



THE PAW PRINT

R.I. Baker Middle School

March 2011

Parent Reminders

1. Report card #2 will be distributed on March 18th - **Please sign the envelope and return it to the homeroom teacher. The contents of the envelope may be kept at home.**

2. Please be reminded that all school fees are past due. Please make cheques payable to R.I. Baker Middle School.

Invoices will be sent **home with Report Cards.**

3. Students will not be able to sign out unless we have received either a note or a phone call from their parent excusing them.

4. For safety reasons, please remember that **NO** vehicles are to be

driving in the bus loop at any time before, during, or after school.

5. Please check with your child to make sure they are not running low on supplies (pencils, erasers, glue sticks, loose leaf, etc.). Please replenish if need be.

Important Dates:

- **March 2 - Pink Shirt Day**
- Marine Bio. Booklets Due
- **March 3 - Band Parent Meeting @ 7 pm**
- **March 7 - A/R Cutoff**
- Marine Biology Parent Meeting @ 7 pm
- **March 8 - School Play @ 7 pm**
- **March 9 - School Play @ 7 pm**
- Booster Juice Lunch
- **March 11 - End of Term #2**
- **March 14 - School Council Meeting @ 7 pm**
- Trimester 3 Begins
- **March 15 - Spring Pictures**
- **March 16 - Subway Lunch**
- **March 17 - St. Patrick's Day**
- **March 18 - Report Card #2**
- **March 21 - PD Day: NO SCHOOL**
- **March 23 - Wally's Pizza Lunch**
- **March 25 - Band Dessert Concert & Silent Auction**
- **March 29 - Baker Cup Staff vs. Students Hockey**

Parent Opportunities and Thank You's

RIBMS would like to thank Tovi Nalder and Mindy Weir for all their hard work in the canteen. Thanks to all the parents who helped out during ski trip! We would also like to thank

the parents serving on School Council; Patricia Damjanoff, Donica Clark and Tanya Wurzer.

Please contact Cynthia Fritzler if you would

like more information on any parent opportunities or if you would like to sign up to volunteer. We are looking for canteen support and drivers for athletic teams.

Spring Pictures

RIBMS will be participating in the Lifetouch Spring Photo endeavor. Lifetouch will be here on March 15 to take pictures. Students will receive a proof of

their picture(s) which they will take home. If parents choose to purchase these photos they will need to complete the order form. Please note that

no one is under any obligation to purchase these photos. However, the school does benefit by having the photos taken.





Grade 5 Pod News

The Cubs Basketball team continues to excel. We have played Galbraith School and Lakeview School so far. In March we will be playing Nicholas Sheran, and Lethbridge Christain School teams, and are in the midst of planning a home and away with St. Josephs. The students have learned much and have shown a lot of improvement during the last couple of months. Mrs. Wickham and Mrs. Vegter are

both very proud of them.

The grade 5 girls are looking forward to St. Patrick’s Day, as it is their turn to try and get the boy’s shamrocks. The girls wore Hearts on Valentine’s Day, and were not allowed to talk to the boys. If they did, the boys got the heart and the treat at the end of the day. On St. Patrick’s Day, it is the girls turn.

Spring is just around the corner, so remember to dress for the weather. Please remember to check your child’s agenda daily for notes going home, and please sign them, as a confirmation that you have seen them.

Grade 6 Pod News

Congratulations to Grade 6 student Amy Janzen for winning the Southern Alberta Regional Spelling Bee!! Your classmates and school staff wish you success in the National Spelling Bee!

After focusing on ancient Athens, the birthplace of democracy, the next topic in Social Studies will be the Iroquois Confederacy. As in ancient Athens, students will examine how the Iroquois Confederacy influenced Canada’s democratic processes.

Also, a Canadian citizenship assembly will be held on March 18th. Rick Casson (Member of Parliament) will be our guest speaker for this special gathering. Students will exhibit their passion for Canada during this as-

sembly through a variety of presentations. **Parents are welcome to attend this occasion which will begin at 9:00 A.M. in the band room.**

Students in Grade 6 will be able to participate in a badminton club that will take place after school on Tuesday evenings. The club will run from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the gymnasium. If students are interested, there will be an opportunity for them to try out and play in the Lethbridge tournament. Playoffs will determine which students will represent the school at this weekend tournament. Also on Monday evenings, from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., there will be an opportunity for any student to drop in

and practice their badminton skills.

