

*R.I. Baker Middle*

*School*

## NEWSLETTER

May 2018



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 2 - Kate Andrews  
Grade 9 Orientation -  
7:00
- May 2 - A1 Pizza  
Lunch
- May 3 - Track Meet @  
U of L
- May 4 - Progress  
Report #3
- May 5 - Badminton  
Zones in Medicine Hat
- May 6-9 - 7/8 Band Trip
- May 8 - Grade 6 PAT  
Part A Language Arts
- May 9 - Booster Juice  
Lunch
- May 9 - Grade 5 Bike  
Radio
- May 10 - County  
Track @ U of L
- May 14 - No School -  
PD Day
- May 16 - Wiebe's  
Lunch
- May 17 - New Student  
Orientation @ RIBMS  
6:00 - 7:00
- May 21 - Holiday
- May 22 - No School -  
PD Day
- May 23 - LSAA Track  
Meet @ U of L
- May 23 - Taco in a  
Bag Lunch
- May 29 - Track Zones  
@ U of L
- May 30 - Subway  
Lunch

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Technology. Social media. Snapchat. Musically  
Facebook. Instagram. Texting. YouTube.

Chances are if you have a child in middle school you are familiar with these terms. Some of them are even considered dated now. As Principal, I deal with more technology related issues than any other. I often ask why? Why the shift? Why can students who cannot legally drive have the ability to connect to the world and have access to everything? Do these kids have the maturity level and respect to manage all of this power? How can we as adults ensure these powerful tools are being used positively?

Not long ago, cell phones were expensive devices for making phone calls or texting in limited locations. They were rarely in the hands of someone under 16. Children might be able to access the internet via a family computer easily monitored by parents. You could hear the modem connect a block away. Nowadays, as early as age 8, young people can expect to have easy access to smart phones. These devices can be used not only to call or text, but also to play games and access the internet, including a rapidly expanding number of social media sites. They can post anything that comes to mind for millions to see. Because they work virtually anywhere, they are compact, and don't even require Wi-Fi, parents and school staff have a difficult time monitoring cell phone use.

Guiding and supervising a child's social media use can be a real challenge for parents. Most of us grew up before these types of media became popular, and many parents still aren't adept at using them. We can often view them as just "kids stuff." The fact is, this is where most children experiment. They experiment with language, sexual themed conversations and media, gossiping, rumours, first dates, breakups, enemies, frienemies, and sometimes academics.

It is real. It is there. How are we as adults managing this activity? I strongly suggest that you take look at the link below to gain access to information that can lead to positive dialogue with your middle school child.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mental-wealth/201703/why-social-media-is-not-smart-middle-school-kids>

If you have any questions, or would like further information in this area, contact me anytime. - Mr. Prebs

## **NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

On Thursday, May 17, from 6:00-7:00 pm, R.I. Baker will be hosting its New Student Orientation. When students arrive at the school, they will participate in an activity that will guide them through various spaces in the school, and provide them with an opportunity to meet staff members.

This activity will be followed by a short assembly.

If you are new to Baker in September, we hope to see you there!

## **STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING R.I. BAKER FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

Parents, as we plan for classes next year and look into staffing for the fall, could you please let us know ASAP if your child or children, grades 5-8, will not be attending RIBMS in the fall. Thank you!

## **CANTEEN NEWS**

The canteen has been a very place this year and we have tried to keep a wide variety of items available for students to purchase. Parents are reminded that our canteen is run entirely by volunteers including staff members that give up their lunch hours and parents who generously give of their time each week. Thank you to Mrs. Poettcker for her assistance every Wednesday as well as the group of ladies that help Mrs. Peters with the taco-in-a-bag for the Wednesday hot lunch program. Taco-in-a-bag could not be offered to our students without the hard work these ladies put in for a full morning.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Students and parents are always encouraged to give the librarian suggestions for new items they would like to see in our school library collection. Each suggestion will be given consideration prior to a decision being made. We appreciate and value student input as to what titles they would like to see available to them. Each month there are new titles to entice our students to continue the benefits and pleasures of reading.

The school library will be closed to students in the middle of June to allow time for inventory and the collection of all signed out materials. Please encourage your child to return their overdue books to the library. Your child is responsible for the replacement of any library book or textbook that they have either lost or severely damaged. A letter will be sent home indicating the replacement cost and students will NOT receive their final report card until all textbooks and/or library books have been returned. Students are reminded on a weekly basis of any outstanding items they have.

*Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."*

*-Maya Angelou, poet*

# PARENT COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is on May 15 at 6:30pm in the Staff room at RI Baker. Thank you to all of those that have contributed their time and effort to School Council this year! We encourage all parents to attend who are interested in hearing about upcoming events at RI Baker and would like to provide input into their child's education. We try to keep the meeting to around an hour!

