



# 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 Events

### Thursday, March 7

Ham & Mashed Potatoes  
Orders Due

### Friday, March 8

Winter Carnival at 1:00pm  
*Parents Welcome!*

### Sunday, March 10

Daylight Savings Time Begins-  
*Remember to set your clocks  
ahead one hour*

### Monday, March 11

Horizons Student Leadership  
Conference at LCPS

### Tuesday, March 12

Ham & Mashed Potatoes  
Lunch  
Pre-ECS Parent Information  
Meeting at 4:30pm

### Thursday, March 14

Subway Lunch Orders Due  
Report Cards Sent Home

### Friday, March 15

PD Day  
No School for Students

### Mon-Thurs, March 18-21

Scholastic Book Fair in the  
Library

### Tuesday, March 19

Subway Lunch  
First Day of Pre-ECS

### Wednesday, March 20

Parent Teacher Interviews  
6:00-9:00 pm

### Thursday, March 21

Pre-ECS  
Hot Dog Orders Due  
Parent Teacher Interviews  
3:00-6:00 pm



### Basketball Update

The jr. high basketball season has come to an end. Our boys finished in 3rd place in the FVSD Divisional Tournament, qualifying for zones as the top 1J team in the FVSD. The boys' tournament was hosted in Cleardale. In the end, the boys finished in 3rd place. The girls' team experienced a lot of growth this season, narrowly missing out on the divisional playoffs. The team travelled to Bezanson for the 1J Zone tournament nonetheless, finishing in 8<sup>th</sup> place. Thank you to our coaches: Ms. Haag, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. Kenyon and Mr. Diver for their commitment and dedication. Great season, Bisons!!

### Pre-ECS Parent Information Meeting



A Pre-ECS Parent Information Meeting will take place at 4:30pm on Tuesday, March 12. If you can make it to this meeting, please bring your child's birth certificate and health number along with your legal land location and rural address (green roadway sign) to complete their registration. The first day of Pre-ECS will be March 19th. The program will run Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 and will be led by Mrs. Trudy Klassen and Mrs. Darlene Wieler. Due to our busses being at, or near, capacity, there will be **no bussing provided for Pre-ECS**.

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/teacher interviews will be on March 20th from 6:00-9:00pm and March 21st from 3:00-6:00pm. Please call the school office, at 780-928-2282, to make an appointment for your interview(s). Due to the high number of students some teachers teach, we will be booking 10-minute parent/teacher meetings for all teachers. If your child is in a smaller class and you feel you need more time to meet with their teacher, please request a double time slot when booking an appointment, we will try to accommodate this where possible.

### Winter Carnival K-6

As part of their leadership service project, the Grades 7 & 9 students, and Ms. Haag, are organizing a Winter Carnival which will take place on March 8th in the afternoon. This is always a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and, hopefully, some warmer winter weather. Parents are welcome to come and cheer on their children as they compete in several fun activities.



### Scholastic Book Fair

This year's book fair will take place from March 18-21 in the library. Parents may view these books during regular school hours and parent/teacher interview times.

### Horizons Student Leadership Conference at LCPS

Our student council consisting of grade 4-9 students and lead by Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Halladay, have done a fantastic job at making our school a better place. They have demonstrated great leadership skills in their roles this year. La Crete Public School is hosting the Horizons Student Leadership Conference on Monday, March 11, and our student council will be participating with hopes of honing their leadership abilities and come back to BHPS inspired to make our school the best it can be.

### Our Mission

*To be a caring and collaborative school community, fostering responsible citizens and lifelong learners.*

## Hand Games

After consultation with School Council, we as a school have decided to go ahead with plans to invite a few representatives from Upper Hay River School on March 27 to teach our students how to play Dene Hand Games. We are excited that our students can learn a little more about the culture of our Indigenous neighbors to the north. We continue to anticipate sending a small team to compete against other FVSD schools in Meander River later this school year. Stay tuned for further information regarding this event. If you would prefer not to have your child participate in the Hand Games presentation, please send a note indicating this to Mr. Driedger or Mr. Fehr. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Driedger or Mr. Fehr at the school.

## BHPS Art Gallery Competition

We are continuing the art gallery tradition at BHPS once again this year. Students are encouraged to submit their original artwork by March 25<sup>th</sup>. The winning entry will be announced at the Spring Concert on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please see more details below.



# BHPS Art Gallery

In celebration of Artistic talent at our school,  
students are invited to submit their original  
artwork for our art gallery.

Any student from grades K-9 may submit their original  
artwork.

NO commercial characters will be accepted (Dora, Garfield,  
Mario, etc.)

Art may be completed at school or at home

Art must be 8.5" x 11"

NO pictures on lined paper

Submissions are to be made to Mrs. Magalona

DEADLINE for submissions: March 25, 2024

Winner will be announced: March 28, 2024

**Buffalo Head Prairie School**  
**School Council Meeting- February 26, 2024**

**Present: Ryan Knelsen, Maria Wieler, Larry Goertzen, Mike Friesen, Danny Teichroeb, John Zacharias, Dale Driedger, Katharine Neudorf, Frank Bergen, Chris Fehr, and Kalaina Haag**

- 1. Call to Order at 7:03 pm**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. M/S Danny/Ryan that the agenda be approved. Carried**
- 4. Minutes from Previous Meeting** – Katharine read the January 29, 2024, meeting minutes.
- 5. Approval of Previous Minutes - M/S Mike/Ryan that the January 29, 2024, minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.**
- 6. Chairperson's Report**  
Construction update. Mr. McMann is working on getting approval for extra classroom space.
- 7. Principal's Report**
  - a. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be moved to 10-minute time slots for everyone for upcoming interviews due to large class sizes and time constraints. Parents with children in small class sizes may request a double appointment if they feel it is necessary.
  - b. Staffing Update- BHPS has been allocated another teacher for the 2024-2025 year and this is currently advertised as a grade 3 position. Mr. Fehr and Mr. Driedger are in the process of interviewing candidates for this position as well as for a grade two position (currently Mrs. Wiseman and Mr. Rodgers which was a one-year position).
  - c. Pre-ECS currently has 27 students enrolled and this number will likely be higher for Kindergarten. Mrs. Darlene Wieler and Mrs. Trudy Klassen will be leading the Pre-ECS class this year. Pre-ECS parent meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 4:30pm. First day of Pre-ECS is March 19 and will run from 1:00-2:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays this year. No Pre-ECS students will be allowed to go on the bus this year as busses are too full.
  - d. Playground Pole Structure for BHPS. Council members saw this as being valuable for the community. Some funds are available from our SGF Budget and Trustee Zacharias suggested it might be worthwhile applying for a matching grant from the FVSD.
  - e. Hand games in FVSD and at BHPS. Mr. Driedger has investigated this further and talked to Abe Klassen about the Hand Games. Abe Klassen has reassured us that there is no spiritual connection and is highly respectful. The games are purely recreational. BHPS is expected to send some students to the Hand Games in Meander, Upper Hay River School. A majority of council members agreed that they would support this.
  - f. Susan Siemens is willing to present a slide show about Mennonite Culture in our school. She will attend our March School Council meeting and present to council members first before going forward.
  - g. School Calendar- School Council is supportive of the calendar. Happy that we do not have much longer school days, PD days eliminated. Miss Haag indicate that some teachers are currently a little apprehensive about PD hours after school, which is yet to be finalized.
  - h. Projecting 280 or more students for 2024-2025 (official projection from central office is 278 students). Mr. McMann is working on getting extra classroom space built. The ball is rolling on this, but it is a slow process.
  - i. Students wearing jackets at recess time. School council parents were asked for their suggestions on what to expect as the weather warmed up for spring. Council suggested that K-3 students should be expected to wear jackets and ski pants if they were sent along from home. Grade 4-9 are encouraged to wear their jackets but should be able use their own discretion whether to wear a jacket. Mr. Fehr indicated that staff will move forward with this expectation of students based on the recommendation from school council parents.
- 8. Financial Update**
  - a. **SGF Budget Review**  
Approximately \$63,000 in SGF. Some of these budget lines are no longer being used with dollars in them. It is possible that some funds could be used to build a pole shelter for the school community.
  - b. **Operational Budget Review**  
45% spent at end of January (February expenditures not finalized). We are in good financial standing and will likely have a small financial surplus at year end.
  - c. **Trustee Information:** No Report

**Next Meeting Date: March 25, 2024**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm