



Bison Bits

Buffalo Head Prairie School

October 1, 2019

Phone: 780-928-2282

Bison Bits will be published the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Upcoming Dates: October

- 2** - Cross Country Divisionals at Rocky Lane
- 2** - 4-6 Soccer After School
- 3** - 10:30 a.m. REACH Assembly
- 3** - 2:00 Early Dismissal Staff Meeting
- 3** - Retirement Celebration for Mrs. Joch- 7:00 p.m.
- 4** - October Hot Lunch Orders Due
- 7** - 4-6 Soccer After School
- 8** - 1-3 Lego Club After School
- 8** - Grade 9 Parent Meeting 3:30 p.m.
- 9** - Hot Lunch- Pizza
- 9** - 4-6 Soccer After School
- 11** - Scholastic Book Orders Due
- 14** - Thanksgiving Day- No School
- 15** - 1-3 Lego Club After School



Retirement Celebration for Mrs. Joch

Please join us for a very special opportunity to celebrate the teaching career of Mrs. Lorna Joch. This celebration will take place in the Buffalo Head Prairie School gymnasium.

Time for the audience to share stories or memories will be provided. Following the program, there will also be an opportunity to enjoy snacks and visiting. Please consider bringing a food item to share with others.

This event was postponed several times in the spring so we plan to finally be able to enjoy this as a community celebration on Thursday, October 3 at 7:00pm.



We Hope to See You There!

Family Ice Cream Night

A great turnout was seen at the recent Family Ice Cream Night on September 26. Many a flavour was enjoyed and many a visit was shared. Thank you for making an effort to attend!

School Council Elections

This year's School Council parent representatives will be as follows:

<i>Ryan Janzen</i>	<i>Chad Wiebe</i>
<i>Mary Klassen</i>	<i>Ryan Knelsen</i>
<i>John Harms</i>	<i>Brenda Wiebe</i>
<i>Mike Friesen</i>	

Peace Country Gleaners

Students in grades 4-9 will have an opportunity to demonstrate positive citizenship and care for others when they harvest beets at the Gleaners on Monday, October 7 in the afternoon. Parents welcome!

Cross Country Divisionals

Buffalo Head Prairie School will have numerous students attending the cross country divisional meet in Rocky Lane on October 2 along with coaches Mr. and Mrs. Keefe. Students participating will be Kyler Wieler, Janae Wiebe, Evanna Braun, Shannon Wolfe, Tyrell Goertzen, Jalaina Driedger, Eden Braun, Elliot Braun, Danielle Goertzen, Mandy Wolfe, Joey Wolfe, Jeremiah Driedger and Trey Unrau.



We wish all students a super day! Go Bisons!

Hot Lunch Begins in October

Note that October hot lunch order forms were sent home today. Please see the back of the order form for details or contact the school office if you have any questions.



Fort Vermilion School Division Bus Status App



Please view page two of this newsletter if you wish to add an app to your phone that will keep you updated on late or cancelled buses.



Bison Bits Continued...

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Parents, are you worried about winter busing? There's an app for that!

Winter is coming. And with it, the snow, and the cold, and the uncertainty for many families about whether the school bus will be running late or not at all.

Thankfully, there's an app for that!

Fort Vermilion School Division's new bus app is called "Bus Status" and replaces a previous app service used by FVSD. The new app functions in much the same way as the old one did, but with a new look.

Bus Status makes keeping tabs on FVSD buses a breeze. Parents and guardians can select the bus routes they want to follow and receive notifications in the event those routes are delayed or cancelled.

Bus Status is so easy to use. Just download the app and open it up. You will be asked to select the school division you want to follow. Select "Fort Vermilion School Division" from the list and you are on your way!

Once you have selected FVSD, you will see a list of all of the buses running in the division. To receive notifications on a specific bus (or buses), simply star the one you are interested in and you will begin to receive push notifications on your phone whenever there is an update to the status of those buses!

Not only will you be receiving up-to-the-minute updates on the buses you need to know about, but you won't have to wade through a lot of information on other buses that you don't need. And you can select as many buses as you need to be notified about, in case you have children riding different FVSD buses!

