

May 2011

Important Dates:

- **May 1 - Marine Biology Trip Leave**
- **May 2 - Classes Resume**
 - Music
- Monday**
- **May 9 - School Council Meeting @ 7 pm**
- **May 6 - Progress Report #3**
- **May 7 - Marine Biology Trip Return**
- **May 8 - Mother's Day**
- **May 11—Booster Juice Lunch**
- **May 12 - RIBMS Track Meet**
- **May 18 - Gr. 6 English PAT Part A**
 - Subway Lunch
- **May 20 - Hockey Academy Application Form Due**
- **May 23 - NO SCHOOL: Victoria Day**
- **May 24 - NO SCHOOL: PD Day**
- **May 25 - Wally's Pizza Lunch**

THE PAW PRINT



Wheeled Devices and Safety

Parents, please remind your children of the policy we have with bicycles, skateboards, wheelies and scooters.

Once the busses arrive at 8:20, none of these devices are allowed to be used at school. It is a safety concern to have students on these items

while other students, staff and parents are entering and exiting the building. If your child arrives at school, past 8:20, then they need to walk their wheeled device into the building for safe storage. After school, these devices are not to be used at any entrance

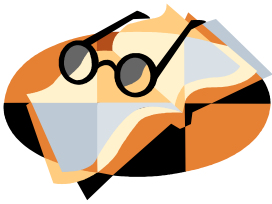
until the last bus has left. Students who use these devices need to walk them to the edge of the school grounds and then can use them from there. We appreciate your support in keeping everyone safe.

Students Attending R.I. Baker Middle School Next Year

The process for establishing classroom lists for the 2011 - 2012 school year will begin soon. At RIBMS, classroom placement is a team effort involving administration, the learning support teacher and classroom teachers. The goal of this team is to create the best possible learning environment for all students. At times, parental requests may negate much of the

preliminary work and possibly create learning environments that are imbalanced. Therefore, we ask that parental requests are made only for educational reasons. In addition, staffing is usually not finalized until the beginning of June. If a request is warranted, please send your request outlining your specific educational reason(s) in a letter or e-mail, to Mrs. Cynthia

Fritzler, principal of R. I. Baker Middle School, (cynthia.fritzler@pallisers.d.ab.ca). Letters need to be in the RIBMS office by May 20, 2011. Parents of students entering Grade 7 or 8 need not make requests as students will be taught by everyone in the Grade 7 or 8 pod. The only time students spend time with their homeroom teacher is for orientation on the first day of school.



Parent Thank You's

Thank you to Tanya Wurzer for buying and

delivering groceries for the canteen. Thanks to

Shannon Donkersgoed for putting on Taco Tuesday.

P.A.T's Schedule

May 18 - Grade 6 LA
PAT : Part A

June 15- Grade 6 LA
PAT: Part B

June 17 - Grade 6 Science
PAT

June 14 - Grade 6 Social
PAT

June 16 - Grade 6 Math
PAT

Students Not Attending Baker for 2011-2012 School Year

Parents, it would be very much appreciated if you

would inform the office ASAP if your child (ren),

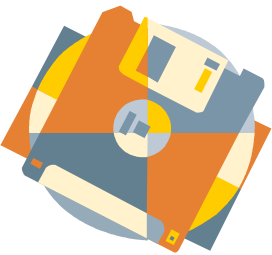
grade 5-8, will *not* be attending RIBMS in the fall.

Palliser Hockey Academy at RIBMS

RIBMS is pleased to offer the Palliser Hockey Academy at Baker. We run 2 groups of students: Grades 5/6 and Grades 7/8. The program is directed by Bruce Bell and assisted by our teachers, Mr. Derek Tonin (Gr. 5/6) and Mr. Jeff Smith (Gr. 7/8). The focus of

the program is on skill development. The cost of the program will be approximately \$275 for 2 hours/week ice-time running from late September to end of March. **Please note that all fees: school and hockey will be due on or before September 2, 2011.** If your child is

interested in being a part of this exciting program and you would like more information, please contact either Mrs. Cynthia Fritzler, principal, or Mr. Broc Higginson, vice-principal, at RIBMS. Deadline for application to the program is May 20, 2011.



Parent Volunteers Needed for Track and Field Meet!!!

Spring is in the air and our Track and Field Meet is approaching quickly! This year's RI Baker meet is set for Thursday, May 12th. In order for this

event to run, we need parent volunteers! We'll need people to help out in the kitchen and out on the field. If you are able to join us, please contact

Miss Vanhell by emailing adrienne.vanhell@palliser.sd.ab.ca or calling the school.

Annual Track Meet Lunch

R.I. Baker Middle school will be offering lunch for the Annual Track Meet on Monday, May 17.

Meal #1: Hamburger, chips, water and a freezie

for \$5.00. Meal #2: Hot dog, chips, water and a freezie for \$4.00. Extra hamburgers will be \$3.00 and extra hot dogs will be \$1.50. Students should

have received blue slips that need to be returned by Monday, May 2 to their homeroom teacher.



Music Monday

Monday, May 2nd is National Music Monday.

To celebrate this day, the R. I. Baker Middle School bands and Hand-

bell Choirs will join the Kate Andrews High School Choir and Concert Band and students from Jennie Emery Ele-

mentary School to present a joint concert. The concert will begin at 10:30 AM in the R.I.B.M.S gym.

Library News

Students are encouraged to renew or return overdue books at their earliest convenience so that other students may have access to them. Overdue letters will be going home this month for students that have items long overdue. Please be reminded that students are responsible for the replacement cost of lost or damaged textbooks as well as library items. The average replacement cost for a paperback novel is \$10.00 and textbooks are approx-

imately \$70.00 to replace.

The final date for students to write AR tests for the spring term will be Monday, June 13th.

All students are expected to have their assigned AR goal achieved by this date.

On April 12th a group of students from grade 5 and grade 6 had the privilege of meeting Canadian author Dan Bar-el at the Coaldale Public Library. The students were treated to a humorous, hour-long

presentation by Mr. Bar-el that included learning how to differentiate between various types of humor such as slapstick and satire. Mr. Bar-el is the author of 7 published books and the school library has 2 of these titles available for students to sign out. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and we are very appreciative to Jane Franz and the Coaldale Public Library for giving our students this opportunity.



School Council

As part of our discussion at our last council meeting, beginning in the fall of 2011, **school fees will be due by Friday, September 2nd, at the end of the first week of classes.** Students will not receive textbooks or lockers until fees have been paid or arrangements have been made in person with administration. **Students who participate in extra-curricular will also be expected to pay their fees prior to being allowed to par-**

ticipate in any activity (including practices, games and tournaments). If there are financial hardships parents will need to arrange to meet with Mrs. Fritzler to fill out a Request for Waiver of School Fees form.

In addition to our discussion about school fees we discussed discipline and detentions and our Accelerated Reading program (AR). The discussions were both informative and helpful and we

would like to thank all our parents who contributed.

Our next meeting will be May 9th, at 7pm in Mr. Smith's classroom. 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: 403-345-3340

After School Discovery (ASD) Science Fair

On April 8th and 9th, several students from R.I Baker Middle School in Coaldale participated in the Lethbridge Regional Science Fair held at the University of Lethbridge. Sian Hernandez and Aideena Wickstrom, both in grade 5, entered a project titled 'H₂O to Grow'. They compared tomato plant growth using river water and tap water from the school. From grade 6, Kyro Vadnais entered a project titled 'Up You Go.' In this project she compared the

growth of tomato plants growing beside magnets and those without a magnetic influence. Both elementary projects received favorable comments from the judges.

Alison Lee from grade 8 entered a project titled 'Refreshed?' In this project, Alison carefully controlled variables and tested air fresheners on several house plants. Alison received a second place finish in the Life Sciences category and Alison's project was

once again chosen as part of an elite group which will head off to attend the National Science Fair held at Seneca College in Toronto from May 14th-21st. Congratulations to all of our participants!

Finally, the beginning of May brings with it...hopefully... warmer weather....and the end of the After School Discovery Program. So...get outside and enjoy the outdoor world!

Mr. Davis

Grade 5 Pod News

Don't forget the Helmet Head II Day on Saturday, May 28th, at the Coaldale Sportsplex. Enjoy hotdogs, draws, giveaways, and maybe even winning a new bike for yourself.

The grade 5's will take part in their first R. I. Baker Track and Field Day on May 12, (May 19th as an alternative). This is a great day for all students, to experience

their first track meet.