If anyone has items they'd like to submit for the School Council agenda please let me know at [shannon@kaskocattle.com](mailto:shannon@kaskocattle.com) by May 6. Thanks and hope to see you there,

Shannon Kasko

School Council Chair



## ATHLETICS

### BADMINTON

Congratulations to all of our badminton players on a successful season! We saw a lot of growth in every player! We look forward to seeing you continue to compete in badminton. A special congratulations to our bantam and midget teams on winning the County of Lethbridge banners. We had many medals at the County tournament including golds from McKenzie Holmes, Ben Dyck, Brendan Duda & Conner Wittebolle, Dylan Granson, and Haelen Opp & Brandon Granson.. We're looking forward to Zone May 6th.

### VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

RI Baker will be once again running a spring volleyball clinic coming up in June. Watch for more information coming out soon, including the dates. Both a grade 5 clinic and a grade 6/7 clinic will be offered.

### INTRAMURALS

Students are competing in indoor soccer games. It's great to see some teamwork as the teams compete!

### RI BAKER TRACK & FIELD MEET

As part of the physical education curriculum, the annual R. I. Baker Track and Field Meet will be held on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year all students will be bussed to the University of Lethbridge track for this exciting school event.

As we have done in the past years we will once again be providing FREE of charge a basic lunch for your child. The lunch will be a ham & cheese sub sandwich and a bottle of water. Students will

receive their bagged lunches prior to leaving the school. There is also a concession that will be open at the University track if students wish to purchase additional items through the day.

Please note that the busses will leave the school at 8:40am and it is important that all students are at the school in time for the regular first bell of the day. Once the busses have left no students will be driven to the University and will have to remain at the school. We are on a very tight schedule for the day and busses cannot wait for tardy students.

Due to the unpredictable weather of Southern Alberta please make sure your child has adequate clothing for the day. Sunscreen, hats and water are a must even if the morning starts out cool. All students will be participating so please make sure they have proper clothing and footwear.

A permission form was sent home and must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher ASAP. If the form is not returned your child will not be able to attend.

It is of the utmost importance that parents call the school and inform the office if your child will not be attending the track meet. It is imperative that the office be informed in order that we know your child is safe and accounted for.

## YEARBOOK

**Correction: Yearbooks will have photos from school events added to them until the end of the school year, and students will collect in September. Orders can still be made up until Monday, May 28th. Copies of the 2017-2018 yearbook can be ordered through the office for \$30.**

## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

**Grade 7/8 Band Trip – River's Edge Camp and Red Deer**

### **May 6-9th Final Payment DUE Monday April 30th**

Students are excited to get on the road and perform at the Alberta Band Association Festival in Red Deer!

Bus Departs at 8:30 am on Sunday May 6th and we will return at 5:00 pm on Wednesday May 9th.

Updated schedules and packing lists will be sent home on Monday April 30th via email and hard copies.

# TEACHER'S REQUESTS

Late each spring the JEES and RI Baker school administrators meet with the grade level teachers and our learning support teachers to place students in classrooms for the following year. Much deliberation goes into these assignments. Some of the things we consider include:

- Student needs
- Male/female ratio
- Behavior needs
- Student relationships with other students.
- Learning assistant assignments
- Academic balance
- Class size

We create classes within each grade that are as similar as possible to each other. A parent request for a specific teacher makes it difficult to accomplish this. Requests from several parents makes it next to impossible to create equitable classes. For these reasons, parent requests for specific teachers will not be considered. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Prebushewski at 403-345-3340.

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Online dangers and how to keep kids safe online

### Kid's safety online:

The Internet is a great social networking tool for young people, but abusers know it and use its anonymity to access kids. Predators can adopt a false identity, initiate trusting friendships with children or youth and attempt to meet them in person.

Online child sexual exploitation is a serious problem. Approximately one in five children is sexually solicited online.<sup>1</sup>

“Luring” is a term describing a number of dangerous activities an adult may engage in with a child online. It can include convincing a child or youth to reveal personal details about themselves and family members, sending photos, or meeting in person. Sending photos to even a relative over the Internet can be risky because an exploiter can intercept the photos and cut and paste the child's image into a pornographic photo and then distribute it.

### Warning signs your child may be unsafe online;

- Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night, and doesn't want to tell you who s/he is talking to or what s/he is doing.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from adults you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child asks for a web camera or moves the web camera to a more private location.

- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an online account belonging to someone else.

### **How parents can keep kids safe online:**

The most important thing you can do to keep kids safe online is talk with your kids—before someone else does. By setting guidelines, explaining the dangers and supervising younger children online, caregivers can dramatically reduce the chances their child will meet an online acquaintance in real life.

