## R.I. Baker Middls School May 2023 Newsletter



## Principal's Message

Happy Spring! It is so awesome to see some nice weather!
As we look ahead to the final few months we have a lot to look forward to. All of our year end trips and events are going to be running as usual this year. But before the fun begins we need to remember we have to give our learning a final push to ensure we end on a strong note.

This is a great time to check your child's progress in their classes and if you have any questions you can email your child's teacher directly. You can do this through Edsby and Google Classroom.

Also we have our final parent council meeting in person on May 16th, 2023 at $6: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ in the staff room. There will be pizza and refreshments provided for the last meeting of the year. Parent council is a great way to stay informed and have a hand in your child's education.

Enjoy the spring-like conditions and let's finish the 2022/2023 school year strong!

## Mr. Prebs



## IMPORTANT DATES:

May 2 - RIBMS Art Gala Coaldale Public Library

May 3-A1 Lunch
May 3 - Hats On! for Mental Health day

May 4 - RIBMS Track
Meet @ U of L
May 10 - Edo Lunch
May 17 - Via Cibo Lunch
May 19 - NO SCHOOL PD Day

May 22 - NO SCHOOL Victoria Day

May 24 - Taco in a Bag Lunch

May 31 - Subway Lunch


## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Mr. Prebushewski will be making visits to Jennie Emery Elementary and Sunnyside School to "Meet and Greet" Grade 4 students that may be coming to R.I. Baker next year. This will be an excellent opportunity to address any questions or concerns the students may have had regarding "Middle School" and all that entails.

On Monday June 12, 2023 from 6:30 pm there will be a New Student Orientation held at
 R.I.Baker Middle School, all are welcome to attend!
*STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING R.I. BAKER FOR THE 2023-2024 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!


INFO NIGHT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

With Special Guest: Skylar Roth-MacDonald
https://www.skylarrothspeaking.com/
"With losing two of my best friends between the ages of 12-16 years old, I am no stranger to mental health struggle. Today my mission is to shine light for those struggling through dark times, and show that our bad days do not have to hold us back from reaching our wildest dreams! I speak publicly to help reignite some motivation for everyone, especially those going through difficult times." - Skylar Roth- MacDonald

## Grade 8 Families

 Take note!

## ITINERARY

- Keynote: Mental Health Matters (5:00-6:00pm)
- Knowledge \& Employability Program Parent Info (6:00-6:10pm)
- Entering Grade 9 Parent Info (6:10-6:25pm)

- Entering Grade 10 Parent info (6:30-6:45pm)

Contact Miss Meurs or Ms. Alexander for more information
(jo-anna.meurs@pallisersd.ab.ca kimberly.alexander@pallisersd.ab.ca)

## Hats On! For Mental Health




Wear a special hat to school, to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health.


Global

## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Thank you parents for attending our Dessert Concert \& Silent Auction at the end of March.

May is an exciting month for the Grade 6 Band, who are heading to SABC for their overnight trip on May 23-24. Permission forms have been posted on SchoolCash Online; please fill this out for your child as soon as possible.

Grade 6 Band Trip: May 23-24, 2023 to Southern Alberta Bible Camp (SABC)
Final Concert: June 14, 2023 @ 7:00pm (RIBMS Gymnasium)


## ATHLETICS

## BADMINTON

Thank you to everyone that participated on our Badminton team this season. We saw a lot of growth in every player. We are hopeful that you will be able to apply those skills next year. Congratulations to the Midget Team (Grade 8s) who took home a banner at COLJHAA! We had many medal finishes at the COLJHAA tournaments and LSAA tournaments. Great job Bears!

Special thanks goes to Miss Dejager, Mrs. Kabi, Mrs. Smart, Miss Gallimore, Miss Visser, and Mrs. Goertzen for volunteering their time to coach.

## PHYS ED IS MOVING OUTSIDE!

Most of our physical education classes will now be outside for the rest of the year! Please remember to dress for the weather and to bring proper footwear for classes. A reminder that students will not be able to participate in crocs or sandals.

## RI BAKER TRACK \& FIELD MEET

As part of the physical education curriculum, we are excited to say that the annual R.I. Baker Track and Field Meet will occur again this year. We will be back again at the UofL. Each event will be taught in PE then students will have the opportunity to choose three or four events they would like to compete in.