In Language Arts, the grade 5's begin their cross-class "Holes" unit on Monday, May 2. This is a great book by Louis Sacher, which has been made into a Disney movie. Students will complete the novel study with a project that may be done with any other grade 5 student, regardless of the class they are in. To finish off the unit, each

class will be having a movie day, where the students will eat lunch, and watch the movie "Holes". This will take place near the end of the month.

Please review the school dress code found in your child's agenda, as the weather is now getting warmer and summer wear will be appearing. All students are expected to go outside for recess.

Grade 6 Pod News

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Grade 6 students will be completing the Part A of the Language Arts achievement exam on May 18th. **Please assist your child by ensuring a good night's sleep prior to each exam. Students are encouraged to follow their teacher's guidelines on how to prepare for these exams. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher at the school.**

Besides the written part of the Language Arts achievement exam, students will complete achievement exams in Math, Social Studies, and Science. The website "Exambank" has many questions that are similar to what they may encounter during these upcoming exams. If your child wishes to

visit the site and does not know the password, please have them ask their teacher for the specific information.

Beginning in May, Grade 6 students **will not be** required to get their agenda books signed by a parent or guardian unless specific circumstances exist. The purpose of this decision is to help transition Grade 6 students to Grade 7 where signatures in agendas are not required. The Grade 6 teachers will still ensure that the students are copying down pertinent information in their agendas, so the students are still using the agenda as an organizational tool. It will be the decision of the parent or guardian as to how the student uses the agenda at home. Teachers

encourage parents to continue to look at their agendas on a daily basis.

The Grade 6 badminton teams wrapped up their season with a tournament in Lethbridge. Congratulations to all the Grade 6 students for their enthusiastic efforts in this event.

Near the end of June, the Grade 6 teachers are planning to offer special year end events for the students to conclude their school year. **However, if repeated problems with behavior and /or homework completion occur with students, they will lose privileges to participate in these special events.** Homeroom teachers will inform parents/guardians if situations like this do occur in their classrooms.

Grade 7 Pod News

We want to encourage students to dig their heels in and work hard in these last two months to finish off the year practicing good habits. Students should now be over 50% of their AR goal, so please keep encouraging your child to bring his or her books home, especially on the weekends.

Many students are continuing to come to class without their basic supplies - pencils, pens and paper. Please ensure they have access

to extra supplies at home. It would also help for all students to have a pencil case as only a few carry one around. Quite a few students have unorganized binders full of ripped and falling out pages. If you notice this, it would be helpful to take the time to reorganize and put in dividers.

You can look for the following topics coming up in core subjects:

Language Arts - 7A, C, and D will

be researching natural disasters and reading the Halifax Disaster. 7B will be doing a novel study on The Giver.

Social Studies - Canadian History - The Metis Rise Up (Lois Riel) and Western Expansion

Math - Geometry and Measurement unit. Students will need geometry sets and compasses

Science - Interactions and Ecosystems

Grade 8 Pod News

Pod Party Term 2 - The pod party was a great success. Thank you, Mr. McKenzie, for organizing the trip.

Spring - Spring is in the air and we know that this can be a great distraction with wanting to be outside or joining new activities and friends. Please continue to encourage your child to put in their best effort with all of their work, as we have less than 2 months until end of the year. We wish to encourage all students to meet their AR Points Goal this term and hand in all assignments on time. Our Term 3 Pod is a fun

hike and hotdog roast in Waterton. Make sure you focus on good learning and work habits this term. AR deadline is June 13/11.

Calaway- We continue to encourage all of our students to maintain their work habits and behaviour as we get closer to the end of the year and our trip to Calaway. This trip is a privileged and students need to earn their spot to go. Please review your Grade 8 Student Handbook you received at the beginning of the year in regards to behavior, being a good citizen of R.I. Baker and actively pursuing your academics. You need to be putting in

effort even at the end of the year. Students and parents will be notified if there are any concerns that need to be addressed. If you, or your child, have any questions regarding the end of the year trip, please contact your homeroom teacher.

Good Luck - Good luck to all of our wonderful Track and Field competitors. They have been training hard this month and have made us proud already.

Congratulations - Great work to our Badminton players. They did very well in their tournaments in April.

Athletics

TRACK & FIELD CLUB

We're excited to be once again offering a Track and Field Club. Any grade 5-8 student is welcome to join this club! Club is set to run Monday through Thursday from 3:30- 5:00, beginning April 18th. At club students will have the opportunity to practice events, learn more about track and field and have some fun. Speak with Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Ross or Miss Vanhell for more information.

Students will qualify for the LSAA and County meets through the RI

Baker Track & Field Meet on Thursday May 12th. The County meet takes place on Wednesday May 25th, the LSAA meet is set to run on Thursday May 26th and Zones will happen on Wednesday June 1st. All Track & Field meets will be hosted by the UofL.

INTRAMURALS

Students are competing in Indoor Soccer in intramurals. This will be our last sport of the year. Thanks to all our participants in the program this year!

BADMINTON

Congratulations to all our badminton players who participated in Counties

on April 13th and the LSAA City Championships on April 15th. We saw some great badminton!

A special congratulations to players who received medals:

Connor Chartier- 3rd place

Tori Saloman-Duda & Steven Schaaf- 3rd place

Joey Hinton & Ty Hilgersom- 2nd place

Logan Siebert- 2nd place

Tyona Jones- 2nd place

Thanks for a great season, players and coaches!

Marine Biology Update

A final student meeting was held during lunch hour on Tuesday, April 19th. In this meeting, students chose travelling partners for

the bus trip and potential roommates for sleeping accommodations while on the ship. Parents... please ask your son/daughter for

that final letter as it has a few 'last minute details' and reminders such as the phone fan out. Mr. Davis/ Mr. Higginson

Band

Congratulations to the 3 concert bands at RIBMS who all received a "Superior" rating at the annual Kiwanis Music Festival in Lethbridge on April 12th and 14th. It

takes a lot of time and dedication to perform at a superior level in a public setting, so all students should be very proud of this accomplishment. A special congrat-

ulations to all of the grade 8 band students who have now received top marks at every single festival they have performed in since grade 6.

Handbells

Congratulations to both the Grade 6 and Grade 8 Handbell Choirs for their performances at the Kiwanis Music Festival on April 4th! Both groups played very well and received "Excellent" ratings from the adjudicator. The students were wonderful ambassadors for R.I.B.M.S.

Several parents and grandparents also came to hear the handbell groups play at festival. We greatly appreciated your support! Thanks also to Mrs. Bueckert, who provided assistance on our festival trip.

Mrs. Holland would like to thank

members of all three R.I.B.M.S. handbell groups for their time and dedication this year. After our performances at the Music Monday concert here at

R.I. Baker on May 2, our rehearsals will conclude for the year.

Message from the Superintendent

Hello, everyone,

Normally the May long weekend marks the unofficial start of summer. This year, let's just hope for the true arrival of spring!

This month also brings a first round of Provincial Achievement Tests for our Grade 3, 6 and 9 students. I know there's considerable debate about the value of these standardized tests. For many students, I appreciate that these tests can cause some anxiety.

In Palliser, we've committed to gleaning as much information as we can from these provincial tests. Yes, they are just a snapshot from one test on one day. But in that

snapshot, we can gain insight into areas of focus or concern in our classrooms. We know our students' performance is much more than what can be measured in a single test. Instead, we look to the PATs and diploma exams as just pieces in the larger puzzle of measuring student performance and assessing learning.

Many of these measurements are summarized in Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar, which includes surveys of some parents and students and our teachers.

We are partners in the education of Palliser students. It's through real partnerships and regular com-

munication that we can address areas of concern and celebrate our students' and school successes.

Good luck to our students on their PATs and, soon, their diplomas. As the results come in, be assured staff and administration will be gleaning useful information from the results that will help us support our students to achieve their full potential.

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent

Palliser Regional Schools

Principal's Message

'Education: The Heart of Our Communities'

This is the theme of this year's education week, May 2-6, 2011. At Baker, we'll celebrate education as being a community endeavor through numerous activities. We begin the week with Music Monday, where RIBMS will host Jennie Emery and Kate Andrews students as well as students across Canada to celebrate students showcasing their musical abilities.