The Grade 6 Pod would like to those parents who assisted in providing treats for individual Valentine’s Day parties. Students celebrated the “friendship” day with delicious treats and enjoyable activities.

Report cards will be distributed on March 18th. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about your child’s progress. It takes all parties involved (teachers, parents, and students) to create a successful school year!!





Grade 7 Pod News

From Health 7, thanks to all grade 7's for their hard work on career posters and costumes at this year's career fair held on February 16th. We encourage you to work hard in school and in other areas of interest so you can reach your dream career!

A reminder that due to the frequency of students showing to class unprepared, late, or with homework incomplete, students will be serving time at lunch for

each issue. On Thursdays, students will take home a communication tag to inform parents of the amount lunch detentions served as well as the reason for serving them. These tags should be returned by Friday or the student will be removed from afternoon classes to serve an in-school suspension. Along with this, please ask or check your child's supplies for paper and pencils. The RIBMS website has home-

work posted to assist students and parents.

A new trimester is beginning! Take it as a fresh start and a chance to do your very best, putting good study, organizational and work habits in place before the year ends.

Thank you and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Grade 8 Pod News

Pod Party Term 2 – The details for our Scuba Diving and Rock Wall climbing trip are still being arranged. You will be notified if you are eligible to come, shortly after Report Card 2 is sent home. This is a fun and exciting experience, but we know it can also be nerve-racking. You will be properly trained in both areas before you are allowed to participate (so don't let a little bit of nerves stop you). If you earned this trip, you should definitely take it! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your homeroom teacher.

Term 3 – We wish to encourage all students to meet their AR Points Goal this term and hand in all assignments on time. We want to reward all of our students who work hard and put in great effort.

Interdisciplinary Unit (IDU) – This is an annual project that allows our Grade 8 students to focus on one topic in their four core subjects (LA, Math, Science, Social). We will be doing this IDU the week before Easter Break – **April 18-21 – the regular timetable will be altered to accommodate this, but regular exploratory**

classes will still be going this week. Students will choose to work in groups of 3, with any other grade 8 students, and **complete 4 projects – one for each core class.** Students will need to provide some materials for some of their chosen projects. These projects will be assessed as major assignments by the appropriate teacher. The projects are going to be revolving around the theme of Environment and Sustainability. Students will be given more information later this month. Please contact your homeroom teacher if you have any questions.





Athletics

BASKETBALL

County teams finished up their basketball season by participating in JV Post Season Playoffs. The girls came away with the consolation and the boys lost in the consolation. Thanks for a great season, players, coaches and parents! LSAA teams participated in LSAA playoffs. The girls entered in 6th place and lost a close game in the quarter finals. The boys were ranked 5th and lost in the quarter finals. Teams will participate in Zones on March 5th, which will conclude the season.

INTRAMURALS

We're in full swing with floor

hockey intramurals. Floor hockey will continue throughout March and badminton will begin following its completion.

BADMINTON CLUB

RI Baker athletics invites all grade 6-8 students to participate in this year's badminton club. Until basketball season is over, open gym days will be held. Students can see the gym bulletin board for these dates and times.

Beginning March 7th, our regular club will begin. During badminton club, players will learn the skills, rules and strategy involved in badminton. Players can qualify to attend the LSAA City

Championships (grade 6-8) and the County Badminton playoffs (grade 7-8). Badminton players must play off during badminton club in order to qualify.

The club will run with the following schedule:

Mondays: Any grade PLAY DAY- 3:30- 5:00

Tuesdays: Grade 6s- 3:30- 5:00

Wednesdays: Grade 7s- 3:30- 5:00

Thursdays- Grade 8s- 3:30- 5:00

After School Discovery (ASD) Science Fair:

After school science fair has started! Our numbers are not huge but... we have several determined people ready to do their

best. After school 'science fair prep' is on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 pm, as this time was best suited for the students

involved.

Mr. Davis

Robofest 2011

Robofest this year will be held in Milk River on March 19th. So far, we have two participants signed up who will begin working on

Tuesdays after school (3:30-4:30 pm) in preparation for the event.

Mr. Davis





Marine Biology Update

Marine Biology students have been hard at work learning about ship life, nautical terms, mollusks and arthropods. Students also learned how to clean and cook shrimp...special thanks to Mrs. Fritzler for her culinary skills. The shrimp were awesome!

