



February 6, 2024

Bison Bits *Buffalo Head Prairie School*

Bison Bits is published the first and third Tuesday each month to inform parents about school events and provide important information.

Upcoming Event

Friday, February 9

PD Day

No School for students

February 12-19

No School

February 12-14:

School Closed

February 15-16:

Teachers' Convention

February 19: Family Day

Tuesday & Thursday,

February 20 & 22

Jr. High Basketball Divisionals

Wednesday, February 21

Scholastic Book Orders Due

Thursday, February 22

Taco-in-a-Bag

Lunch Orders Due

REACH Assembly at 1:45pm

Hoods Up Day

Monday, February 26

Frisbee Rob

Student presentation in the gym 11:10-11:55am

Club 175

School Council Meeting

at 7:00pm

New Date: Friday, March 1

Grade 1-3

100th Day of School

Celebration

We're Halfway There...

It's hard to believe, but the school year is already half behind us. We have had a fantastic year at BHPS! Our students are improving, and we have been able to enjoy some exciting events. Much of this is due to the hard work of you as parents. Thank you for entrusting your children to us and for your dedicated involvement in your child's education!

Literacy & Numeracy Testing

Results are in from recent literacy & numeracy testing. Judging by the great improvements in our test scores, it is evident that staff have been providing quality classroom and intervention instruction! Parents with questions about literacy & numeracy testing at BHPS are welcome to speak to classroom teachers, Mr. Driedger, or Mr. Fehr at any time.

Student Enrollment—2024-25

Although it may seem strange, this is the time of year that we begin planning for next school year. School enrollment directly impacts teacher allocation and hiring. Parents, if you know of any NEW families that may be attending BHPS next year, please let us know at 780-928-2282.

Alternatively, if you know your family will not be at BHPS next year, please let us know that as well. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Pre-ECS Registration

Plans are coming together for the Pre-ECS program for students who will be entering Kindergarten during the 2024-25 school year. More information and details will be coming out, however at this point we would find it very helpful if you would spread the word about Pre-ECS at Buffalo Head Prairie School. If you haven't already done so, **please register your child as soon as possible by calling the school office (780-928-2282).**

Hand Games

All FVSD schools are expected to partake in a hand games tournament in Meander River later this year. After consultation with individuals with a good understanding of hand games, and support from our school council, we will be inviting students from Upper Hay River School to teach our students and staff how to play hand games. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures in our area and gain appreciation for one another. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please chat with Mr. Fehr or Mr. Driedger.

Board of Trustees Report

On January 24, Mrs. Halladay, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. Driedger, and Mr. Fehr presented about our success and progression in the areas of connectivity, literacy, and numeracy. We were happy to report that our school has shown incredible growth in each of these areas over the past year due to the incredible commitment of our staff, students, and parents. Our report was well received, and we are incredibly proud of the fantastic school community we have here at BHPS!

**Buffalo Head Prairie School
School Council Meeting
January 29, 2024**

Present: Ryan Knelsen, Maria Wieler, Danny Teichroeb, John Zacharias, Dale Driedger, and Kalaina Haag

- 1. Call to Order at 7:05 pm**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. M/S Ryan/Danny that the agenda be approved. Carried**
- 4. Minutes from Previous Meeting** – Ryan read the November 27, 2023, meeting minutes.
- 5. Approval of Previous Minutes - M/S Danny/John that the November 27, 2023, minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.**
- 6. Chairperson's Report**
Nothing to report.
- 7. Principal's Report**
 - a. Christmas Concert- Very well attended and general consensus from parents was that it was appreciated. Special thank you to Ms. Dyck and Mrs. Paul for their leadership of the choir.
 - b. Board of Trustees Report – Mrs. Halladay, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. Driedger, and Mr. Fehr reported about positive school results in areas of Connectivity, Literacy, and Numeracy to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, January 24th. The report was very favorably received from the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Student Learning Focus- Literacy and Numeracy Update. Recent testing results show incredible growth in both literacy and numeracy since beginning of school year until now. We are very proud of the fantastic work done by teachers and educational assistants this year!
 - d. Ski trip- Junior High- Junior High students were planning on skiing at Blue Ridge Mountain Resort on February 1st. This has been postponed due to the warm weather and lack of snow.
 - e. Junior High Extra Curricular Update (JH basketball, 4-6 basketball, shinny hockey, board game club)
 - Boys and girls basketball teams are nearing the end of their season with Divisionals happening before teachers' convention. Zones are the first weekend of May.
 - 4-6 basketball being led by Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Paul on Friday afternoons. Last week we had about 30 students participate.
 - Shinny hockey has had a slower start this year due to the extreme weather but have had a few practices and one game.
 - f. School Calendar- School year starts September 3 and ends June 6. No PD days and a shorter break around Teacher's Convention has made this possible. School days should only increase 5 minutes.
 - g. School Assurance Plan- Mennonite culture presentations at REACH assemblies. Still think it's a good idea. We will continue to look for an appropriate person to share.
 - h. School Expansion- Plan and Advocacy
 - Projecting 280 or more students for 2024-2025. Mr. McMann is working on getting extra classroom space built. The ball is rolling on this, but it is a slow process.
 - BHPS has been allocated another teacher for the next year.
 - Mr. Fehr is currently on a teacher recruitment trip at Concordia University (January 29-31). Mr. Driedger will be heading to King's University in March.
- 8. Financial Update**
 - a. **SGF Budget Review**
 - b. **Operational Budget Review**
We are on track with spending for this year.
 - c. **Trustee Information**
-Nothing more to share other than what was already mentioned around the calendar and school advocacy.

Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm