

Barnwell School Advisory Council  
September Principal's Report  
November 2, 2022  
Barnwell Library 7:00 pm

- 1.) We have a student teacher, Karan Krishnan, who started in Ms. Francis' grade 4 class this month. She will complete her PS III practicum in December, and return in February for her 8 week final practicum with the same class. She is taking her degree through the University of Calgary. Mr. Milner also returned and we hired 2 new support staff workers, Jenna Nelson & Ashley DeBoer. We look forward to the return of Kendra Bailey on December 1st.
- 2.) Thank you to the school council and the society for sponsoring the one book per student this year. It was a huge success and kids were excited about selecting their own books. A total of \$3265.25 was raised with a donation of \$547 was contributed by the Society. 117 students accessed this opportunity, although not all of the junior high took advantage of getting a book they had many times to do so. I have been approached by another family in Barnwell who would like to assist in supporting this initiative next year and will match the \$5 so that students have up to \$10 to choose a book if you decide to do it again another year.
- 3.) Our Remembrance Day service is tomorrow starting at 10:30, it is open to the public.
- 4.) The Christmas concert will be a public performance this year, it will be on Thursday, December 15th.
- 5.) School Picture retakes are on Tuesday, November 15th. I met with Lifetouch this week to talk about their services and quality, etc. They are committed to make the experience positive for schools. They have changed a few things about the program. Now if families order photos within 45 days of receiving of getting their proofs, our school will be given a cheque for 10% of the total sales. We also have the opportunity to book spring portrait sittings and kindergarten grad sittings if it is something parents would be interested in having at our school.
- 6.) With report cards going home on Thursday, a new term of options will be offered to the JH and they will start on Tuesday.
- 7.) School Councils have once again been provided with a \$500 grant from the GoA. It is currently in the school budget.
- 8.) The Grade 8 class will be participating in the Alberta Skills Exploration Day on December 6th this year and will be faced with the challenge of creating a sustainable food storage system. They will also be creating a hydroponic grow system as a part of the process. On December 8th our 2 cardboard boat race teams will be competing at the U of L.
- 9.) The Taber Pool has been booked for December 22nd from 1:00-3:00 pm for our school. We will be discussing at our next staff meeting the best way to organize this time. We will also provide lunch for all kids that day. The Students Union will start meeting about organizing some dress-up spirit days.

**Excelling in the 3 A's: Academics, Arts, Athletics!**

## Upcoming Dates:

November 14- PD Day, no school  
November 15- Picture Retake Day  
November 16- COSC meeting (1:00 pm- Taber)  
December 5th- Christmas Light Celebration (BSC)  
December 9-10 - Basketball Tournament  
December 15- Christmas Concert  
December 16-17- Basketball Tournament  
December 22- Last day before holidays, swimming & pizza.  
December 23- No School  
January 9- First day back from holidays

## School Council Grant Guidelines:

The Alberta School Council Engagement Grant is back this year. It is \$500 to every active school council. Unused funds are supposed to be returned to Alberta Education, but we were granted permission to carry forward unused funds this year. This grant was not well utilized last year as we carried forward about 2/3 of the funds. Please make your parent councils aware of the money and help them find creative and beneficial ways to use this money. I have inserted the guidelines from the funding manual.

Funds are to be used to support school councils in fulfilling their legislated responsibilities and for parent involvement and engagement activities.

1. School council responsibilities are outlined in the Education Act and School Council Regulation including:

- advising the principal and the board respecting any matter relating to the school;
- consulting with the principal so that the principal may ensure that students in the school have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister;
- consulting with the principal so that the principal may ensure that the fiscal management of the school is in accordance with the requirements of the board and the superintendent;
- establishing and implementing policies in the school that the school council considers necessary to carry out its functions;
- making bylaws governing its meetings and the conduct of its affairs;
- advising on the development of school education plans, annual education results reports and budget; and
- completing and providing an annual report to the school board summarizing its activities and detailing the receipt, handling and use of any money in the previous school year.

2. Parent involvement and engagement activities that:

- broaden the number of school events that include parents;
- diversify the communication tools used to reach parents; and
- seek out the advice and ideas of other parents.

5. Annually, school councils should establish local priorities aligned with the grant purpose that the funds will support.
6. Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:
- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members;
  - information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school;
  - parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.;
  - programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners;
  - parent resources and tools in multiple languages; Funding manual for school authorities 2022/23 school year 100 Classification: Public
  - events to engage parents on important local issues;
  - parent engagement in promoting the value of arts;
  - trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.
7. Examples of non-allowable expenses include:
- entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food
  - no capital asset purchases
  - activities that have already taken place
  - organization memberships or conference fees
  - fundraising events
  - prizes or incentives to parents and/or students
  - payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts
  - entertainment activities such as barbeques, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.
8. All funds provided must be spent in the school year in which they are allocated. Any unused funds must be returned to Alberta Education.
9. School authorities are expected to support their school councils to ensure funds are spent appropriately.