34-Recess Over Bell
10:38-Period 4 Begins
11:11-Period 5 Begins
11:44-Lunch
11:59-Lunch Recess
12:18-Recess Over Bell
12:22-Period 6 Begins
12:55-Period 7 Begins
1:28-Period 8 Begins
2:00-Recess Bell
2:10-Recess Over Bell
2:14-Period 9 Begins
2:46-Period 10 Begins

2017-2018 Our Bus Drivers & School Bus Numbers

Bus #85-TBD for 17/18
Bus #24-Mrs. Eva Friesen
Bus #12-Mrs. Martha Harms
Bus #11-Mrs. MaryAnne
Teichroeb
Bus #19-Mr. Jake Froese

The Bison Bits will be sent home every Tuesday to inform parents about school events and to provide important information to parents.

A New and Exciting School Year!

Welcome back to school!!

I hope everyone had a great summer of not only working, but being able to take the time for some rest and relaxation as well. I am extremely excited to welcome three new faces to our school staff: Miss Nicole Neudorf as a Special Needs Assistant working primarily with our kindergarten class. Ms. Amanda Wadman, who will be teaching grade six and elementary Phys. Ed.. Mr. Kerry Sawicki who will be teaching a variety of junior high classes. Mr. Sawicki will also be responsible for our grade nine boys citizenship program. Please join me in welcoming these new faces to the Buffalo Head Prairie School community.



Welcome Back Family Breakfast

Our annual family pancake breakfast will occur this Friday, September 8th. This year, following breakfast, all staff members will move into their classrooms so that parents can tour their child's classroom. Breakfast will occur from 8:45-9:45am. Drop into classrooms from 9:45-10:15am. We welcome all families!

2017-2018 BHPS School Staff

Kindergarten	Mrs. Simone Palin	Educational Assistant	Mrs. Valerie Dellerose
Grade One	Mrs. Karen Keefe	Citizenship-Girls	Mrs. Angie Wolfe
Grade Two	Mrs. Cathy Wiseman	Citizenship-Boys	Mr. Kerry Sawicki
Grade Three	Mrs. Lorna Joch	Pre-ECS	Mrs. Angie Wolfe
Grade Four	Mrs. Melissa McDonald	Librarian	Mrs. Kathy Janzen
Grade Five	Mrs. Emily Cleghorn	Secretary	Miss Margaret Wiebe
Grade Six	Ms. Amanda Wadman	Speech/Literacy	Mrs. Mary Ann Krahn
Grade Seven/Eight	Mr. Dean Keefe	Head Custodian	Mr. Benny Dick
Grade Nine	Mr. Kerry Sawicki	Assistant Custodian	Mrs. Betty Ann Dick
Educational Assistant	Miss Nicole Neudorf	Principal	Mr. Chad Fyke
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Tina Schellenberg		

At Buffalo Head Prairie School, the R in REACH extends to many areas:

Respect for self and learning

- Be in class and ready to learn by the second bell
- Be prepared to begin work promptly
- Take pride in your work
- Use positive language
- Wear respectful and appropriate clothing

Respect for others

- No weapons at school
- No fighting
- No teasing or bullying
- Demonstrate manners and politeness
- Respect authority
- Respect abilities and differences of others
- Show kindness to others
- Demonstrate good listening skills

Respect for property

- Treat school property with respect
- No running in the halls
- Keep the school and school yard clean
- Ask before taking other people's things
- Use inside and outside footwear
- Clean up after yourselves



REACH for Success!

Woodcock Johnson IV - ESL Testing

This year we have a new testing form for determining which students qualify for ESL funding. We need to receive parent permission before we do the testing. If you received a consent form in June, or receive one early this school year, please complete it and return to school as soon as possible. For any questions on this, please call the school. Thank you.

Bus Arrivals

The bus arrival time at the school has been set for 8:35 am. Please be patient with the bus drivers as they try to sort out the timing of their runs. Buses will drop students off at the north side of the school. If possible, please refrain from parking where busses unload and use the visitor parking area, to the east of the school.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will be attending school two days per week in semester one (and three days in semester two). The reason for this system is to make their transition into attending school easier. Days are increased as the students get ready for grade one; this also provides a simple schedule that changes only once during the year.

September 5-January 8—Kindergarten will be on Days 1 and 3

January 15-June 15—Kindergarten will be on Days 1, 3 and 5

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

We would like students to have two pairs of shoes; a pair for outside and a pair with non-marking soles for inside. This reduces the amount of dirt being tracked into the school and ensures students are prepared should a drill or emergency occur. This also demonstrates respect for our custodians.

Junior High Shop and Home Economics

Junior High Shop and Home Economics in La Crete has been scheduled for every Day 2, identical to past years. If you would like your child to remain in town at the end of the day, a parent note must be submitted at the BHPS office prior to 11:45 am to be signed by the principal.

Students will remain at BHPS until the start of afternoon classes. LCPS has an open campus policy, which means that they do not track their students during the lunch hour. We try to arrange the schedule so that there is not too much time between when BHPS students arrive and when LCPS classes start.

Microwaves

As in previous years, students in grades 4-9 will have access to microwaves at lunch time. To ensure that all students in each class can use the microwaves (2 are provided in each 4-9 classroom), we ask that you refrain from sending frozen items and microwavable popcorn. Thank you!

Ms. Wadman's Peanut-Free Grade 6 Classroom

One of Ms. Wadman's students (Wyatt Friesen) has a serious peanut allergy. As such, Ms. Wadman's grade six class will be expected to remain peanut-free at all times. All grade 6 students, staff and parents will be asked to refrain from bringing or sending food items containing peanuts into the grade six classroom. Ms. Wadman will be sharing more detailed information with grade six parents in an upcoming classroom newsletter.

All other students and staff at Buffalo Head Prairie School are asked to wash their hands thoroughly after eating food items containing peanuts. *Thank you for your support as we focus on student safety.*

Home Time

We would ask that parents notify the school by note (note in student agenda is acceptable) if students are to be going somewhere on the bus other than their home. If a phone call is necessary, please call as early as possible in the day, preferably prior to 3:00 pm, to ensure appropriate arrangements can be made.

Healthy Choices Canteen

Our canteen, which will feature as many healthy choices as possible, will be open daily from 11:45 am until 12:00 pm except for days when we are offering other hot lunch options. **Please note that the canteen will not be opening until food supplies and canteen leaders are established.** As soon as the school canteen is prepared to operate, a note will be included in the school newsletter. This will likely be in mid- late September.

Student Attendance—Important!

We request that parents notify the school whenever a child is going to be absent from school. A brief phone call, note or comment in your child's agenda will definitely help teacher preparation, which supports your child's learning, and help keep student attendance records accurate. As a school staff, we would greatly appreciate parent efforts to have students in school and on time as often as possible as is expected in the world of work.

Junior High Fees

School fees are required to be paid for all junior high students at BHPS. The fee is \$20 for Shop/Home Economics. Payment can be made in cash, by cheque, or online with SchoolCash Online. *Cheques need to be made payable to Buffalo Head Prairie School. Thank you in advance.*

Parent Handbooks

Parent handbooks highlighting the school's policies and procedures will be sent home with today's newsletter. Please use this handbook as a reference throughout the year should any questions arise. We also encourage parents to call the office anytime with questions or concerns.

Buffalo Head Prairie School—Fall Potluck (AGM)

Please join us for a parents only Fall potluck supper and AGM for BHPS. This event will be on **Tuesday, September 26th**. Many of you have received a fridge magnet calendar which shows September 19th as the date, this is incorrect. Please update your magnet calendar and join us on the 26th. Our school council elections will take place this evening. We hope to see you there.

Student Agendas

Once again this year, elementary students will have agendas to be used as a communication tool between school and home. Please ensure these agendas are signed nightly and returned to the school with the student. Teachers may use agendas in a variety of ways, including recording class assignments, listing spelling words, communicating with parents and sending reminders. We encourage parents to use the student agendas for notes to the teacher and ask that you make every effort to promote consistent use of agendas throughout the year.

School Crosswalks

Students, staff and parents are asked to use the crosswalks at all times when they are going to or from the parking lot to the school. Junior high students are also asked to use a crosswalk when they go to or from the playing field. Parents, please keep this in mind each time you use the visitor parking lot. Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep children safe at school!

