

# The Paw Print



SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

R. I. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Welcome Back!

### Our Website

We'd like to remind everyone that RIBMS, as well as all schools in the Palliser School District, have websites. Our website is:

[www.ribms.ca](http://www.ribms.ca)

### Monthly Newsletters

- You are able to subscribe to our monthly newsletters online. This means that as soon as newsletters are posted, they will be automatically emailed to you, if you subscribe to them on our website. Simply

go to our website, look at the right hand column, type in your e-mail, and hit 'subscribe'. If you are already subscribed to our monthly newsletters you do not have to subscribe again.

**Please note: For households with dial up or no access to a computer, please contact the office. In which case, we will send a hard copy of the newsletter home with your youngest child in the school.**

**Calendar of Events** - on the top 'menu' bar, if you click on 'calendar of events' it will take you to a calendar page. Near the top, on the left hand side will be a 'drop down box'. The 'general' calendar will have school wide events posted. If you click on 'athletics calendar' we will eventually post all the extra-curricular team practices, games and tournaments.

**Homework** - teachers will be posting homework for their classes on-line. Work sheets and assignments will be able to be printed from this area.

We hope that you will find our website user friendly and that it will help enhance the communication we have between school and home.

## Important Dates:

- *Sept 5 - Labour Day*  
– NO SCHOOL
- *Sept 7 - Picture Day*
- *Sept 7 - Meet the Teacher Night @ 7pm*
- *Sept 19 - PD Day—*  
NO SCHOOL
- *Sept 29 - Walkathon*

## Staffing News 2011-2012

New staff members for 2011 – 2012:

Ms. Macky Le – PS III intern teacher with Mrs. D. Smith

Miss Danielle deVos – Gr. 7/8 Science teacher

Mrs. Sandra Crockett – Learning Assistant in Grade 5

Mrs. Danielle Olivieri - Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC)

Mr. Deryk Hamilton – vp/Science teacher

We welcome all new staff to RIBMS and look forward to their contribution!

## Bell Times for 2011 - 2012

	Grade 5-6	Grade 7-8
Warning Bell	8:30	8:30
Period 1	8:35-9:19	8:35-9:17
Period 2	9:19-10:02	9:20 - 10:02
CGA time	10:02-10:14	10:02-10:14
Recess	10:14-10:25	10:14-10:19
Period 3	10:25-11:05	10:19-11:01
Period 4	11:05-11:46	11:04-11:46
Lunch Break	11:46-12:30	11:46-12:30
Period 5	12:30-1:14	12:30-1:12
Period 6	1:14-1:57	1:15-1:57
Period 7	2:11-2:50	2:02-2:44
Period 8	2:50-3:29	2:47-3:29
Closing Bell	3:29	3:29

Parents, please remember that we have moved to early dismissal on Friday. Dismissal will be 12:20. All students will have a nutrition break (10 minutes) prior to the last class on Friday. Please ensure your child has adequate snacks to see them through until they get home for lunch on Friday.

	Grade 5-6	Grade 7-8
Warning Bell	8:30	8:30
Period 1	8:35-9:31	8:35-9:30
Period 2	9:31-10:23	9:30-10:23
Period 3	10:43-11:32	10:37-11:27
Period 4	11:32-12:20	11:30-12:20
Closing Bell	12:20	12:20



### CGA's

For our new students and parents, CGA stands for 'cross graded advisory'. Every day, except Friday, students attend homeroom made up of students from Grades 5-8. Students will remain in this CGA for the duration of their time at RIBMS. CGA's allow for cross graded interaction between students. It also provides our students with the opportunity to get to know one more staff

member.

As we did last year, each CGA will be responsible for planning and carrying out a 'public service' activity with their CGA. In past years, we had groups visit the seniors' lodge to interact with the residents and play bingo; another group baked cookies for the entire school; another group managed the 'Operation Christmas Child Shoebox campaign'; and another

group wrote letters of support for Canadian troops overseas. These are just some examples of the public service activities the CGA groups have taken part in.

## Important Information

**School Fees** - Please be reminded that school fees are now due. The amount charged for the 2011-12 term is \$125 for grades 7 & 8 and \$70 for grades 5 & 6. Please deduct \$25 if you paid the registration fee last June. Please note that for students involved with extra-curricular teams (volleyball, basketball, cross-country, etc.) School fees are due prior to your child participating in that sport. If there are financial issues we need to be aware of, please contact Mrs. Fritzier or Mr. Hamilton at 345-3340.

**Credit/Debit Machine**- We are sorry to report that this is not yet in place but are hoping to get it in place soon. Please watch for future newsletters where we will keep you informed.

### After Regular

**School Hours** - Please be reminded that we cannot allow any student into the R.I. Baker School building after school activities have concluded unless they are accompanied by a parent or a teacher of the R.I. Baker Middle School staff.

**Note to Parents** - The

bus loop is only for buses. Parents are not allowed into the bus loop at any time. Parents dropping off students should do so on the south side of the school. The east entrance is the entrance reserved for parents and general public.

**Student Safety** - We will have a practice fire drill and a practice lock down in the near future. We want to make sure students are all familiar with the proper exits and procedures for various emergencies that may arise.

### Meet the Teachers

**Night** - Meet the Teacher Night is on September 7 at 7pm. Gr. 7's will meet in 105 and Gr. 8's will meet in 205. At 7:30 we will all meet in the gym for staff introduction and information. If you can't attend, teachers will be sending out handbooks for you to read.

**Picture Day** - Picture day will be on September 7. Please complete picture form, enclose payment and return to the school on or before picture day.

***Please ensure that all forms that went home with your child are***

***completed and returned to your home-room as soon as possible. Your help in these matters is invaluable.***

### Homework Sheets -

The homework sheet procedure at RIBMS is:

- If a student is aware of a brief absence they can obtain a homework sheet and see their teachers about any work they will need to have completed
- If a student is ill for a day or two, it would be best for the child to recover from their illness. Upon returning to school, they need to contact each of the teachers whose class they missed and either write their homework on a homework sheet or simply jot it in their agenda book.

In this way the student will know which texts/notes/binders they may need to complete their work

**Walk-A-Thon** - On September 29, we will be holding our 10th annual Walkathon. This is a great activity which the entire school, including parents, can participate in. It is our only school-wide fundraiser for the year. A separate

Walkathon memo will be

**Hockey**-This year, we'll be expanding the Palliser Hockey Academy to include Grade 5 and 6's. Gr. 5/6's will be on the ice on Mondays and Wednesday, while Gr. 7/8's will be on the ice on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We're excited to offer this opportunity to our Grade 5 and 6's this year.

distributed soon. Please be looking for this and they accompanying forms and pledge sheet. We thank you in advance for returning the pledge forms in a timely manner.

**We also welcome and need parents to assist us in helping us out with Walkathon.**

**Bussing**-There have been changes to the bussing system with Palliser Regional Schools. If you live within the 2.4 km range and would still like to access bussing, this needs to be completed through the Town of Coaldale office. Please still come to the school first to discuss transportation needs.

## Report Cards

In an effort to make report cards more accurately represent student progress, we have changed our report cards. This change does not affect core classes. Classes that have been recorded as pass/fail will now be using a

4-3-2-1 scale. This is an effort to provide parents and students with a more accurate representation of student progress. Below is an example of the 4-3-2-1 scale and the descriptors of each level. If you have any questions about the new report card

please feel free to ask your son/daughter's homeroom teacher. We hope this will help create a more accurate and meaningful report card.

### Achievement Indicators

Level	Descriptor
4	Work is <b>excellent at grade level</b> and provides evidence of an <b>in-depth understanding</b> and application of the learner outcomes.
3	Work is <b>proficient at grade level</b> and provides evidence of a <b>solid understanding</b> and application of the learner outcomes.
2	Work is <b>at grade level</b> and provides evidence of a <b>basic understanding</b> and application of the learner outcomes.
1	Work is <b>not yet at grade level</b> . Additional instructional opportunities are required to meet learner outcomes.
NMA	<b>No mark assigned</b> due to insufficient evidence of achievement.

## Coaldale Musical Arts Society

The Coaldale Musical Arts Society is a group of individuals who work in association with KAHS and RIBMS mu-

sic programs for the betterment of musical arts for students. We are having our Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 26,



## Band News

**Band 6-8:** Welcome back to Baker band students! Mr. Conrad is extremely excited to get things up and rolling this year! Parents, please watch for course outlines, rental agreements and other forms that will be coming home at the beginning of September. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please feel free to contact Mr. Conrad at the school (345-3340) or via e-mail at [travis.conrad@palliser.sd.ab.ca](mailto:travis.conrad@palliser.sd.ab.ca)

**JAZZ BAND:** Jazz band will be meeting once a week on Friday afternoon. Traditional jazz instru-

ments include: saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drums, piano, bass, guitar and vibes, but the group is open to all instruments. At this time, the jazz band is only open to grade 7 & 8 students, but as an added incentive for grade sixes, Mr. Conrad will accept beginner players later in the year if they prove themselves worthy.



**PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE:** Mr. Conrad is very interested in resuming a percussion ensemble this year at RIBMS. The group is open to all 7 and 8 students with rhythm and to any grade 6's with piano and or percussion experience. A schedule will be determined once numbers are confirmed.

## Parent Opportunities

1. We are looking for parent helpers on picture day, September 7, 2011. Please contact the school if you are interested in helping.
2. We'll need many parents to assist with Walkathon 2011. Parents are needed to help man cross-walks in Lethbridge. Time would be about 9:30-11:00 on Thursday, September 29. Please call the office ASAP to let us know.
3. Help the canteen. We are seeking help for our canteen. This could be a daily or weekly opportunity. Tasks would include preparing Caesar salads, hot dogs, etc.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact either Cynthia Flitzler or Deryk Hamilton at 345-3340.

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## Athletics

### Volleyball

Our volleyball teams are picked and raring to go! Come out and watch our new teams compete this season! Our parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th @ 8:15pm. We ask that all our volleyball parents are there. GO BEARS GO!!

### Intramurals

RI Baker is pleased to continue with our intramural program. Any grade 5-8 students may be involved in this program which is run during noon-hours. We'll kick off the year with dodgeball! Students can sign up in grade level teams. Listen to announcements and pay attention to the Intramurals board. Let's have some fun with intramurals!

### Cross Country

If you are interested in being part of the RI Baker Cross Country Running

Team the forms are in the office. Cross Country is excellent base training for other sports. The main goals are physical conditioning and to have fun!

Students need to put their runners and their smile on and meet in the foyer. We run after school Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 3:30 and 4:00. Students will be done about 4:15. The students can run every day or if they are involved in other activities, they can participate as their schedule permits.

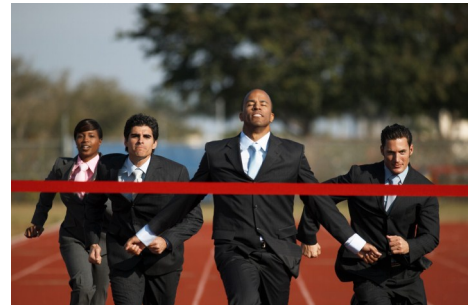
Grades 6, 7 & 8 attend the LSAA Run at Nicolas Sheran on September 21.

Grades 7 & 8 attend the South Zone Run at Echo Dale Park, Medicine Hat October 5.

All grades can participate in Open Runs – e.g. The Pumpkin Run, Nicholas Sheran

Park; Terry Fox Run, Henderson Lake. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Vegter, Mrs. Ross, Ms. Vanhell or Mrs. Thomas.

**Cross country is a short season – let's get running!!!**



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## Handbell News

Mrs. Holland will once again be offering students the opportunity to participate in our handbell choirs this year at RIBMS. Any students who are interested are welcome to sign up and then attend a short information meeting with Mrs. Holland. Students are asked to listen to announcements for the time and date of this meeting, which will take place during the week of September 6th.

Handbell rehearsals will take place at lunch hour. Last year we had 3 different handbell groups (new Grade 5 ringers, Grade 6's, and Grade 8's). The number of students interested this year will determine how many groups we run for the 2011-12 school year. Students who are interested must be committed to attending all rehearsals. New ringers will need to purchase a performance shirt, and

Mrs. Holland will provide details to those students.



## Family School Liaison Counsellor

I would like to introduce myself, Danielle Olivieri, to the RIBMS community as your Family School Liaison Counsellor. I have been working throughout the Palliser School Division for the last twelve years and am excited to say this is my first year working at RIBMS. I look forward to meeting the students here and getting to know those who are new to the school. I will be at RIBMS on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Navigating the pre-teen and teen years can be challenging and stressful for youth and their families. The Family School Liaison program provides personal counselling services for students through referrals from school staff, parents or the students themselves. Counsellors work with the student and their family to determine what kind of support would best

meet their needs or situation. Issues commonly addressed include things like grief, depression, anxiety, parental separation, relationship issues, conflict, anger, self-esteem, abuse and violence, and peer issues. Counsellors can also assist families with referrals to community services to address their needs.

Counselling services are confidential. Information disclosed during sessions is not shared outside the counselling team without permission, except where safety concerns exist. School administrators are informed of the names of students receiving counselling services. Any student can access one session with the counsellor prior to receiving signed parental consent.

If you are interested in learning more about the counselling services,

have questions or are interested in referring your child, please contact Danielle Olivieri at RIBMS at 403-345-3340 or on her cell at 403-308-5065. Best wishes for wonderful school year!



## Yearbook

**Yearbook pre-orders are on now. You may order one while paying your school fees, or just talk to the office. \$25/book. The pre-order deadline is Jan. 1. Books will be ordered based on the Jan. numbers, so if you wait until after Jan. you may not get one. Don't miss out.**

Yearbook is under way but we are not always able to be at all of the events. If you, as a student, or parent, have pictures from a school event please share them with us. You may download your school pictures at the following website which will be open until April 1. If you do send us some pictures, please *briefly describe the event and label who is in the picture*. Yearbook staff will then decide which pictures fit into our yearbook the best. Thank you for your future contributions!

Website: <https://images.jostens.com/login?user=400005262&pw=yearbook>

Username: 400005262  
yearbook

Password:



# PALLISER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

2112 - 13 Street  
Coaldale, AB  
T1M 1L7

## School Council

Our reorganizational meeting will occur immediately after 'Meet the Teacher' night on Wed., Sept. 7, at 8:15 in the library. If you are interested in having a voice in your child's education and want to learn more about middle school please attend. It really is a great avenue to be involved in your child's education! If you have any questions please contact either administrator Cynthia Fritzler or Deryk Hamilton at 345.3340.

## Superintendent's Message

Hello, everyone,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

To our students and their families, I say thank you for entrusting Palliser to meet your educational needs.

This year, Palliser Regional Schools has adopted a theme of "TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More." Those few words speak volumes about our division's values. We view education as a shared responsibility, best served through the meaningful collaboration and partnership of all parties – school administration, teaching and support staff, students, parents and others in the community.

As a society, we all benefit when our children are educated, literate and independent thinkers. Likewise, our students benefit when the people around them support their learning needs. Even something as simple as a consistent message that school is important can make a difference to a child and his/her attitude toward learning.

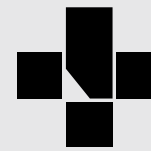
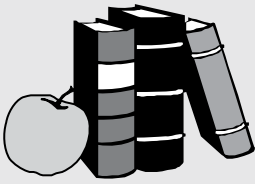
How can you be a partner in education? One of the best ways to do this is to attend school council meetings. Through school council, parents/guardians can provide valuable input and stay informed about what's happening at the school. You don't have to commit to attending every meeting of the council, but come once, and we think you'll see the value of it and you'll come back for more.

Thank you for being part of Palliser. I wish you all the best for a successful 2011-2012 school year.

Kevin Gietz, Superintendent

Palliser Regional Schools

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## Welcome back to the 2011 - 2012 school year!

Alberta Health Services staff from Public Health, Healthy Weights, Addictions and Mental Health, Health Promotion, Dental Health, Tobacco Reduction and Safe Communities will be contributing to our newsletter pages.

We work in partnership and focus on promoting the health of students, staff, and families in the school community.

If you are looking for general health information contact **HEALTH LINK** at **1-866-408-5465**.

**Have a safe, healthy, and happy school year.**

## Does your child have a chronic medical condition?

Some tips to help keep your child safe and healthy:

Inform the school of your child's condition

Provide a Medic Alert® bracelet for your child

Provide the school with current medical instructions as recommended by your physician

Provide the school with up-to-date auto-injectors and keep them current

Provide information to school and teachers

Participate in the development of an emergency response plan for your child

For more information, contact your school's public health nurse or discuss with the school principal.

For information on Allergies/Asthma visit [www.aiaa.ca](http://www.aiaa.ca)

Anaphylaxis visit [www.anaphylaxiscanada.ca](http://www.anaphylaxiscanada.ca)

Diabetes visit [www.diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca)



## Terry Fox National School Run Day Wednesday, September 28th, 2011

*Get out your running shoes and run for a cause!*

In 1980, Terry Fox faced huge challenges while running a marathon a day for 143 days during his **3,339 mile** Marathon of Hope. Terry challenged himself every day with one goal in mind: raise the most money he could to end cancer. Now it's your turn. Join your school community in celebrating Terry's heroic effort by promoting health and taking part in the National School Run Day on September 28th!

Schools are invited this year to "Take the Terry Fox Challenge" and unite by issuing a school challenge. Challenge ideas include: costume runs – dress up like a superhero or a rock star, obstacle course or dance challenge and many more.

Check out [www.terryfox.org](http://www.terryfox.org) to find out more and get involved!

## Breakfast for Learning

With students heading back to the classroom makes September a great month to focus on healthy eating. We know well-nourished children have improved memory, problem solving skills and creative abilities – overall they perform better in school.

A healthy breakfast should contain at least 3 of the 4 food groups, such as a bowl of whole grain cereal with milk and fresh fruit. You may also try whole grain toast, a hardboiled or poached egg, celery/carrot sticks and a glass of milk.

Take the time to get your children off to a great start with a nutritious breakfast every morning.

For more information and ideas on Breakfast for Learning visit [www.breakfastforlearning.ca](http://www.breakfastforlearning.ca).

# September 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 School Fees Due	3
4	5 No School Holiday	6	7 Picture Day Meet the Teacher Night 7:00	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 No School PD Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Walkathon	30	

# October 2011

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 No School Holiday	11 No School PD Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 PT Interviews 4-7 Book Fair	20 PT Interviews 4-7 Book Fair	21 Book Fair	22
23	24 Book Fair	25 Book Fair	26 Family Portraits	27 Picture Retakes	28	29
30	31					