



# Bison Bits

Buffalo Head Prairie School

June 10, 2020

Phone: 780-928-2282

Dear Buffalo Head Prairie School Parents,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well! This will be the final newsletter of the 2019-20 school year.

Thank you for being the most amazing parents that we as a staff could ever ask for. You have worked hard to help your children through the current learning process as we have all tried to make sense of this changing world. As a staff we are grateful for all that you have done.

You are likely wondering if next school year will be normal. Yesterday, June 9, the Alberta Government announced that regular in-school classes will resume in K-12 schools in September 2020. We are so excited and cannot wait to have our building full of children again! Although circumstances are unpredictable, we are hoping that school can be very similar to what we have been used to in the past.

Albertans were also informed yesterday that outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people will be permitted as of Friday, June 12. We are missing our students and families and are thrilled that the lifting of restrictions will allow us to host a series of outdoor, mini-picnics, on June 18 and 19, to say goodbye to our students and families. We have divided families into 6 groups, each less than 100 people, and are inviting you to join us at the school at an assigned time. Teachers will hand out report cards, and visit with parents and students, children can play on the playground and everyone can enjoy ice cream, pop and chips to celebrate year end. In accordance with provincial regulations, we are required to ask families to practicing physical distancing during this time.

Thursday, June 18	10:00-11:00 a.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>B, D, M</b>
Thursday, June 18	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>F</b>
Thursday, June 18	1:00-2:00 p.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>G, H, J, K, S</b>
Friday, June 19	10:00-11:00 a.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>N, T</b>
Friday, June 19	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>P, U</b>
Friday, June 19	1:00-2:00 p.m.	Last names beginning with: <b>W</b>

**We are looking forward to seeing you all! Final report cards not picked up will be mailed home.**

A number of lost and found student items remain at Buffalo Head Prairie School. We would really like to get these items to the families that they belong to if at all possible. Please take time on June 18/19 to look through the lost and found table. Any items not picked up on June 19 will be sent to the La Crete Care and Share.

All Buffalo Head Prairie School students will be promoted to their next grade and there will be no retentions. There will be a need for review of prior year learning when the new school year begins. We recognize clearly that there is much to do and a great deal of focus required in order to have students catch up. We are motivated to help your children!

Kindergarten registrations for the 2020-21 school year may be made by contacting Miss Margaret Wiebe at BHPS. You may reach Miss Wiebe at 780-928-2282 or via email at [margaretw@fvsd.ab.ca](mailto:margaretw@fvsd.ab.ca). At this point we are anticipating 27-28 students so unless there are changes to school enrolment, we are planning to have two Kindergarten classes again next school year.





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June 16, 2020

Phone: 780-928-2282

Some questions have been asked about the new addition to the playground that was fundraised for this past year. We are pleased to share that the playground has been ordered and is currently being constructed in Southern Alberta. As a school council and school staff, we are excited about working together to build this structure on the BHPS playground site. Our hope is that this work project will be able to be completed as a school community in late August or early in the new school year.

At our most recent school council meeting on Tuesday, June 9, council had an opportunity to meet with school Superintendent Mike McMann. Details can be found in the minutes attached to this newsletter. It was important for our school council members to have an opportunity to ask some important questions and we thank Mr. McMann for attending the meeting to allow this to happen.

We have had some questions from parents and community members about school rentals during the summer. At this time, we are unable to rent out the school building due to COVID-19 restrictions however we are pleased to share that the camp area on the west side of the school may be used for camping provided users are committed to following the current Alberta regulations for camping. As most people are aware, camping at the school is done on a first come, first served basis. We ask that all those using this site make every effort to avoid making ruts when the ground is wet. Thank you in advance.

The 2020-21 FVSD calendar is now available online by visiting the FVSD website. This calendar will also be added to the BHPS website soon. A copy of the FVSD calendar has been included with this parent letter for your reference. Please note that our new school year will begin on Tuesday, September 1, which is earlier than most years. As always, please feel free to contact Mrs. Morris (780-247-1607) or Mr. Fehr (780-841-2939) at any time throughout the summer if you have questions or concerns about school related business. We wish to do everything possible to make the 2020-21 school year a positive one for you and your children.

We speak for all staff when stating that we are all hoping for a school year where regular learning and interactions can occur. As the summer progresses, more detailed information will become available and when this information is shared by the Alberta government we will be sure to inform our BHPS parents as quickly as possible.

In our projected enrollment we had planned to see and expect approximately 230 students next school year, which, to our knowledge, would be the most that Buffalo Head Prairie School has ever seen. We are proud of how hard parents, students and staff have worked to achieve this and we will do all we can within the law to make BHPS a place parents wish to send their children to next school year. Please consider sticking with us we navigate the future.

Until we communicate again, please take care. We wish all families a summer of joy, togetherness, and experiences that bring you closer than ever before. Please remember to call the numbers noted above with questions you may have at any time throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Morris and Mr. Fehr



**Buffalo Head Prairie School  
School Council Meeting  
June 9, 2020**

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

1. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda  
**M/S Chad/Mike F. that the agenda be approved. Carried.**
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting – Brenda read the February 24, 2020 minutes.
4. Approval of Previous Minutes - **M/S Ryan K/Mary that the minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.**
5. Chairperson's Report
  - a. Thank you for attending the meeting tonight.
6. Principal's Report
  - a. Superintendent Comments and Questions
    - i. Provincial announcement today that regular in class school begins in September 2020. Not interested in students wearing PPE. Still unpredictable where and what will happen next school year if a potential second wave happens. Impossible to manage social distancing on the bus, classroom, and playground. Asking parents to stick with the school through this, FVSD will do their best to navigate this together and figure it out.
    - ii. Parents want a normal school year with no restrictions or PPE.
    - iii. Can we have a picnic day? Yes, look at options that fit the provincial guidelines. Chris, Wendy, Mary, Ryan J. and Brenda will arrange something that works.
  - b. Report Card – same mark on the final report card as when students left school in March. Will start September with review and pick up where they left off.
  - c. School Education Plan Information – distributed the draft. Three goals remain the same: literacy, numeracy and connectivity. School council supports the proposal. Question regarding penmanship, would appreciate that being emphasized.
  - d. Staffing Update – Aileen Davidson has been hired to fill the junior high position.
  - e. Playground Update – Total is approximately \$50,000. Received a \$25,000 grant from FVSD to fund a portion of it.
  - f. 2020-21 FVSD Calendar – reviewed the calendar.
  - g. AB Government Stimulus Money – FVSD is getting funding for projects that could be completed by October. Spending this money locally, no external contractors.
7. Financial Update
  - a. FVSD spending freeze – when COVID hit, schools were asked to freeze spending. Some money was returned to the provincial government and the rest will be spent on bigger maintenance projects.
8. Trustee Report  
Nothing to report.

Next meeting is next school year.

**M/S Mike/Ryan to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.**