### **10 cyber-safety tips for parents and caregivers**

Here are 10 cyber-safety tips you can use to prepare your kids for the online world:

1. Talk to your kids about online safety issues.
2. Build guidelines and a family agreement around Internet use just as you would for other activities.
3. Be proactive in finding out who your kids are talking to online by spending time with them on the Internet.
4. Keep your computer in a public area of your house.
5. Never disclose personal details online.
6. They should never post pictures of themselves online to people they do not know. Webcams and camera phones make it easy to take and transmit images—and too often, young people are lured into sending explicit pictures that are then used to manipulate them. Explain to your child that everything sent out over the Internet could last there forever.
7. Reinforce that people online may not be who they say they are.
8. Consider using parental controls like Internet filters or blocking software.
9. Encourage open dialogue with your kids and offer a “No-Questions-Asked Bailout” as a safety net if they feel they could be in danger.
10. Be constructive about good places for them to visit on the Internet.

### **Safety tips for social networking sites**

Social networking sites are very popular with young people. Most have privacy controls that limit access. Ensure that your child or youth's site has the privacy controls set so that only those known to them can access their information. Explain that they should never accept an invitation from someone they don't know—even if that person claims to be a friend of a friend.

What to do if you suspect sexual exploitation online:

Any instance of suspected child exploitation on the Internet, including pornography or sexually explicit communication with a child or youth, should be reported to [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca). Cybertip.ca analysts are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week to accept calls from those who require direct assistance. If you are worried about any child being hurt, report what you do know and let the experts handle the rest. You might save a child or youth from unimaginable hurt.

- Talk immediately, calmly and frankly to your child in a supportive, calming way
- Contact your local police
- Report these incidents to your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- Remember, Internet controls—though good—cannot take the place of honest, open dialogue. Young people may access the Internet from a friend’s house, school, library or on mobile devices.

David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak, 2000, Online victimization: A report on the nation’s youth, Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, page ix. U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, A parent’s guide to Internet safety.

**Submitted by Dalayna Taverner, Family School Liaison Counsellor. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 403-892-5947.**

## **GRADE 5 POD**

The grade 5’s will take part in their first R. I. Baker Track and Field Day, at the University of Lethbridge, on Thursday, May 5. This is a great day for all students to experience their first track meet. They will be supplied with a lunch that day. Parents are welcome to come out and watch, or phone the school to volunteer for the day.

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.

We would like to wish all mothers out there, a very happy “Mother’s Day.”

### **Language Arts**

Wrapping up our Non-Fiction, Friend or Foe unit, we’ve seen excellent quality of work come from the students! Many were eager to share the fun, and sometimes creepy facts they learned during their research. Up next is our Literature Circle unit, which will provide students with both structured group work, and individual reading time. Students will actively engage in books at their level to discuss, analyze, and reflect on characters and other plot features within their novels.

### **Social**

In 5B and 5C Social we are wrapping up Chapter 7: The Arctic Region. Students created plays in the format of radio and television interviews to explore the resources and geography of the region as well as the industries, culture and lifestyle of the Inuit. Next, we will explore Canada’s diversity through Canadians’ stories, acts of citizenship, and key events that have formed our Canadian identity.

5A, D and E just finished their study of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Lowland region. Up next is the Arctic region. After our research is finished students will have the option of creating a sculpture or penning a rap or poem to celebrate this frosty region.

## Science

Science 5D and E - We are finishing up our Electricity unit and will be starting our focus on magnetism.

Science 5A,B, C - We are just completing our Weather unit, and will be writing the test on May 1st. We will then begin our final unit, Wetlands.

In Science, all grade 5's will be participating in a video conference on May 29. The session was called "It's Not Easy Being Green.". This program is through the Government of Alberta, and Alberta Parks. On June 7th we will be participating in part 2 of the program, with a field trip to Park Lake to do a field study of the Wetlands. We will need parent supervisors for this trip, as we need a 1:5 ratio of adults to students. Please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you are able to join us.

## Math

5A, B, C and E Math in May will consist of finishing up Fractions, moving into Measurement, and starting Addition and Subtraction of Decimals.

In 5D Math we are wrapping up 2-D and 3-D shapes. Next, we will explore transformations including the rotation and reflection of 2-D shapes. This will conclude our Shape and Space unit, and we will begin Statistics and Probability towards the end of May.

# GRADE 6 POD

## Language Arts

After Part A of the P.A.T (narrative and functional writing) on May 8th, our focus shifts to reading for the remainder of the school year. Our reading focus will be on comprehension test strategies and literature circles, and we will also explore smaller writing units on cartoons and poetry.

## Social

The students are finishing off their unit on Ancient Athens and will be moving on to the Iroquois Confederacy. Here we will learn about different First Nations tribes and how they came to decisions. The unit will culminate in all Grade 6 students taking part in Consensus Day.

## Science

The students are working on their flight projects this month. Each week they will be working on a different task. They have finished their parachute task where they had to design, build, and test their parachutes. Be sure to ask them about the different tasks they're working on! Students are putting a lot of hard work into applying their learning in a hands on way!

