



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

Upcoming Event

Thursday, February 6
Sloppy Joe Orders Due

Friday, February 7
100th Day of School

Monday, February 10
Student Council Organized
Gr. 4-6 Gym Night
7:00-8:15pm

Tuesday, February 11
Sloppy Joe Lunch

Winter Carnival K-6
@1:30pm
Student Council Organized
Gr. 7-9 Gym Night
7:00-8:15pm

Wednesday, February 12
School Closed

Thurs.-Fri., February 13-14
Teachers and EAs'
Convention
No School

Monday, February 17
Family Day
No School

Tuesday, February 18
No Hot Lunch This Week

Thursday, February 20
Subway Orders Due

Monday, February 24
Reading Club 175
School Council Meeting at
7:00pm

100 Days of School Celebration

100th Day is always an exciting event for students in primary grades at BHPS! Our 100 Days of School celebration for students in grades 1-3 will take place on Friday, February 7! Students will be involved in a variety of activities and events celebrating this special milestone. Parents are welcome to drop in and check out all the excitement if they wish!



Winter Carnival K-6

As part of their leadership service project, the Grades 8 students and Mr. Goertzen will be organizing a Winter Carnival which will take place on Tuesday, February 11th, 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.



Student Learning Presentation to Board of Trustees

On January 22, Mr. Acreman, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. S. Peters headed to the FVSD Head Office to present to the Board of Trustees. We were excited to be able to share the great work being done by our staff and the fantastic improvements made by our students. BHPS has shown vast improvements in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy in recent years. We are incredibly proud of the community involvement in our school as well!

Pre-ECS Registration

As we announced in the last newsletter, Pre-ECS is happening once again this year at Buffalo Head Prairie School! This program is for children that will be entering Kindergarten during the 2025-26 school year. If you wish to enroll your child, please call the school office (780-928-2282).



Z-Space 3D Computer Opportunity

The students at BHPS recently had the incredible opportunity to experience Z-Space, an innovative augmented and virtual reality platform. This hands-on experience allowed them to dive into immersive learning environments, bringing subjects like science, math, and art to life in ways they'd never seen before. The students have been highly engaged as they learn and explore on the platform, and we feel fortunate to have the chance to share this unique learning opportunity with our students. School Council parents also had the chance to try these on January 27!

2024-25 Provincial Satisfaction Surveys

The Ministry of Education will conduct its annual telephone and online satisfaction surveys to collect perceptions of Alberta's education system. Advanis Inc. has been contracted to administer the telephone/online surveys. Parents may receive a call from the Ministry of Education regarding a school satisfaction survey. We would appreciate your participation if possible. Thank you!!



Our Mission

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

Student Council Organized Gym Night



Student Council is organizing and hosting Gym Night from 7:00 to 8:00pm on February 10th and 11th!! Grades 4 to 6 students may participate on Monday, February 10th, and Grades 7-9 students on Tuesday, February 11th. Students will play a variety of games and visit. From 8:00-8:15pm, there will be a snack and drink for students.

Crazy Hair and Outfit Day!

On Friday, January 24, we had a Crazy Hair and Outfit Day, initiated by Student Council!



FVSD Calendars From 2025 to 2028



The new 2025-28 FVSD calendars have been approved by the Board of Trustees. You can find all three years on pages three and four of this newsletter. This is the first time the FVSD has approved calendars for multiple years in hopes that it will allow parents and staff the opportunity to plan ahead better.

Staffing Update

Following Teachers' Convention, Mrs. Raelene Peters will be away on maternity leave, and we would like to wish her the very best. Effective February 18th Mrs. Pam Boese will be filling this maternity leave position. Mrs. Boese comes to us as an experienced teacher. She and her husband are also local farmers, which should give her an understanding of our BHPS community. We look forward to having Mrs. Boese join our staff after Family Day.

REACH Assembly-Special Speaker

On January 24, BHPS enjoyed a guest speaker at the REACH Assembly. Mrs. Nella Fehr is from La Crete and is a local pharmacist. She shared information about how to become a pharmacist and her duties in a small community. It was wonderful for our students to think about a career that might interest them in the future. Thank you, Mrs. Fehr!



De Oabeit School
9601-99 Street, La Crete
780-928-3860
Call to Register!

COST: \$900

Class 5
DRIVER TRAINING

La Crete | Student Driver Training

 CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION
February 12-14, 2025
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
DURATION: 15 hours

FVSD students in Gr 10-12 will receive **3 credits** for the course.

BEHIND THE WHEEL
Driving Sessions: 10 hours of hands on driving experience.
Schedule: Driving dates will depend on class size with 5 sessions of 2 hours each.



