

# THE BEACON

October 2020



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and Guardians...

Wow! September was a busy month but we had a successful re-entry and our staff and students are happy to be back! Everyone has settled into our new daily routines and are busy in the classroom cohorts. This school year we are continuing with our school wide focus on Literacy and Numeracy initiatives working with both the literacy and numeracy division coordinators. Updated technology this year includes an upgrade to the sound system in the gym, more ChromeBooks and iPads, and laptops in the classrooms.

In the Province of Alberta, funding for schools is based on the total numbers of students enrolled. Whenever enrollment declines, divisions, and schools, must adjust staffing allocations accordingly. Some schools have experienced varying degrees of decreased enrollment during these unprecedented times. Where numbers of registered students are lower than expected, staffing is adjusted to reflect this. With the number of students who left to either homeschool or attend e-academy our enrollment is less than we anticipated. Therefore, this has resulted in a reduction in our teaching allotment by one staff member. Our grade 5 teacher Miss Torcolacci has been reassigned to an E-academy position with FMPSD. Furthermore, in order to balance classes our school grade configuration has changed to blended Grade 5/6, 4/5 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  classes. Our hot

lunch program and extracurriculars are on hold until further notice but we have started our breakfast program with prepackaged items.

Our Parent Council and Parent Plus Association always need more members. Feel free to join us for our monthly meetings which for the time being will be virtual. Both councils are composed of the same dedicated few; whose members have families and also work. Parents can and do make a great difference and our students, your children, benefit from your efforts!

Thank you to all the families of Beacon Hill Public School for all of the support we receive throughout the year and as always.

Beacon Hill School based re-entry plan is posted on the school website: <https://beaconhill.fmpsdschools.ca/>

FMPSD usual links for re-entry.

<https://sites.google.com/fmps.ab.ca/fmpsdschoolre-entryinfo/home>

Continue to look for updated information on school re-entry as it is released by the school division. Some useful links to access regarding Covid 19 and School re-entry are:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17212.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx>

Graham Abbott  
Principal

### **Helpful Hints for Parents**

1. Encourage your child to develop a positive outlook toward school.
2. Stay in regular contact with your child's teachers.
3. Attend parent-teacher interview virtual meetings.
4. Inform the school in advance of your child's absence from school.
5. Contact school staff when an incident arises in school involving your child.
6. Cooperate with the school when solving issues involving your child.
7. Watch for changes in your child's mood or behavior that might suggest problems at school.
8. Inform teachers of issues that might affect your child's progress or behavior.
9. Review your child's homework and assignments, and sign their agendas.
10. Read at home and help out with school work if possible.
11. Regularly check all communications from the school (includes social media sites)

## **Please Remember**

1. Polite cooperation with all school personnel is essential.
2. All visitors must sign in and out at the main office according to Covid19 AHS protocols.
3. All students have the right to attend school without being afraid or intimidated.
4. Harassment of any type (sexual, verbal or physical) and bullying (physical, verbal or via social media) will not be tolerated and dealt with accordingly.
5. Clothing, book bags, etc. that display inappropriate language, slogans, pictures or symbols, or anything that might be considered offensive will not be permitted.
6. Cell Phones are not to be used in the school during class times and must be kept in backpacks.
7. Bikes and scooters must be locked in the bike racks.
8. Please remember to drive slowly in the school zone.
9. Please remember to not drop off students in the bus lanes.
10. Staff supervision of students starts at 7:55am and ends at 3:05pm.

## **Beacon Hill School Schedule**

8:10am: First Bell

8:15am: am Bell

10:00am to 10:15am: Div 2 Recess

10:15am to 10:30am: Div 1 Recess

10:30am: Recess End bell

11:36am to 12:24pm: Lunch - Lunch Recess

11:36am to 12:00pm: Div 2 Recess - Div 1 Lunch

12:00am to 12:24pm: Div 1 Recess - Div 2 Lunch

2:50pm: School End

## **ECDP and Kindergarten**

8:15am to 11:01am

12:04pm to 2:50pm

## **Parent and Visitors to the School**

Parents will be advised to stay outside or in their vehicles for daily pick up and drop off. Students are assigned specific doors for school entry and exit. Parents are reminded to drop off their children as near to the school start time of 8:10am as possible.

Parents who need to enter the building for a meeting or to see the office staff must book an appointment. Upon entering the school visitor/parent/guardian

will be asked to sanitize, wear a mask, and complete an Alberta Health Daily Checklist (COVID-19 Screening). If you check yes on any of the questions, we have the right to deny entry. Only staff and students are permitted beyond the main doors without an appointment.

All safety protocols are posted in all entrances of the building.

Everyone entering the building must wear a mask. Visitors will be closely tracked for contact tracing purposes and visitor movement within the school will be limited as much as possible.

Visitors are required to follow the school policies and practice strict physical distancing and hand hygiene.

People who have business at the school or who are dropping off items must do so at the main office. The occupancy in the main office at any one time will be limited to two families to a maximum of six visitors. Thank you for your understanding



## **LEADER IN ME**

Welcome to Leader in Me. Each new school year brings opportunities for academic growth and growth in all areas of development. Although children must be knowledgeable when they graduate, they must also be healthy, engaged, responsible, and caring people. Leader in Me provides our school with the vision and language to lead the school in a way that addresses all areas of development. As each child discovers and develops his or her unique gifts and talents, they are given opportunities to lead. As leaders, they become active, engaged partners in their own education and their self-confidence, responsibility, and initiative grows. The children quickly understand the benefits of different gifts and talents; they learn to listen to new ideas, work together to achieve results, and motivate one another to be the best. Together, we will watch each and every child grow throughout the year.

This Year we will be focusing on student leadership activities and Empowering Instruction.

The  
**Leader in Me**<sup>®</sup>  
great happens here

# Parents and Bullying

## Bullying Defined

"A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed repeatedly and overtime to negative actions on the part of one or more students..."

"A repeated and chronic instance of aggression and intimidation that targets a specific individual is bullying."

Types of Bullying: Physical, Verbal, Social and Cyberbullying.

Why students bully: to have power or control over another; to bring someone down they are jealous of; to relieve boredom; to get revenge; to impress others and increase their status; and to get attention. Fact: many bullies have been bullied themselves or they come from families where there is violence or abuse.

How can you help?

Be proactive and listen to and support your child; monitor internet and cell phone use; teach your child to respect others and to be tolerant of those with different opinions, beliefs and backgrounds; encourage your child to be confident, to stand up tall, use body language that shows they are strong; and be a good listener and report any concerns to the school officials.

Beacon Hill School will participate in **Pink Shirt Day** activities to show that we are all working together to prevent bullying in our schools, in our communities and online. Our Lac and counsellor will be doing in class anti-bullying presentations with all classes in the month of October.

Classroom teachers remind students on a regular basis about proper playground and classroom etiquette and about "no hands on" with other students. The main office deals appropriately with incidents of misbehavior and the school promotes acceptable and positive behavior.



# Beacon Hill School Council

**School Council** meets once a month during the school year to discuss items concerning our school – working collaboratively with the Principal, Teachers and Administration to ensure that our students receive the highest quality of education. Opportunities are available for parents to have input at the school, district and provincial levels.

Some of the items that have been discussed in the past include:

- Suggestions for introduction of new programs – ie. Leader in Me
- Bus Transportation
- Input & Discussion into ACSA Resolutions
- Discussion of School Activities/Programming

At each monthly meeting, the Principal will always provide a report regarding the school's activities, programs and direction regarding education. Networks Representatives will provide a report regarding discussions that have occurred at a district level.

All parents and guardians are members of the school council, so please join us so that your voice can be heard. For more information, please contact any of the executives below.

Happy Thanksgiving Beacon Hill Bear Families!! School council will be holding its next meeting on November 10th at 6:30pm – this will happen online with Google. All parents/guardians are members of the school council and we welcome everyone to attend. For anyone that is interested, please submit your email to Mr. Abbott to be included in our next google meeting.