## Math

Students are currently starting our Measurement unit, where we will explore angles and angle relationships, perimeter, area of rectangles and squares, and volume of rectangular prisms. We will



then move onto our Multiplication and Division of Decimals unit. Some students have lost or broken their calculators. Please ask your child if his/her calculator needs to be replaced, as this will be an important tool for the rest of the school year.

## **GRADE 7 POD**

### **Language Arts**

We are continuing our Stand Up for Human Rights unit. It is our non-fiction unit. We will be using past and present biographies, news stories and memoirs as mentor texts. Students will be working on research projects of their choice at the end of this unit. All classes have a human rights quiz on May 4. Study guides have already been sent home and are also on Google Classroom.

### **Social**

This past month in Social Studies we have been learning about Confederation and the provinces that originally joined as the Dominion of Canada. Students have started their Chapter 8 project and will be writing their test the second week of May.

### **Science**

As we head into May, we will be finishing our Heat & Temperature unit, and then moving into our final unit of the year which is Structures & Forces. Students will be investigating similarities and differences in natural and human-constructed environments, structural components and forces involved along with the concepts of stability and strength. The history and developments of how science and technology link together in developing safe and efficient designs that meet our needs is a major component in this unit as well.

### **Math**

7B, 7C & 7D will be completing their seventh unit regarding probability and data analysis. Analyzing circle graphs, measures of central tendency and investigating both theoretical and experimental probability are main components in this unit. Our final unit will be Geometry, where students will plot points on a Cartesian plane, perform and describe transformations, and investigate line segments and bisectors.

## **GRADE 8 POD**

### **Language Arts**

We have begun reading Freak the Novel as our class novel study, this book has excitement, adventure and real life problems. The students are working toward a deeper understanding of text, while finding personal connections to literature.

## Social

Mr. Smith will be away for two weeks starting Monday, April 30th for 2 weeks. Mr. Richardson will be his replacement. We will be starting the Japan unit while he's away. Mr. Smith will be willing to review any material when he returns.

## Science

We are nearing the end of our Mechanical Systems unit and will finish up the year with a unit looking at fresh and saltwater systems. A main highlight this past month was the construction of a Rube Goldberg machine! As we get closer to the end of the year and final exams, just a reminder they will be tested on all 5 units we have covered. We will do some review closer to the end of June, but it is never too early for students to take an initiative to review and gain a full understanding of concepts if they have missed during the year.

## Math

In the month of May, we will be completing data analysis and probability. Students will be critiquing ways in which data is presented in circle graphs, line graphs, bar graphs and pictographs. Then, students will solve problems involving the probability of independent events.

## YEAR END ASSEMBLY'S

On Wednesday, June 27th, we will once again be hosting our year end assemblies. All students will be receiving their RIBMS Recognition Certificates with the 'win-it's' stickers. These stickers provide recognition, not only for academic excellence but for a wide variety of endeavors students chose to be involved in. Copies of the Recognition Policy are available in the office, from your child's homeroom teacher or online at [www.ribms.ca](http://www.ribms.ca). Go to documents, go to Recognition Program. We encourage all parents, friends and family members to attend the assemblies. Please remember that each grade has their own assembly, except for the Grade 8's. All students and staff attend the Grade 8 assembly, as this is their final assembly at RIBMS and we want to celebrate their achievements and wish them well as they move on from RIBMS. All assemblies take place in the gym.

<http://ribms.ca/calendar-bell-times>

# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 A1 Pizza KAHS Grade 9 Orientation 7:00	3 Track Meet @ U of L Subway Lunch	4 Progress Report #3	5 Badminton @ Medicine Hat
6 Grade 7/8 Band Trip May 6-9	7	8 Grade 6 PAT LA Part 1	9 Grade 5 Bike Rodeo Booster Juice Lunch	10 County Track Meet @ U of L	11	12
13	14 <b>PD Day - No School</b>	15 Parent Council 6:30	16 Wiebe's Lunch	17 New Student Orientation 6:00	18	19
20	21 Holiday - No School	22 <b>PD Day - No School</b>	23 LSAA Track meet @ U of L	24	25	26
27	28	29 Zone Track Meet @ U of L	30 Subway Lunch	31		

# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Athletic Awards Night 7:00	6	7 Band Concert 7:00	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Grade 6 Social PAT	19 Grade 6 LA Part B PAT	20 Grade 6 Math PAT	21	22 Grade 6 Science PAT SLC - Summer Splash	23
24	25 School Wide Raymond Pool	26 5-Movie Mill & 6-Holiday inn & Movie Mill 7-Calgary Zoo 8- Calaway Park	27 Year End Assemblies	28 PD Day - NO SCHOOL	29 PD Day - NO SCHOOL	30











