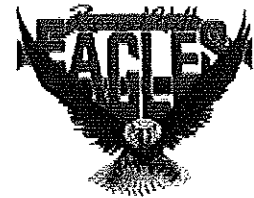


HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2020 Newsletter



Round Hill Extra

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2020! We hope the Christmas Break offered you and your family a special time of connecting and relaxing. We enter this new year with enthusiasm and anticipation for the continuation of our school year.

The cold has descended upon us again! As you may remember from last year, notification regarding the cancellation of bus routes will be sent by transportation and can also be found on the BRSD websites. If the buses are not running on a school day. It is important for you to know that it doesn't mean the school is closed. Staff are at school and are ready to go as on any school day. The decision of students attending school is a parent/guardian decision and if students do not attend, every opportunity will be given for all students to complete any work that may have been missed.

The Division has an administrative procedure in regards to school activities during times of inclement weather. It is this procedure that is followed by administrators and guides all decisions regarding extracurricular events. The calendar in the newsletter shows the planned activities. If there are any changes to these activities you will be notified as soon as the decision is made.

Our work in being REAL continues. This month's focus is on being leaders. Here is one of our morning quotes:

What you do has far greater impact than what you say. Stephen Covey

KARLA KOLEBA

Important Dates.....

Jan 17 - Staff Collaboration - No school for students

Jan 21 - Hotdog Lunch (don't forget your toonie!)

- School Council Meeting

Jan 28 - Hot Lunch.

Jan 31 - Semester Break - No school.

Next Month...

Feb 3 - Jr High report cards go home

Feb 6 - Early Dismissal - 1:51 p.m.

Feb 12 - Family Literacy Day

Feb 13 - 14 - Teacher Convention - no school for students

Feb 17 - Family Day

Feb 28 - Staff Collaboration - No school for students

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 (JH) Viking@RH	9 Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal 1:51 p.m.	10	11
12	13	14 (mini) Holden @ RH - ██████████	15 (JH) CCA @ RH	16	17 Jr High Basketball Tournament begins. Staff Collaboration no school @ and/or	18 Jr High Basketball Tournament
19	20	21 Hot Dog Lunch School Council Meeting 6:30 pm (mini) RH @ Tofield	22 (JH) Tofield @RH	23	24	25
26	27	28 Hot Lunch Timeline Presentation 5:30 pm	29 (JH) Hay Lakes@RH	30	31 Semester Break	

SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Registration is now open.

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by December 31st they will be old enough to start kindergarten in September. Registration forms and a Parent Questionnaire is available at the school or you can print them from the BRSD website. A copy of your child's birth certificate or other form of proof of age and Citizenship is required to be submitted with the registration form. If you know of a family in our boundary that does not currently have a child attending the school please let them know that registration is now open.

Basketball is under way! A Jr. High tournament will be hosted here at the school on January 17 & 18th. Watch for details and a schedule to come home this week. Remember if there is no school due to cold weather this also applies to extra curricular activities as per policy 131 (as attached.)

The Mini Dunkers program has started for Grades 4-6 students. Please contact Kim Jamandron if you have questions.

On January 31st our gymnasium floor is being resurfaced. As a result we will be asking that proper footwear be worn during PE classes and after school sporting events. Please ensure your child has a clean pair of indoor shoes that are suitable for the gym.

A Family Literacy Day will be held at the school on February 12th. This is an event to promote reading with and for the students. Details will be sent home in the near future.

The Accountability Pillar will once again be available for your input. Watch for more information and details in the near future.

A Message from School Council

Hello Parents,

Our next School Council Meeting is January 21, 2020 at 630pm in the multi purpose room.

As always, attending the school council meeting is a great way to be able to keep current with what is happening in the school and division.

Before Christmas, Round Hill School received one of three critical minimum enrollment letters handed out by the division.

I had an opportunity to sit with other school council chairs and multiple school trustees in December to talk about the realities and challenges that BRSD is facing.

Our next meeting on January 21 will be your opportunity to further discuss what this critical minimum enrollment letter could mean and discuss budget realities with our local school board trustee.

I encourage everyone to try to attend.

Sincerely,

Charlene MacNeil

School Council Chair

Board of Trustees
Battle River School Division

BRSD Board votes to deplete reserves rather than reduce staff or increase fees to parents



Every Student, Every Day, A Success.

The Battle River School Division Board of Trustees was faced with difficult decisions on December 12, as they worked to approve a balanced budget for the 2019-2020 school year. As a group, the Board felt it was important to maintain service to students as much as possible, by

- Protecting school-based jobs;
- Avoiding charging new fees to parents.

The budget process for the current school year began last spring. Initially, the budget reflected a 1% reduction in revenue. Effective at the start of the school year, the budget included staffing changes in the Facilities, Finance and Technology departments, elimination of one Director of Learning position, removal of the Learning Coach role and discontinuation of division-wide positions supporting Literacy, Numeracy and First Nations, Metis and Inuit education.

Additional spending reductions became necessary because of three main factors:

- lower than anticipated enrollment;
- unexpected increase in costs of insurance;
- unexpected elimination of grants.

There is an overall deficit of \$4 million. Some of that deficit is being addressed by making further reductions. The budget that was approved December 12 includes :

- the reduction of two staff in the Facilities department;
- f.t.e. reductions in the Camrose Early Learning Program due to lower than expected enrollment;
- staffing adjustments at three schools where the September 30 enrollment was lower than originally projected;
- and reducing expenditures for items such as (but not limited to):
 - upgrading student / staff computers;
 - Professional Development;
 - Reading University.

The Board of Trustees

Board Chair: Norm Erickson

Vice Chair: Karen Belich

Beaver County

East: Lyle Albrecht

West: Zsuzsanna Hemperger

Camrose County

North: Karen Belich

South: Kendall Severson

Flagstaff County

East: Laurie Skori

West: Jeff Kimball

City of Camrose

Norm Erickson

Val Sims

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Superintendent:

Rita Marler

Assistant Supt, Learning:

Shan Jorgenson-Adam

Assistant Supt, System Supports

Natasha Wilm

Assistant Supt, Business:

Imogene Walsh



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Board of Trustees Battle River School Division

While all of these changes do make an impact on the bottom line, the bulk of the deficit is being addressed by using \$4.1 million in reserve dollars. These are dollars that had been set aside to cover classroom technology replacements, as well as unexpected opportunities or repairs that may not have been anticipated.

Using these funds means that, at the end of the current school year, Battle River School Division will have basically depleted its bank account. Specific capital reserves, which are earmarked for such things as school bus purchases, will remain intact. But capital reserves can only be used for the purpose they were established and are not available to offset a deficit, without permission from the Minister of Education.

The Board is very clear that this is a one-year solution. They are comfortable with depleting the reserves in order to maintain programs, preserve jobs and avoid imposing fees on families.

But as they look ahead, the Board knows that, with no reserves available to cover a shortfall, Battle River School Division cannot continue to provide service in the same way. Changes will have to be made for September 2020.

Discussion about the 2020-2021 school year, and beyond, will begin in earnest at the BRSD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, January 23. As the Board said in November and repeated December 12, "everything is on the table" as we look to the future.

Bylaw and policy changes

As a result of the decisions made this fall, the Board of Trustees also began the process of changing its Bylaws to reflect their upcoming reduction to the number of Trustees (voted on October 24) and also revise Policy 22, which provides guidelines for reserves.

Share your thoughts, help shape the future — round two!

More than 1170 people took part in the first part of Battle River School Division's online public consultation process. The second phase of the consultation is open now, with the question *What are the best ways to balance class sizes and maximize options and opportunities for all students, while maintaining the financial viability of our school division?* Here's the link to the consultation:

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#534730602>

For more information contact Diane Hutchinson, Director of Communications
Ph: 780-672-6131 ext. 5249; Cell 780-806-6592; dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca



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The Board of Trustees

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City of Camrose

Norm Erickson

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Administration

Superintendent:

Rita Marler

Assistant Supt, Learning:

Shan Jorgenson-Adam

Assistant Supt, Systems Support

Natasha Wilm

Assistant Supt, Business:

Imogene Walsh



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TRANSPORTATION - CANCELLATION OF BUS ROUTES DUE TO WEATHER/ROAD CONDITIONS

Background

The Division believes that parents/guardians have the first decision as to whether or not to send their student(s) to school on days when weather conditions are a factor. On occasion, it may be unwise to operate bus routes due to the risks involved in transporting students as a result of weather/road conditions.

Procedures

1. Setting and Reviewing the Process

The bus drivers and the School Administrator(s) at each school must, early in each school year, meet to establish a suitable procedure for checking and reporting conditions and reaching a collective decision relative to the wisdom of operating school buses when weather/road conditions would create an unnecessary risk for the safe transport of students.