Students are currently selling tickets for our prize package which includes a Stepper Bicycle (\$600), a weekend pass to the Canadian Country Weekend in Fort MacLeod (\$150) and a Booster Juice Gift Basket (\$120). Special thanks to the donors of these

prizes (Mike and Marnie Williamson for the stepper bike, Mr. Higginson for the tickets to Canadian Country Weekend and Mike and Angie Roelofs for the Booster Juice basket). Draw date for the prizes is set for March 7th. Winners will be contacted. Students are to have booklets and money returned to the office no later than March 2nd, 2011. Thank you for your support!

We have several parents who have put their names forward as possible chaperones. We want to thank those who were interested.

We will let all the parents know shortly about the draw results.

The next marine biology payment (\$300) was due on February 18th.

Finally, a parent meeting is set for March 7th, at 7:00 pm. At this meeting, waiver forms will need to be signed and any final questions will be answered. This is a mandatory meeting so at least one parent of each child will need to attend. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Higginson or Mr. Davis at the school.

School Council

Beginning fall 2011, school fees will be due by the end of the first week of classes. If there are financial hardships, parents will need to speak to an administrator to make arrangements. We also would like to thank our trustees, Jean Mrak and Esther Willms for attending our council meetings. Next meeting will be March 14, at 7 pm in Mr. Smith's classroom. We will be discussing the RIBMS athletic policy, Bill 41 and the

possibility of a new school sign in town. If you would like an item added to the agenda please contact our chair: Patricia Damjanoff (damjanoff@shaw.ca) or Cynthia Fritzler (cynthia.fritzler@pallisersd.ab.ca) or Broc Higginson (broc.higginson@pallisersd.ab.ca) or at the school: 345.3340.

School council chair, Patricia Damjanoff shared information on

a website where parents can take a survey on their opinions regarding charter schools in Alberta.

The website is: <http://educaiton.alberta.ca/department/ipr/charterschools.aspx>.





Library News

Students are reminded to return or renew all overdue books that have been signed out in the library. Letters have been sent home with students that have items that are long overdue and we would appreciate parent assistance in having the items returned or receiving payment for items that have been lost or severely damaged.

The library is constantly receiving new items for the students to read and there is a wide selection for students to choose from in both fiction and non-fiction areas. The library always welcomes recommendations from students as to new items that they might like to see featured in our library. We recently purchased a selection of books on First Nations, Metis and Inuit as well as books on the Aztecs to compliment the social studies curriculum. Many of these items have AR quizzes and students are encouraged to check

them out.

Please note that the AR deadline for the Winter Term is March 7th and students will be able to take quizzes until 3:30 on that date.

CanSpell Spelling Bee

We are extremely proud to announce that the winner of the Regional Spelling Bee that was held in Lethbridge on February 12th was RIBMS sixth grade student Amy Janzen.

Amy spent many hours practicing for this event and this along with her great love of reading helped her to win the event. The competition started out with 36 students from Southern Alberta and Medicine Hat and after 5 hours of challenging spelling Amy was declared the winner. The competition was intense and after 29 rounds Amy had to correctly spell the word

“abhorrence” to win the event. For all of her hard efforts Amy won the opportunity to compete in the National Spelling Bee that will be held in Toronto later this month. Amy and a chaperone will have a one- week expense paid trip to Toronto for the event. In addition to the trip Amy received a \$5,000.00 education award as well as a eBook Reader with a \$100.00 Chapters Gift Card to purchase books for her new reader. Amy is an avid reader and we are sure she will continue to be a regular patron of the library regardless of her new gift. Congratulations to Amy as she has been an excellent representative of R.I.Baker Middle School. We know that there are a lot of great spellers in RIBMS and look forward to having them compete in our school bee again next year.

GOOD LUCK TO AMY AT NATIONALS!

Historica Fair

Grade 5 and 6 students who are participating in the lunch hour Historica club are researching Canadian history for the Historica Fair under the guidance of Ms. Stewart, Miss Goodwin and Mrs. LeDressay. The Fair is a wonderful celebration of Canada's heritage, in the form of student histo-

ry projects. The students are researching Canadian heroes, legends, milestones, and achievements — and they will proudly present their displays at a public exhibition on March 24, 2011. Several other schools in the district will be participating in this event hosted by R. I. Baker.

Please join us throughout the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm to richly learn about our Canadian heritage.



Band News

R.I. Baker Middle School

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Phone: (403) 345-3340

Fax: (403) 345-2577

Webpage: www.ribms.ca

Our 5th Annual **Dessert Concert and Silent Auction** is coming up on March 25th. A hard copy of an information letter should be coming home this week on behalf of the Coaldale Musical Arts Society, which is essentially the RIBMS/KAHS band parent group. Please mark this date on your calendar. This event has sold out every single year, so please do not wait too long to get your tickets, which are available from Mr. Conrad at RI Baker.

Plans for the grade **7-8 Band Trip** to Banff are in their final stages. A brief parent meeting will be held on Thursday March 3, 2011, at 7:00pm in the band room. If you are unable to attend and would like to discuss details, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Conrad at the school or via e-mail.

Kiwanis Music Festival is also coming up in the near future. All RIBMS bands will be performing at the Yates Theatre in Lethbridge during the week of April 11, 2011. Performance times

are as follows:

- Grade 6 Band: April 12, 11:30am
- Grade 7 Band: April 14, 10:00am
- Grade 8 Band: April 14, 1:00pm

PS2 Student Teacher:

Mr. Conrad is working with a PS2 student from the University of Lethbridge beginning in March. Mr. Leer will be working with the bands at RIBMS between March 9 and April 20, 2011.



Principal's Message

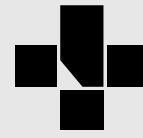
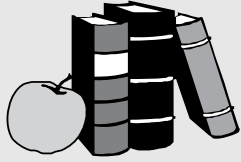
I hope that everyone had a great break for the Family Day/teachers' convention break.

Teachers at RIBMS participated in the convention in Lethbridge or we also had the opportunity to participate in the convention in Calgary. In talking to teachers, sounds like many of them had great sessions either where they learned something new or were

inspired by a motivational speaker. Convention is always a great time to re-inspire us for the remainder of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/guardians who work so well with RIBMS as an integral part of the team of your child's success. We really appreciate all of you who respect the notion that we are all





Choosing Winter Helmets



Helmets are important in the winter as well as for summer sports. Helmets are recommended for skiing, snowboarding and sledding.

The correct winter helmet protects your child's head from injury on ice and snow. Winter helmets should be insulated, so a hat does not need to be worn under a hockey, ski or snowboard helmet.

The following winter helmet safety tips can help protect your child from a head injury on snow or ice:

- **When sledding, always wear a hockey or ski helmet that fits**
- **Wear a ski or snowboard helmet when downhill skiing or snowboarding**
- **When playing hockey or ice-skating, a hockey helmet will give the best protection**
- **Helmets should sit level on top of your head and fit snugly**
- **Replace your helmet every 5 years, or sooner if it has been damaged**

Bicycle helmets do not offer the best protection for winter sports. Choose a hockey, ski, or snowboard helmet instead

Visit www.childsafetylink.ca for more information.

Celebrate Food... From Field to Table

MARCH is Nutrition Month

This Nutrition Month is a time to celebrate Canada's diverse food producers, try new whole foods at home, discover where foods are grown and share delicious meals with your family.

Fruit and Vegetables – This winter, look in your grocer's freezer for frozen blueberries from Canada to add color, nutrients and great taste to a yogurt parfait.

Grain Products – Try Alberta grown whole wheat flour, flax, or oats for a healthier muffin, bread or loaf recipe.

Milk and Alternatives – Try digging through the cheese counter for one of the 667 distinct varieties of cheese made by Canada's dairy industry.

Meat and Alternatives – Add Saskatchewan grown lentils to soups and stews, or quick and easy lentil tacos.

Visit www.dietitians.ca to discover recipes from Dietitians of Canada's new cookbook called "COOK!"



March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No Taco Tuesday	2 Pink Shirt Day Marine Biology Booklets Due	3 Band Trip Parent Meeting @ 7pm	4	5
6	7 A/R Cutoff Marine Biology Parent Meeting @ 7pm	8 School Play @ 7pm	9 School Play @ 7pm Booster Juice Lunch	10	11 End of Term #2	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14 School Council Meeting @ 7pm Trimester 3 Begins	15 Spring Pictures	16 Subway Lunch	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Report Card #2 Gr. 6 Citizenship; Rick Casson	19 Robofest in Milk River
20 Spring Begins	21 PD Day - NO SCHOOL	22	23 Wally's Pizza Lunch	24	25 Band Dessert Concert & Silent Auction	26
27	28	29 Baker Cup Staff vs. Students Hockey	30	31		



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Booster Juice Lunch	7	8	9
10	11 PD Day - NO SCHOOL	12	13 Subway Lunch	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Wally's Pizza Lunch	21 Talent Show	22 Easter Break Begins Good Friday	23
24 Easter	25	26	27	28	29	30