The date of the meet is May 4th and we are very excited to see our students show
 off their skills!

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. Subway lunch will be provided for all students this year!

Big thanks to all those parents who volunteered for the track meet!! Greatly appreciated!!

## TRACK \& FIELD 2023

## Parents,

We are excited to be able to run a full track meet again this year for all our students, grades 5-8 at the University of Lethbridge. We will be at the UofL on Thursday, May 4th. We will travel by bus there and back during normal school hours. We are scheduled to leave the school as quickly as we are organized that day, and leave the university by 3pm to be back in time for the buses.

We would love to see you out there cheering on your kiddos and enjoying the day with us.

## DRESS \& WHAT TO BRING

Students should wear comfortable clothes that allow for physical activity (eg. Shorts, sweats, etc.). If you have Baker gear, wear it! It will be cool first thing in the morning, so bring a sweater/coat! All clothing must meet the RI Baker dress code. All events must be done wearing shoes.

Every year, a large number of students get a sunburn during Track \& Field Day. Pack some sunscreen and a hat. You also should pack a water bottle so that you can keep yourself hydrated, and some healthy snacks. Pack enough food to last the day. There may be a concession, but you might not have a lot of time to go to it. Students may want to have some money for the concession. No electronics are allowed!

## LUNCH!

There will be no scheduled time for lunch. Students will get subway sandwiches in the morning at school, and can eat lunch in between their events. It is important that they stay hydrated and eat enough... .it will be important for your performance. It is crucial that we clean up after ourselves.... or we will not be allowed back. No food or drinks other than water will be allowed inside the fences (where the track and field events take place). Please eat in the bleachers or at the tables in the common area.
Subway sandwich lunch will provided, please ensure your child has told their homeroom teacher their sandwich selection. Snacks throughout the day are not provided.

## SCHEDULE

Students will know their schedule in advance of the track meet. However, the schedule is tentative. The track schedule could run ahead or behind. Students will need to listen to announcements and pay attention to what's going on. All races will take place in order of grade (gr. 5 girls \& boys, pee-wee girls \& boys, etc.). Track events take precedence over field events. If students are in a track event at the same time as a field event, wait until the second call announcement has been made, then check out of your field event and go and run your race. Students will need to return to their field event as quickly as possible.

Student participation in track and field day is a part of your PE mark. Students who do not show up for their events will lose marks.

## Age Categories

Students will be competing against other students based on age categories. They are as follows:
Grade 5 - only grade 5s
PeeWee - grade 6 and those grade $7 s$ who age down

Bantam - grade 7 and grade 8 s who age down, and 6 s who age up
Midget - grade 8 and grade 7 s who age up
*Aging down is based on birthdays, Mrs. Kabi and Mrs. Goertzen check every birthday to ensure students are in the correct category. We do have a few students who age up a category as well

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Kabi or Mrs. Goertzen.


## TEACHER REOUESTS

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 - Learning assistant assignments
- Academic balance
- Behavior needs
- Class size

- Student relationships.

We create classes within each grade that are as similar as possible to each other. Many parent requests for a specific teacher, or to be with friends, make it very difficult to accomplish this. For this reason, parent requests for specific teachers, or to be with friends, will not be accepted. We understand there are cases where things are not ideal socially, but we always do our best with the 350 students we organize and plan for.
Thank you for your understanding.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Prebushewski at 403-345-3340.

## HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

May will be our last month of Hot Lunch for this school year. There will be NO Wednesday Hot Lunches for the month of June.
THANK YOU to all the businesses that helped feed our students and staff each Wednesday and to Mrs. Kurtz who organizes this service for RIBMS.

## Breakfast \& Snack Program

A grant from the Coaldale Community Wellness Association generously helps to provide healthy snacks for our hungry "Bears" (AKA our students!) A variety of muffins, yogurt drinks and fresh fruit are available daily at the office. Thank you to the Coaldale Community Wellness Association for feeding our hungry minds!

COALDALE


## Student Leadership Committee

A big thank you to Mrs. Huscroft and the RIBMS students involved with SLC this year! They have planned and carried out many fun and exciting activities throughout the year, and are deserving of some well earned recognition!

May 8-12 will be "Spirit Week" These days will be various dress up
 days where the students can earn Bear points for their respective Bear Group.

- Monday May 8th: Mismatch Monday
- Tuesday May 9th: Tourist Tuesday
- Wednesday May 10th: Western Wednesday
- Thursday May 11th: RI Baker Day
- Friday May 12th: Formal Friday


## GRADE 5 POD

We would like to wish all mothers out there a very happy "Mother's Day."

Language Arts: We've switched gears from writing Stuck Stories to reading the novel Restart by Gordon Korman. Similar to before the winter break, students will use an independent novel to complete assignments in their booklets that will help them dive deeper in understanding their novels.


Social Studies: In May, we will travel to the Cordillera and Interior Plains regions to compare and contrast the landforms, First Nations, resources and climate of these two final regions on our exploration of Canada's geographical regions. We will look into the formation of Canada as a nation, and explore some of the major events and people who helped shape Canada into the strong vibrant country it is today.

Science: We are just completing our Weather unit in Science. The students learned about weather instruments, the different types of clouds, forecasting weather, and what causes weather. In May we begin the last of the units, Classroom Chemistry where students will learn the properties of substances and how they interact with other things. Students will get to test a variety of substances and observe their reactions.

Math: We are working on fractions where the students will learn how to order fractions, write equivalent fractions, and change fractions to decimals. Once done this unit we will move onto motion geometry where students learn to translate shapes on a grid.

## GRADE 6 POD

Language Arts: We will continue with our news article writing this month. Students will have the opportunity to hone their functional writing skills as they practice and apply their knowledge of how to synthesize information to create effective, cohesive articles. As we progress through this unit, we will be reviewing some of the elements of writing, with attention to paragraph structure, grammar and punctuation, and proper formatting. We will also be doing a full practice PAT.


The written portion of the PAT: PART A, will take place on MAY 17, 2023, starting first thing in the morning. A reminder that if there are unforeseen circumstances or a planned absence (ie. vacation) that will have your child away on the 17 th, please contact Mrs. Netzel ASAP. On the day of the PAT, please try to ensure students have had a good night's sleep, have something healthy to eat that morning before arriving at the school, and have a water bottle.

Social: Students have learned a lot about democracy thus far, from its early roots in Ancient Athens to its modern day application at the local and provincial levels. We have completed our unit on Ancient Athens, the birthplace of democracy, and have now turned our attention to the beginnings of democracy in Eastern Canada. This last major unit in Social Studies will focus on the Iroquois Confederacy, examining the role and application of decision making by consensus.
STUDENT VOTE: Will take place on May 29, 2023.

Science: We are in full swing of our last unit this year; Trees \& Forests. Students will learn about the various roles that plants, trees and forests play in the environment, as resources, as recreation, and as habitats. We will also discuss specific classifications of parts of a tree and its leaves, as well as the bark and the inner layers of its trunk. We are lucky to start this unit in Spring as there will be many opportunities to venture outside and observe this wonderful unit in nature! Please be sure your child has their walking permission form signed; you can do this on School Cash Online.

Math: Students will be wrapping up Unit \#6: Geometry and Measurement by completing assignments assessments that look at perimeter, area and volume. Next, we will be beginning Unit \#7: Transformations. Students will use manipulatives and visuals to explore the movements of shapes by creating transitions, reflections and rotations. We will be using various materials in this unit such as scissors, pencil crayons, glue and of course - pencils! Please check with your child that they have these materials available at school.

Our Grade 6 Field Trip will take place on Monday, June 5th, and we will be going to Waterton. Please make sure your child has good footwear and a water bottle (we will be hiking Bear's Hump), as well as a bagged lunch for this day. Check the permission form on School Cash Online for more detailed information.

## GRADE 7 POD

Language Arts: This month we will be wrapping up our poetry unit and then diving into our nonfiction research projects. Students are picking a person, place or event of their choice that is significant to them and they want to teach others about. They will create an informational text, with images, that will teach and inform their target audience about their chosen topic.


Social: We will be finishing up learning about the Metis community and the circumstances that led to Manitoba joining Canada. Students will then be learning about what factors led to the remaining provinces joining Canada and how those provinces were affected and how they affected Canada as a whole. We will also touch on how immigration has helped to shape Canada.

Science: Students will be beginning our fifth and final unit by the end of this month, which is Structures and Forces. Students will investigate the properties of materials being used to build structures, and test these materials under different loads and forces. They will examine the different ways that structural components are configured and investigate strength and stability.