August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	I-0/O-3					

September 2025						
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
I-20/O-20						

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
I-22/O-22						

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	I-19/O-19					

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
I-16/O-16						

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
I-19/O-20						

February 2026						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
I-16/O-18						

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
I-22/O-22						

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
I-16/O-16						

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	I-20/O-20					

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
I-5/O-6						

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Semester 1 Dates: August 27, 2025 – December 22, 2025 (77 Instructional Days/ 80 Operational Days)

Semester 2 Dates: January 5, 2026 – April 30, 2026 (73 Instructional Days/ 76 Operational Days)

Semester 3 Dates: May 1, 2026 – June 8, 2026 (25 Instructional Days/ 26 Operational Days)

Summer School: June 9, 2026 – August 19, 2026 (50 Days)

K-9: Based on 330 minutes per day x 175 days = 962.5 hours

10-12: Based on 350 minutes per day x 175 days = 1021 hours

Total Instructional (I) Days 175 / Total Operational (O) Days 182

Organizational/ Professional Development	School Closed	Statutory Holidays
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Buffalo Head Prairie School Council Meeting

January 27, 2025

Present: Larry Goertzen, Ryan Knelsen, Maria Wieler, Mike Friesen, Tim Bueckert, Chris Fehr, Melissa McDonald, Shannon Peters

1. Call to order at 7:04 pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. M/S Mike/Ryan that agenda was approved. Carried
4. Minutes from previous meeting November 25, 2024, were read by Maria Wieler.
5. Approval of previous minutes - M/S Mike/Ryan that the November 4, 2024, minutes be accepted as presented. Carried
6. **Chairperson's Report.** Ryan Knelsen provided a report from a FVSD Chairperson/Trustee meeting with the Superintendent that he attended, positive results were shared on how the FVSD was doing, also positive feedback was shared regarding the results of BHPS. Thanks to all our dedicated staff.
7. **Principal's Report**
 - Thank you to Tim and Lorraine Bueckert, Susan Wolfe, and Jennifer Martens for providing a hot meal for all our staff, it is appreciated by all.
 - Update on Caleb Teichroeb: As reported from the Teichroeb Family, they have some great news, if everything goes as planned they are hoping to be back home in 3 weeks.
 - There has been positive feedback from parents on the Christmas Concert, thanks to all the staff that put in all the effort to make it a great Christmas Concert.
 - Staffing Update:
 - Shakira Giesbrecht has been in the school working as an EA since Dec 10th, it has been really good to have her join the BHPS staff.
 - Mrs. Keefe is out of her classroom for a while and Mrs. Schellenberg has been covering for her which is working very well.
 - Mrs. Raelene Peters will go on a maternity leave starting Feb 11th, we are still in the process of finding a qualified teacher to fill her position while she is gone.
 - Social Media/Alcohol/Drugs presentation Update:
 - There was a social media safety presentation in the junior high classroom on January 16th by the FVSD Connection Team.
 - We are waiting to find a qualified person through AB Health Services to do a presentation on Drugs/Alcohol/Vaping.
 - A few council members are willing to sit in the Junior High classes to observe while these presentations are being done.
 - New Programs:
 - A program called 'Let It Grow' is something we are thinking of bringing into our school, it is a program that helps students develop more confidence and independence. It was previewed at the school council meeting and the school council thought it was a good program.
 - A program called 'Polar Club' is starting now which will give students opportunity to go outside on "indoor recess" days when the temperature is between -20 to -35 degrees Celsius. In order to participate in Polar Club, students will need to have a permission form signed by parents and have all mandatory warm weather clothing which will be checked by staff before proceeding outside.

- Teacher Recruitment: There were a few changes made to the recruitment program by Mr. Mike McMann. All FVSD staff were provided with the opportunity to participate in recruitment fairs, they had one group going in January already which had a great turnout.
 - Mr. John Acreman, Mrs. Melissa McDonald, and Mrs. Shannon Peters delivered the annual board presentation to the trustees of FVSD, positive feedback was received in regards to the board presentation.
 - The Blue Mountain Ski hill is now ready for students, the Junior High might get a chance to go there in the near future, a small payment will be required for participating students which will be confirmed at a later date.
 - The school currently has Z-Space computers which helps the students increase their learning experience by having the ability to work with 3D technology. The school council got an opportunity to engage with the computers to see their capabilities. The council members found this to be an interesting opportunity.
 - Susan Siemens was in the school to deliver presentations regarding Mennonite history and will be available for presentations for the younger grades in March. There was good feedback from staff about the presentations.
8. Financial update:
- Budget review: 39% of the budget is spent as of December 31/24, 41% was spent on December 31/23. We are on track and in line of previous years spending.
9. Trustee report:
- Trustee not present

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

Next Meeting: February 24, 2025