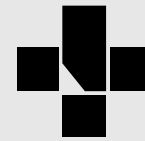
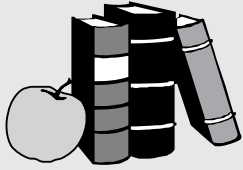
Wow! That certainly is a very

large community! Our Marine Biology students will be enjoying their Marine Biology trip on the west coast of BC. And while the Grade 8's celebrated 'learning in community' through their interdisciplinary unit on Japan and earthquakes prior to the Easter break, the Grade 5's will be joining classes while they begin their 'Holes' interdisciplinary novel study.

In terms of our great parent community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents

who work as partners with us in educating your children. I especially want to thank parents who take the time to read newsletters and memos and be in touch with your child's education and with what's going on at RIBMS. RIBMS was built and modeled with the metaphor of, 'It takes a village to raise a child', and I think that our parents and staff work together, 'in community' to demonstrate this every day! Thanks for all you do!





Stress Awareness

Stress is a normal part of life. We all experience it from time to time, but it's what we do about it that makes the difference. Here are some tips for improving your mental health:

Take care of yourself physically: put some activity into your day, even a walk can help clear your head. Eat healthy foods and drink plenty of water.

Breathe and relax: when you feel stressed, slow it down, close your eyes and focus on your breathing. Each time you breathe out, relax your body. Do this for a few minutes until you feel calm and relaxed.

Stay connected: Spend time in caring and supportive relationships with family and friends.

Develop or improve your skills: Learn to prioritize, deal with conflict, communicate assertively, and don't sweat the small stuff.

For more information, go to

www.albertahealthservices.ca/mentalhealth.asp

Which Helmet?

Why helmets are important?

For many recreational activities, wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury and even save your life.

How can a helmet protect my head?

During a fall or collision, most of the impact energy is absorbed by the helmet, rather than your head and brain.

Are all helmets the same?

No. There are different helmets for different activities. Each type of helmet is made to protect your head from the impacts common to that particular activity or sport – bike helmets are not the same as hockey helmets. Be sure to wear a helmet that is appropriate for the particular activity you're involved in. Some helmets may not protect your head as effectively. To find out which helmet to use go to: www.thinkfirst.ca/safetyinfo.aspx

World No Tobacco Day – May 31

Smoke free environments like homes and vehicles are important for the health of children. Growing up in a smoke free environment reduces the risk of cancers and respiratory diseases such as asthma and lung infections. These are many health benefits children can experience by growing up in smoke free world.

Growing up smoke free spaces also goes a long way in **preventing children from becoming tobacco users themselves** (Regardless of whether their parents or guardians smoke).

On World No Tobacco Day, May 31, consider or making your home and vehicles smoke free.

For more information visit:

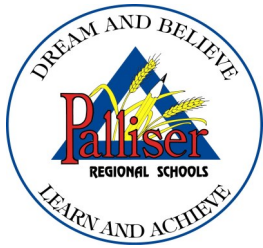
www.albertahealthservices.ca/2460.asp

Three Underrated Foods

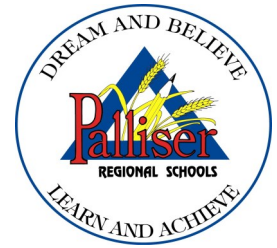
Sunflower seeds. Sunflower seeds are rarely in the spotlight. That's a shame, because sunflower seeds are as good as most nuts...and they're cheaper. For a snack, buy sunflower seeds in the shell. For tossing on salads or yogurt, buy them unsalted and shell-free. Roast them for richer flavor.

Plain yogurt. Plain yogurt has a tartness that's a perfect match for the natural sweetness of berries, bananas, or peaches AND it has more protein, potassium, calcium, zinc, and B vitamins than sweet yogurt. Add a dash of vanilla for even more flavor.

Watermelon. Two cups of watermelon has 38 percent of a day's vitamin C and 32 percent of a day's vitamin A for only 85 fat-free, salt-free calories. Bonus: watermelon is one of the fruits with the fewest pesticide residues.



Palliser Hockey Academy



Sept. through Mar. 2011-2012

On-Ice Instruction by former
NHL Defenceman Bruce Bell

R.I. Baker Middle School (5-6, 7-8)

- 2 hours ice time per week
- 50 hours total ice time

Total cost \$275.00 + insurance to the school

Registration deadline:

MAY 20, 2011 with \$100 deposit

For program information

R.I. Baker: 345-3340



Ages 4 1/2-12

Summer Child Care in COALDALE!!