Bus Status displays busing information in three colours:

ON TIME: This is a green banner showing the bus is running as scheduled.

DELAYED: This is a yellow banner to let you know a bus is running late. It will also tell you approximately how late the bus is running (if possible), or identify another bus which has been sent in place.

CANCELLED: This is a red banner and is displayed if the bus is cancelled that day with no plans to pick up the students in place.

The app is available for free from iTunes or Google Play, and you can also reach it through the FVSD website by clicking on the iTunes or Google Play links to take you directly to it. If you do not have a Smartphone, you can still keep tabs on the latest bus updates by visiting the FVSD website at fvsd.ab.ca.

Buffalo Head Prairie School
Annual General Meeting
September 26, 2019

Assistant Principal Wendy Morris welcomed parents and thanked them for being part of the school community. Principal Chris Fehr echoed this and quoted Jimmy Cassis saying, "Everytime you bring people together you have an opportunity to build community."

1. Call to order at 7:29 p.m. by Ryan Janzen, school council chair.
2. School council introductions - Ryan J. introduced the 2018-19 school council members.
3. **M/S John Harms/Eva Friesen that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.**
4. School council annual report:
 - a. Wilson Prairie road busing - school council prepared a presentation for the Board of Trustees in April and it was approved as a 3 year pilot project.
 - b. Invited to give input into most of the programs that are implemented in the school. Very good relationship between administration and school council.
 - c. Hot lunch program helped raise some money for the grade 9 trip.
 - d. Community potluck.
 - e. Mrs. Joch's retirement celebration was planned and postponed twice due to wildfires. Now planning it for October 3.
 - f. Playground equipment needs to be upgraded and school council is planning to fundraise and then apply for matching funds from FVSD.
5. Brenda Wiebe read the September 27, 2018 AGM minutes.
6. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes - **M/S Chad Wiebe/Justin Froese to accept the September 27, 2018 Annual General Meeting minutes as presented. Carried.**
7. Elections - 4 positions to be filled, all 2 year terms
 - a. Martha Harms nominates Eva Friesen, Eva declines
 - b. Rachel Unrau nominates Rebecca Braun, Rebecca was away
 - c. Debbie Janzen nominates Sherri Froese, Sherri accepts
 - d. John Harms nominates Chad Wiebe, Chad accepts
 - e. Eva Friesen nominates Mike Friesen, Mike accepts
 - f. Chad Wiebe nominates Ryan Knelsen, Ryan accepts
 - g. MaryAnn Teichroeb nominates Mary Klassen, Mary accepts
 - h. Abe Fehr nominates Justin Froese, Justin accepts
 - i. Eva Friesen nominates Leona Peters, Leona accepts
 - j. **M/S John Harms/Brandon Froese that nominations cease. Carried.**
8. 2019-20 Educational Focus - An overview
 - a. FVSD priorities are also the BHPS school goals. Developed by school staff and supported by school council.
 - i. Connectivity - if there aren't strong relationships in the school, we are never going to be able to accomplish anything else.
 - ii. Literacy
 - iii. Numeracy
 - b. Knowledge & Employability (K&E) - some of the students in Jr High are receiving a slightly modified curriculum.

- c. Literacy - Stopped doing CAT4 and changed to TTT testing. These tests provide very useful information for teachers and give a good sense of where the reading struggles are. Have started several initiatives: Empower, Grade 1 Phonics project, Companion reading, and Rewards. Starting Monday, all students in grades 2-9 will receive reading intervention for 40 minutes every day. Anticipating great results.
- d. Junior High P.E. - This year junior high boys and jr high girls have been separated for P.E.
- e. Junior High Girls Citizenship/Boys Sampler - while the girls are in PE, the boys are in "sampler" (sampling different trades). While the boys are in PE, the girls are in citizenship projects.
- f. Enrollment is 212 this year. While academics is an important part of education, so is citizenship. All students in grades 4-9 are helping with the beet harvest on October 7.
- g. Accountability Pillar Survey - parents at BHPS indicated last year that "school improvement" increased a lot.
- h. Brenda Wiebe explained the hot lunch program
- i. 2019/20 School Council newly elected members are Chad Wiebe, Mike Friesen, Ryan Knelsen, and Mary Klassen.
- j. Grade 9 parent meeting will happen on a different day.
- k. School council meeting in the staff room following this meeting.
- l. Thanked Mrs. Eva Friesen for her many years of involvement on the school council.

M/S Martha Harms/Ernie Peters that the ballots be destroyed. Carried.

M/S Ryan Knelsen/Abe Fehr that the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**School Council Meeting Minutes
Buffalo Head Prairie School
September 26, 2019**

Members Present: Ryan Janzen, Ryan Knelsen, Sarah Lawlor, Mary Klassen, Brenda Wiebe, Chad Wiebe, John Harms, Wendy Morris, Chris Fehr

Thanks for letting your names stand tonight.

Miss Sarah Lawlor is the staff representative.

Call to order by Ryan Janzen at 8:31 p.m.

First meeting on September 30 at 7 p.m.

Important to have a strong school council.

John Harms nominates Chad Wiebe for the chairperson. Chad accepts

Ryan Knelsen nominates Ryan Janzen for the chairperson. Ryan accepts.

Vote by secret ballot. Ryan J. is elected.

Brenda Wiebe nominated Chad as vice chair. Chad accepts.

Mary Klassen nominates Brenda Wiebe as secretary. Brenda accepts.

Sarah Lawlor moves to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

School Council Meeting Minutes
Buffalo Head Prairie School
September 30, 2019

Members Present: Ryan Janzen, Ryan Knelsen, John Zacharias, Sarah Lawlor, Mary Klassen, Brenda Wiebe, Chad Wiebe, Mike Friesen, John Harms, Wendy Morris, Chris Fehr

1. Call to order at 7:02 p.m.
M/S Chad/Ryan K. that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting
M/S Mike Friesen/Mary Klassen that the May 27, 2019 school council meeting minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.
Brenda read the September 26, 2019 AGM minutes but will be approved at the 2020 AGM.
 - a. Cement picnic tables - don't remember the price but likely around \$1200. The Rec Board is responsible for the back area so will ask if they would consider this project.
3. Chairperson's Report
 - a. Mrs. Joch's community retirement celebration - reviewed the agenda.
 - b. School Council Bylaw Review - Ryan J. reviewed the bylaw. Need to present the financial statements at the next AGM.
4. Principal's Report - welcomed the new members.
 - a. School Education Plan
 - b. Connectivity
 - i. Family ice cream night - wonderful to have so many families attend.
 - ii. ECS celebration & awards day both happened in September, since they didn't happen in June.
 - iii. Service Learning - grades 4-9 will be harvesting beets on Monday, October 7. Talked about the possibility of using the land around the water point as a field for the gleaner's. It would be a great partnership for a service learning project.
 - c. Literacy - reading intervention groups have all started. Grades 2-9 are also starting a new writing program that builds skills consistently through the grades.
 - d. Numeracy - diagnostic test for all kids in grades 3-9 using a computer app. It will be a closed site, the same as AR. Focusing on mental math and practical math strategies.
 - e. Information/Management
 - i. Connection team presentation - Lindsey Bandy & Skylar Braun introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of the programs they are running in the school. These programs compliment the health curriculum. Are proposing a new program for the grade 7's to build on the grades K, 1 & 4 programs.
 - ii. Student Enrollment 2019-20 - 212 students enrolled this year.
 - iii. New Junior High Items - P.E./Citizenship/Trades Sampler
 - iv. Grade 9 Trip Meeting and Fundraising - planned for October 8 at 3:30 p.m.
 - v. Scholarship Application - this fund needs replenishing but would rather raise funds for the playground this year.
M/S Chad Wiebe/Ryan Knelsen that Darian Goertzen and Jillian McDougal be awarded a scholarship for \$500 each. Carried.
 - vi. New Playground Information and Focus - reviewed the guidelines. School council wants to actively pursue fundraising for this project.
 - vii. Parents at BHPS - Welcome at every event - ALWAYS!

5. Financial Update

Planning a Thanksgiving supper for staff.

Monthly staff appreciation: November Mike, January Ryan J., February John, March Chad, April Ryan K., May Mary K., June Brenda

6. Next meeting date: October 28, 2019

Moved by John that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 p.m.