



# Barnwell School

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

- 1.) Now that we have resumed classes after the break, we wanted to remind families that we are now on 4-day school weeks.
- 2.) We were provided with a staffing update this morning and Mrs. Wood will not be returning in January as hoped, her leave has been extended to April 1st. Mrs. Yanke has been approved for another eye surgery, she doesn't have a date yet. She will not be back this year as hoped and Ms. Flockhart will be continue her contract until June.
- 3.) Since the last meeting our students have been involved in many great accomplishments including winning the Cardboard Boat trophy for the second year in a row. Our Leadership co-chairs giving a presentation about the work they are doing at the Southern Alberta student leadership conference (SAIL). Our Grade 8/9 band has been fundraising for their band trip to Edmonton in March with a Movie Night and upcoming bottle drive this Saturday. Our bands performed at the Twinkle Light Night and our JH Drama and elementary classes put on another great Christmas Concert. Our leadership team led a week of spirit activities and we also went swimming as a school before the break. We put a lot into the last few weeks before the Christmas holiday.
- 4.) Alberta Education requires that grades K-3 do provincial assessments in January. This will be starting next week.
- 5.) Prior to the break, an email was sent to families that included a link to Horizon's Assurance Survey, we will continue to send reminders in our weekly updates and we will put the link on our website. Parents are encouraged to please take a minute to answer the survey and provide some feedback. We do look at the results to determine areas that we need to focus on more.
- 6.) Student Mental Health Initiative: Our counselling team will be visiting our JH classes tomorrow with a simple survey question for the kids to fill out. The prompt is...." something I want the adults in my life to know is....". Alicia and Hailey will be compiling the responses and then they will be sharing them with the school council at the February meeting along with some information on services and ideas to support student mental health. Adults will also be given the opportunity to send a reply to the students and the parent/staff responses will be shared with the kids. This is being done as "semi" anonymous task. Only Alicia will be given access to the responses as they contain student emails. This has been done as a safety precaution in case there are students with big feelings that they share and we need to check in on them. Alicia had done this activity at one of the other schools she works at but it was done as a bulletin board display. I suggested that by doing this as a BSC presentation, it will open the doors for more conversations on how we can support student mental health in our school.

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

- 7.) The Cake Auction will be on Thursday, January 30th. We have yet to meet as a staff to determine where we want to focus where the funds should go this year, in addition to supporting year-end field trips, etc., however, one idea is for us to upgrade our screens in the gym to LED screens. A quote we received in September stated that it would be approximately \$32,000 for such a screen but it would improve the look of our aging projector that have been inconsistent with their reliability (they are now 8 years old which means they are heading toward they end of their life span and we've already replaced a bulb in one of the projectors). The Grade 8/9 band is also looking to have a cake auctioned specifically to support their trip.
- 8.) We ran 2 successful basketball tournaments in December. We would like to thank everyone who helped out to make it happen.
- 9.) We have booked the Ski Hill for Feb 26, 2025. We will be sending out information to students interested in Grades 5-9 once we have confirmed transportation.

**Upcoming Dates:**

January 7- Spirit Team Lunch and connection time (Pizza for the spirit team winners in January)  
January 30- Cake Auction/ Purple Pride  
February 13- Swimming  
February 14-24- No School (return Feb. 25)  
February 26- Ski Trip