Math: In May, students will be finishing our Expression and Equations unit. We will then move on to the Circles and Area unit, where students will explore the concepts of radius, diameter, and circumference. They will calculate the area of circles, triangles and parallelograms, and create circle graphs. Please make sure your students have a protractor and a scientific calculator for this unit.

## GRADE 8 POD

Science: In May students will continue with their Mechanical Systems unit and move on to the final unit, Light and Optical Systems.Our understanding of the world is based largely on what we see- both directly, and aided by optical devices that improve and extend our vision. Such tools as the microscope and telescope have helped extend knowledge in a variety of science fields, from the study of cells and starts to studies of the nature of light itself. In learning about light, students investigate its interactions with different materials and interpret its behavior using a geometric ray model. Students then use their understanding of light to interpret a variety of light-based technologies and contemplate new technologies we may use in the future.

Math: Early in the month of May, we will complete Chapter 6: Prisms \& Cylinders. Then, we will tackle Chapter 7: Data Analysis \& Probability. This chapter has the students critiquing ways in which data is presented through various graphs. Secondly, it has them solving problems involving the probability (experimental \& theoretical) of independent events. Although this is not our last chapter, it is the last chapter that includes an exam!

Humanities (LA/Social) - Mr. Smith and Mr. Willems have created a brand new, life-sized board game to help students learn about the wonderful culture of Japan. This game is entitled 'Rising Sun, Bending Reed' and it will take the students through the history of Japan in 4 phases over 8 weeks. Currently, we are in phase 1 which focuses on Feudal Japan. This unit is Project Based Learning, which means that the students know what the projects (tasuku) are and they use their research skills to complete them to the best of their ability. Students are encouraged to work on this game at any point; they have the ability to earn extra money (rice) as the skills we are looking to develop are dedication, hard work and going above and beyond. Japanese culture puts a large emphasis on honour and that is something we want to emulate.


Palliser Town Bus passes available July 4, 2023

Almost all students residing in Coaldale are deemed ineligible for transportation by Alberta Learning (i.e. they live within a 2.4 km radius from their designated school), and there is no provincial funding available. As a result, the bussing must be provided on a "fee for service" basis. The cost to parents has been set at $\$ 260.00$ for the 2023-2024 school year. Students that live 2.4 km or more from the school they are attending and have been regular bus students in the past, do not need to call or purchase passes.

To determine if your child is eligible for funded busing, parents are to contact Palliser at (403)-380-2612. If your child is not eligible for funded transportation contact the Town of Coaldale at (403) 345-1300 to register for the In-Town Busing Service. An application form must be filled out with information for each student with the $\$ 260.00$ payment before a bus pass will be issued. Once payment has been made, your child's information will be forwarded to Palliser School Division and you will be contacted by Palliser with bus route information.

The In-Town Busing service is limited to 130 students, and service will be granted on a first come first served basis. Registrations will open on July 4, 2023 and be taken until all of the passes are sold for the 2023-24 school year.


## Looking Ahead to 2023-2024.....

Palliser School Division
R.I. Baker Middle School Calendar 2023-24 BarrdApprovat January 10, 2023


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February 20,21 No Stall/studerti
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## May 2023



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
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| 1 | 2 Art Gala-7pm | 3 A1 Pizza Lunch | 4 <br> RIBMS Track and <br> Field Meet at U of L | 5 |
| $8$ <br> SPIRIT WEEK: <br> MISMATCH MONDAY | 9 <br> SPIRIT WEEK: <br> TOURIST TUESDAY COLJHAA Track and Field Meet (for those who qualify) | 10 Edo Lunch <br> SPIRIT WEEK: <br> WESTERN <br> WEDNESDAY | 11 <br> SPIRIT WEEK: <br> RI BAKER DAY | 12 <br> SPIRIT WEEK: <br> FORMAL FRIDAY |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Via Cibo Lunch <br> LA PAT pt.A | 18 | 19 <br> NO SCHOOL <br> PD Day |
| 22 <br> NO SCHOOL <br> Victoria Day | $23$ <br> GRADE 6 Band Trip to SABC (1 night) | 24 Taco in a Bag <br> LSAA Track and Field Meet (for those who qualify) | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 <br> Zones Track and Field Meet (for those who qualify) | 31 Subway Lunch subwirs |  |  |


| Monday | Tuesday |  | Wednesday | Thursday |
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