2. Making the Decision

In the case of extreme weather/unsafe road conditions, the bus drivers are to communicate their assessment of the situation to the School Administrator(s). The School Administrator(s) and bus drivers shall reach a collective decision as to whether or not all bus routes serving a school will be cancelled for that day.

2.1 Temperature

- 2.1.1 Bus Routes will be cancelled when the air temperature reaches -40 degrees Celsius;
- 2.1.2 Bus Routes will be cancelled when the air temperature combined with wind chill reaches -40 degrees Celsius.
- 2.1.3 Air temperature and wind chill will be determined by accessing www.theweathernetwork.com and viewing the information for the town/village in which the school is located. This website displays temperature and wind chill for each area in the Division.
- 2.1.4 The information acquired above shall be obtained just prior to the bus route, not the night before.

2.2 Fog

When considering whether or not a bus route should be cancelled due to fog, the bus driver shall make an effort to contact parents/guardians at various locations on their route to determine the severity of the fog and whether it is widespread or localized. Once a morning route has been cancelled due to fog, and if conditions are not foggy for the afternoon route, bus drivers should make the afternoon run to deliver students home.

2.3 Other Weather Issues

When a morning bus route has been cancelled due to any other weather related issue such as a winter storm or poor road conditions, bus drivers are not expected or required to run their afternoon route. Parents/guardians who have delivered their student(s) to school are expected to pick them up at dismissal.

3. Extra-curricular and Co-curricular

- 3.1 If all buses are canceled, all extra-curricular and co-curricular events will be cancelled.
- 3.2 If some buses are running, the School Administrator(s) in consultation with the destination host, must make the decision, based on student and staff safety, whether or not to participate in the activity.

4. Parents/guardians can view route cancellations at www.brsd.ab.ca.

5. Notification - Cancelling All Routes

When a decision has been made between bus drivers and the School Administrator(s) to cancel all routes serving a particular school:

- 5.1 The School Administrator(s) will call the Transportation office after hours emergency line for staff/bus drivers (780-781-1899).
- 5.2 Transportation personnel will initiate the automatic phone fan-out to parents/guardians and update the website.
- 5.3 In some circumstances, bus drivers will be required to initiate their emergency phone fan-out.

6. Notification - Cancelling an Individual Route

When a bus driver determines it is necessary to cancel all or a portion of their individual bus route, once safe to do so, the bus driver will make every effort to notify the following in order:

- 6.1 School Administrator(s).
- 6.2 Transportation office after-hours emergency line for staff/bus drivers (780-781-1899). (Transportation personnel will update the website, initiate the automatic phone fan-out to parents/guardians and/or request the bus driver to conduct a phone fan-out to parents/guardians).

7. Sending Buses Home Early During the School Day

In the case of the development of extreme weather/unsafe road conditions during the school day, the bus drivers are to communicate their assessment of the situation to the School Administrator(s). The School Administrator(s) and the bus drivers shall reach a decision as to whether or not bused students will be sent home early.

- 7.1 The School Administrator(s) shall notify transportation personnel of the decision to send buses home early.
- 7.2 The School Administrator(s) will ensure all bus drivers are notified.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the School Administrator(s) to set up a telephone fan-out plan to be implemented during such emergencies.
 - 7.3.1 Students in grade 7 or lower shall not leave the school before a safe place for the student is established and that this information is communicated to the parents/emergency contact. If an older sibling has been designated by the parent/guardian as able to care for a younger family member, students in K-7 may be permitted to leave the school.
 - 7.3.2 Students in grade 8 or higher may be released to travel home if the School Administrator(s) is confident that it is safe to do so.
- 7.4 Transportation personnel will update the website that buses are running early.

8. Extreme Conditions - Decisions made by Division Office

- 8.1 Only in instances of unusually extreme conditions, or in a general system-wide emergency, will personnel at the Division Office make an announcement covering the cancellation of bus routes affecting a school, some schools, or all schools in the system.
- 8.2 In such cases, transportation personnel shall:
 - 8.2.1 Initiate the automatic phone fan-out to parents/guardians.
 - 8.2.2 Update the website for parents/guardians to view route cancellations at www.brsd.ab.ca
 - 8.2.3 Contact each affected School Administrator(s) via telephone as soon as possible after such a decision is rendered.

Reference: Section 57, 60, 61, 113, School Act
Employment Standards Act

Amended: June 2019

