



# Barnwell School

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Barnwell School Advisory Council  
March Principal's Report  
March 3, 2025  
Barnwell School Art Room 6:00 pm

- 1.) Staff Update: Julie will be doing a gradual return to work beginning next week and will return to full-time work on the last week of March. We are happy to have her return and we are appreciative of Cindy for filling in and learning many new systems in her absence. Lindsey Baceda has been on a short leave of absence and will return on March 18th. By the end of March, we will have everyone back on staff!
- 2.) I'd like to follow-up to the conversation about the cake auction and tax receipts. After talking to Phil and looking into the CRA guidelines, we must legally take a fair market value of a cake from the donation. This is called split receipting. A receipt cannot be given for the full value as the donor has received a gift or advantage. The full amount of funds are put into the school account and received by the school. Horizon does not take any money. The receipts are given to the highest bidders for tax purposes only. There is no advantage to Horizon for giving charitable receipts. It does help our school contributors which is why Horizon will provide receipts. Phil has asked that the school write out a practice for determining a fair market value of cakes that are baked at home and donated for the auction. He also indicated that if someone purchased a cake at a bakery and has a receipt to help us determine fair market value, a donation receipt can be provided to the donor of the cake. This discussion has highlighted our need to have some guidelines written down and more communication with our donors and bidders for future auctions which we will start working on for next year.  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/operating-a-registered-charity/issuing-receipts/split-receipting.html>
- 3.) The Provincial budget was released last week. I will likely find out at our admin meeting on March 11th what it is going to mean for our school and will hopefully have more information for you next month.
- 4.) The provincial government surveys went out last week. They now have the schools print and distribute them. To date, there have been 7 surveys completed by parents. We appreciate everyone taking the time to give us feedback. We'd really like more parents to take the time to answer. In May, we will share the results from our Horizon survey and any preliminary provincial results we may have.
- 5.) On March 12th, our Grade 1-7 classes will be have an assembly presentation by Jon Hansen. We feel that his message addresses some of the issues raised in our student mental health survey. While we recognize the Grade 8/9's are not there, this was the only date available while he was in the area and we wanted to take advantage of him being here. The funding for this presentation is coming out of our SGF. <http://www.jonhansenspeaks.com/parentvideo> As well, we received 13 parent responses to the "We wish the youth in our life knew"...question sent out to parents. We were hoping for a few more, we will be sending it out one more time. If you have a chance, please consider answering.

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

- 6.) We have invested in a phonics intervention program that our Grade 1-3 teachers will be using with students. Kendra, Carrie, and I attended a session at teacher's convention about the BLAST program which was developed by a Reading Intervention Teacher in Edmonton. It has a screening tool and activities that will focus on some of the gaps we are noticing with our kids. We will be getting it next week and we are looking forward to finding more ways to support students with their learning struggles. We are using the funds from our SGF to pay for the program.
- 7.) Mandy's JH Drama class will be going on tour at the end of the month. They will do a school performance, a parent performance, and they will travel to 2 schools in the Taber area as well. We purchased some new draping bars, stands, and travel bags out of the remainder from last years cake auction to support this travelling program.
- 8.) We are sending 2 teams to the Science Olympics at the end of March. There will be a Grade 8 and Grade 9 team. They will use their lunchtimes to work on their project that will be tested that day. This year the challenge is to create wind turbines.
- 9.) We are working on a school-wide financial literacy project that will begin after Easter Break and go for the entire month of May. I've been working on a few catchy titles..May Money Madness...we are still thinking about what we want to call it. The premise is that we will be providing students with some simulated economy situations while coming to school. Students will be paid daily for coming to school. This is their job as defined in the school act. Each day students will either be paid with fake currency, or digital currency in JH. Students will be given lessons about economics and informed that things in life cost money. Out of their "pay" they will have bills to pay such as locker rentals, desk rentals, and there will be fines such as "speeding fees" for running in the halls, etc. At the end of the 2-week period, students will see how much of their pay is left based on their bills and fines. They will then be given the opportunity to purchase something with their pay or save for something bigger. We are using some funds from the MLJ Family Motivation, Innovation & Creativity Grant to provide classes with some funds for purchasing extra items that students can purchase. The fines and pay are different according to the Grade level. Grades K-5 will work with cash, and Grades 6-9 will have a digital economy working in class dojo. We are doing this as a trial project for one month this year. If it goes well, we hope to expand it next year.

#### Barnwell Celebrations!

- Aaron challenged the Grade 5 class to correctly answer 2000 multiplication facts as a group in 6 minutes! They did it!
- The Grade 5 class also played during our February Purple Pride assembly and did a great job as newer musicians.
- Mrs. Leray started a crochet club today. Students from Grades 3 and up are working together to crochet items of their choice. Some of trying for the first time.
- The Grade 8 LA class wrote, casted, directed and performed their plays to an audience of peers. There were some creative costumes, props, and good laughs.
- Last week the Grade 1's and 2's celebrated the 100th Day of School! They grouped and counted to 100 so many times throughout the day! They spent the whole day doing everything the 100 way! They made silly hats with 100 stamps, made a Froot Loop necklace with 100 on it, stamped 100 polka dots on paper etc. It was awesome! The kids had a great time!
- Our Tier 1 Girl's Basketball team won zones on the weekend!

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

March 10- No School- PD Day

March 11-13- Grade 8/9 Band Trip

March 12- Jon Hansen Presentation



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March 19- Grade 5 Band Workshop in Taber  
March 27- Purple Pride & Report Cards go home

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