This meeting will be considered our AGM and elections are being held for the following positions:

Chairperson  
Vice-Chairperson  
Secretary  
Networks Representative

Holding any of these positions is a great way for you to get involved with your school community, and I encourage all parents to consider holding an elected position. If you have any questions about any of the above positions, please do not hesitate to contact myself at [wendy@hsventures.ca](mailto:wendy@hsventures.ca)

Wendy MacMillian

# Parents Plus Advisory Association

Happy October from your Parents Plus Advisory Association! We hope you have enjoyed the last month being back at school!

Your association met for our annual AGM in September where we held elections for our board members.

Your 2020/21 Executive members are:

Jina Clarke - Chairperson

Katrina Jaycox - Vice Chairperson

Donna Wilson - Secretary

Nola Nippard - Treasurer

Stacy McNally - Social Media Coordinator

Congratulations to those elected and thank you for taking on important rolls in our association!

Fundraising has started with our first being held with Dieleman's. Please refer to the email sent by Mrs. Saxton regarding registering your child and placing orders. Due to current regulations, all orders are to be placed online for direct ship only. Information has also been posted on our Facebook group. [Deadline for ordering is October 26th!](#) Let us know if you have any questions!

Our next meeting will be on October 15th @ 6:30pm. Please let Mrs. Saxton know if you would like a link to join our meeting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

Jina Clarke  
Chairperson

## United Way Theme Days

October marks the start of our annual United Way Campaign. To help spread awareness and fundraise, we will be holding theme days for students and staff. These theme days are for all students, regardless of donation, as our main goal is to spread awareness of the work the United Way does within our community. If you choose to donate, we suggest a \$2 donation for each theme day, however, this is completely optional. Monday, October 26th: Wear Red for the United Way; Tuesday, October 27th: Rainbow Day; Wednesday, October 28th: PJ Day; and Thursday October 29th: Halloween Dress Up.



## Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run was a big success! On Friday, September 25th the whole school took part in the Terry Fox run. We set a school goal of raising \$500 and surpassed that by raising a grand total of \$895.00. Well done Beacon Hill Bears!



## Halloween

Our Halloween Dress up day is Thursday, Oct 29th. Students are asked not to bring any toy weapons to school and costumes should be school appropriate. The various classroom cohorts will be doing a class by class parade through the hallways.



## APPLE SCHOOLS: Health and Wellness Guidelines

### APPLE SCHOOLS

APPLE Schools is a health promotion project with the vision of healthy kids in healthy schools. The project is student-centered, evidence-based, and unique in Canada. APPLE Schools works with 74 schools across British Columbia, northern Alberta, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories. It improves more than 20,000 students' lives annually by supporting healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health habits.



## **WE ARE AN APPLE SCHOOL**

What does an APPLE School look like? We empower students to make healthy choices and work with them to create positive experiences. All healthy initiatives reflect our school's specific needs. Initiatives can include:

- Monthly campaigns
- Wellness challenges
- Movement breaks
- Non-food rewards
- Mental health education
- Student leadership opportunities with a health focus.
- Healthy Classroom health celebrations.

APPLE Schools do not dictate policy. Each province/territory and school district has its own guidelines and policies that support wellness.

APPLE Schools staff work with our school using these existing guidelines and policies to support healthy school environments.

Learn more about APPLE Schools at [appleschools.ca](https://appleschools.ca)

More information: [alberta.ca/returntoschool](https://alberta.ca/returntoschool) & [ahs.ca/covidschools](https://ahs.ca/covidschools)

## October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Picture Day	2 PLF - Staff Only	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Thanksgiving No School	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Spirit Week "Wear Red" for the United Way	27 Spirit Week "Rainbow Day"	28 Spirit Week "PJ Day"	29 Spirit Week "Halloween Dress Up Day"	30 ATA Institute Day No School	31