PALLISER OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

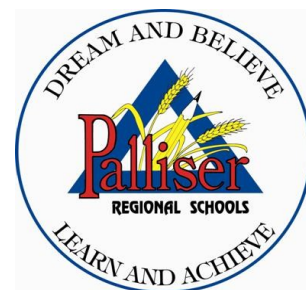
Register and **SIGN UP** for summer care **MAY 1, 2011!!**

Summer child care: **Monday through Friday 7:00am to 6:00pm**

\$35.00 per day, \$20 half day prices or \$450.00 per month. If you sign up for 10 or more days in the summer you will receive a discounted rate of \$32.50 per day.



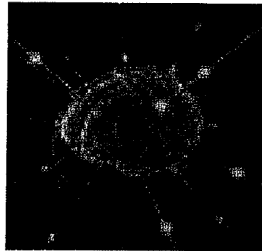
P.L.A.Y. Program
Jennie Emery
Elementary School
Coaldale Alberta



Palliser
Learning &
Active care
Youth

Phone: 403-330-6261

E-mail: cilena.mathieu@pallisersd.ab.ca



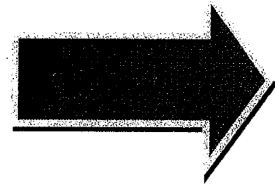
Having Fun Navigating the Teen Years

A closer look at understanding why brain development, parent attachment and boundaries are so important during the teen years.



Who should attend?

Parents, grandparents,
Youth workers,
teachers



It can be held in 3 evening sessions or 1 full day session. Participants are encouraged to attend all 3 sessions if choosing evening option.

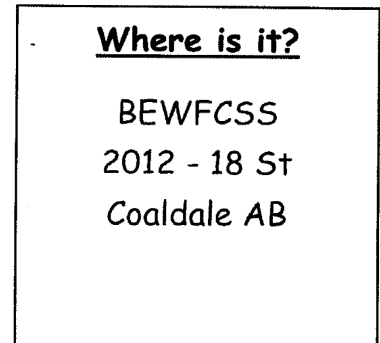


No Charge
Snacks Provided!



When is it?

Session #1: Wednesday, May 18, 6- 8:30pm
Session #2: Wednesday May 25 6- 8:30pm
Session #3: Wednesday June 1 6- 8:30pm
OR
ALL DAY Presentation (sessions #1-3):
Saturday, June 11, 2011 9:00am- 4:30pm



Where is it?

BEWFCSS
2012 - 18 St
Coaldale AB

Contact: Tanie Reid
Teen Specialist
BEW FCSS
403-345-7000 ext 2455
tanie.reid@albertahealthservices.ca



May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Marine Biology Trip Leave	2 Classes Resume Music Monday	3	4	5	6 Progress Report #3	7 Marine Biology Trip Return
8 Mother's Day	9 School Council Meeting @ 7pm	10	11 Booster Juice Lunch	12 RIBMS Track Meet	13	14
15	16	17	18 Gr.6 English PAT Part A Subway Lunch	19 RIBMS Alternate Track	20 Hockey Academy Application Form/Deposit Due	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL: Victoria Day	24 PD Day - NO SCHOOL	25 Wally's Pizza Lunch County Track & Field (U of L)	26 LSAA Track & Field (U of L)	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Track & Field Zones (U of L)	2 Grade 7 Orientation 10:15-11:45	3	4
5	6 School Council Meeting @ 7pm	7	8 Booster Juice Lunch Gr. 5 Orientation @ 10:15-11:45am New Student Orientation @ 7pm	9	10	11
12	13 A/R Cutoff	14 Gr. 6 Social PAT Library Closes	15 Gr. 6 English PAT Part B	16 Gr. 6 Math PAT Gr. 5 Frankslide Field Trip	17 Gr. 6 Science PAT	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22 Exploratories End	23 Gr. 5 Galt/Cemetery Gr. 6 Ramada/Movie Mill Gr. 7-Calgary Zoo Gr. 8- Calaway	24 End of Term 3 Fun Day!	25
26	27 Henderson Swimming Day 10:00-12:30	28 5-9:00 6- 10:00 7-11:00 Farwell Assembly Grade 8-1:30 Report Card #3 Last Day	29	30		