Student Profile Forms

We are sending student profile forms home today. Please look them over carefully and ensure that all information is up to date. Please make any corrections necessary and return each student's form with a parent signature even if no changes are required. Pay particular attention to the **FOIPP (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)** document which is on the fourth page of each child's form. This section must be completed annually for each student. The FOIPP form for this year has been broken down into different sections, each section for which permission is granted requires a parent signature. This will allow you to gauge the level of information you wish to share in regards to your child in an appropriate manner. Again this year, you will see an anti-spam legislation section on these forms. If you are choosing to or have in the past provided us with an email address through which we may contact you please make sure you read and check off this section as well. Thank you in advance for returning these forms and for assisting us in keeping our school records up to date and accurate. If you have any questions on these forms please stop by the school office when you come out for the Family Breakfast on Friday, September 8th.

Accident Insurance Forms

For your convenience, the Fort Vermilion School Division has made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc (iA Financial Group).

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

It is important to note that Alberta Health Care does apply to children at school and purchasing IAP Kids Plus insurance would be school insurance above and beyond the insurance already provided by Alberta Health Care. For more information, feel free to pick up a brochure at the school or visit www.fvds.ab.ca/parents/fvds-you on the Fort Vermilion School Division website. Insurance application forms are also available at this website.

Administration of Medications to Students

There are several guidelines that need to be followed if parents need to have medications administered to their children while at school. If this is something your child will need, please consult the office and we will work together to ensure the health and safety of your child.

Some Thoughts for the Year Ahead

Some key ideas come to mind when I think about what is important for everyone in this school. Relationships between teachers and students, fellow staff members, and parents and teachers will all go a long way in developing a culture of success at this school. Relationships are often influenced by the level of communication that takes place within a given setting. I encourage you to communicate with this school in any area. It is through this type of communication that we can work together to provide the best quality education to the students and families we serve!

The BEST School Ever

As parents, you likely have some ideas as to what the best school ever would look like. Over the years, we have tried to make Buffalo Head Prairie School just that for your children. Undoubtedly, there are ways that we could continue to improve and for that reason, I have started a "Big Ideas" folder. It is within this folder I want to document and learn more about the ideas you believe would make BHPS a better place to be. Please give this some genuine thought and reflection. By working together we can make this school an even more enjoyable place to learn. I would appreciate hearing some of the things you really appreciate about your child's school in addition to areas you would like to see us grow and improve. Feel free to call, email, or drop in. I would love to discuss this with you further when it suits you best.

Custodians at BHPS

We appreciate the work of both Mr. Benny Dick and Mrs. Betty Ann Dick, our custodians here at BHPS. On behalf of the staff here at BHPS we want to thank them for the good job they do in keeping our school clean. We are looking to fill substitute custodial positions. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this type of employment please let us know.

Have a Wonderful Year!

As parents, I hope you know how much you are appreciated by our school staff. As a staff, we know that we couldn't ask for a more supportive parent group who genuinely care. Thank you for demonstrating this in the past. We hope to enjoy another wonderful year with you in 2017-2018!

Principal's Message

2017-2018

Welcome everyone! Whether you are new or old to Buffalo Head School, this year will be a great one for you! I hope each of you had a safe, enjoyable and restful summer break.

We offer a lot here at BHPS to both the students and parent community. Our Mission Statement at Buffalo Head Prairie School is: **Through a positive, child centred team approach, Buffalo Head Prairie School strives to assist each child in becoming a responsible citizen and lifelong learner.** We also have an opportunity to make a difference within the BHPS community as a whole.

Buffalo Head Prairie School has the good fortune of welcoming three new staff members this year. Miss Nicole Neudorf will be joining us as a Special Needs Assistant and will work primarily with ECS students. Ms. Amanda Wadman has moved from Nova Scotia and will be our full time grade six teacher. Mr. Kerry Sawicki will be teaching Social Studies, Language Arts and Science in junior high. He will also step into the role of citizenship coordinator for our grade nine citizenship program. Please take the time to welcome these new faces to the BHPS community!

We know we cannot teach effectively without the support of an amazing parent community. If you have ideas on how to make our school better, or you want to discuss ways you can get involved please do not hesitate to contact me here at the school.

The field of education is a profession like no other. It is demanding and rewarding all at the same time. Teamwork is essential for the success of this school moving forward. Each of us has talents and abilities that, when combined, will make for an amazing educational experience for all involved. I look forward to working with each and every one of you to make this year the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Chad Fyke