

# THE BEACON

## March 2021



### Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and Guardians...

February was a super busy month and the weather in March is starting to warm up. Please remind your child to wear appropriate footwear as this month with the melt and freeze weather pattern there are some slippery areas around the school. Report Cards go home later this month and we are looking forward to a mid month Spirit Week!

- We continue with our Literacy and Numeracy initiatives as one of our major school related goals, working with both the district literacy and numeracy coordinators.
- The school has done well with our AHS guidelines and students continue to be busy and engaged in a variety of learning activities.
- We continue with our Leader In Me initiatives this school year with a focus on empowering student leadership opportunities and instructional practices.
- We would like to remind parents and guardians to make sure during student drop off and pick up to not park in the parking lot entrance ways. I know parking is scarce but please do not block entrances and exits.
- **March 5th:** ECDP Virtual Open House.
- **March 12th:** PLF No School.
- Theme Week: **March 15th** (Rainbow Day), **March 16th** (Dress to Impress), **March 17th** (St. Patrick's Day), **March 18th** (Literacy Day), and **March 19th** (PJ Day).
- **March 18th** will be our first virtual school assembly which will include both physical and mental health moments, and a multimedia presentation.
- **March 19th:** Kindergarten Virtual Open House.
- **March 19th:** Report Cards go home.

Our Parent Council and Parent Plus Association always need more members. Feel free to join us for our monthly virtual meetings. 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/fmpsd.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



# Beacon Hill Public School

## **What you may or may not know about Beacon Hill Public School!**

### Safe and Caring Schools

Beacon Hill School provides an environment that promotes and supports positive relationships. Programs and strategies in place promote positive social-emotional learning, respectful behaviors, and responsible decision making. Clear expectations followed by leveled consequences help students learn to shape their behavior to what is acceptable.

Staff teaches and models positive relationships and behaviors. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports--students are taught expectations, and as situations arise, re-teaching of appropriate behaviors is done in the classrooms. Small group supports

for friendship skills, anger, and self-regulation are facilitated by our school counselor and LAC.

We reward positive behaviors with ROARYs, use Zones of Regulation in the classroom, and students are educated in conflict resolution through anti-bullying programs such as WITS. A revamped ROARY program awards students who demonstrate respect, responsibility, effort, trying something new, being prepared and ready, being courteous and polite, being a good listener, caring for others, good cooperation and sharing, and being honest and trustful. ROARIES are displayed in the main hallway and the students get to choose a reward from a treasure chest of prizes.

We recognize citizenship characteristics through ROARIES, PBIS, Zones of Regulation, end of the year awards, and Monthly Assemblies where we recognize: Readers of the Month, Bears of the Month (Work Effort), and Athletes of the Month.

Students are taught how to interact in appropriate ways when dealing with bullying situations; Partnership with RCMP to deliver programming with teachers. Anti Bullying activities are also done throughout the year and we hold an annual PINK shirt day. Our RCMP sponsored WITS program focuses on conflict resolutions and anti-bullying strategies for students.

Mindfulness is implemented in all grades, and training is provided by the school counselor to help students deal with stress and anxiety in a positive way. Teachers use mindfulness techniques with their students in the classroom.

Character Education is being taught via the 7 Teachings of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

This was our third year of implementing The Leader in Me Program and all of our staff have had training in 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Through the Leader in Me program our school community is creating a school culture of leaders. Students are developing leadership skills to enable them to further become leaders in their classrooms, school, and community. Teachers model and teach respectful and responsible behaviors, and active citizenship. A future goal is to work on the establishment of lighthouse student groups to empower students to take on more school based leadership roles.

### Student Learning Opportunities

At Beacon Hill Public School we have many great programs both curricular and extracurricular which help shape our students' futures. Each grade has a curriculum which is directed by Alberta Education.

In addition to regular curriculum programming we are focused on providing students with technology skills required for the future in each grade. We offer an after school Tech and Trade Academy Multi-Media and Robotics program.

First Nations, Metis & Inuit Education is mandated by Alberta Education and we are infusing it in the regular curriculum but also have a school wide focus on character education to highlight each of the 7 Teachings and utilize excellent resources available in our school library.

Grades 5-6 follow the Career & Technology Foundations Curriculum to explore career possibilities and related skills, passions and interests.

A large number of students have taken on Leadership positions within the school which highlight their strengths and interests thanks to The Leader in Me.

### Fine Arts

Each grade has a curriculum which is directed by Alberta Education. Drama and Music curriculum is infused into regular instruction in the classroom and teachers utilize numerous online resources for lessons. We have a trained Art teacher on staff that teaches lessons to various grades.

We have a Ukulele and guitar club at lunch recess twice a week. We participate in a Spring Fine Arts and Multicultural Evening at the school to celebrate student accomplishments. Students participate in various community art contests that are offered in the community.

### Technology

Beacon Hill School technology opportunities include: iMovie, Robotics, Multimedia, Brickz 4Kidz, and the school wide use of iPads and Chrome books and Epson boards in all the classrooms.

Tech and Trade Academy is new and students in grade 3 to 6 can participate bi-weekly in Multimedia, iMovie and Robotics' activities. All students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 have access to either iPads or ChromeBooks in the classroom, as well as Epson Boards. Our students compete in the annual Robotics' Tournament every Spring.

Students access gmail accounts so they can use Google Docs to collaborate on projects and be able to access accounts anywhere, anytime, anyplace. Students may also have teachers using google classroom to review and submit work to teachers. iPads and Chromebooks are used to access web based programs such as Mathletics, RAZ kids, Lexia, and Mipi.

### Health

We are an APPLE school choosing learning geared towards healthy eating & active living, and involve our students in daily physical activities. We offer a daily breakfast program, supported by our nutrition grant, for our students as well as an optional hot lunch program. A morning and lunch recess provides opportunities for students to have a break and get some exercise.

We have a school APPLE teacher rep that works with the division Apple School coordinator to help deliver programs and educate students.

We have a school counselor who delivers Mindfulness training to students as well as other positive ways to deal with mood changes, anxiety and other life stresses.

### Physical Education

Our Phys Ed program follows the curriculum set out by Alberta Education and includes tubing for grade 3, Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding for Grades 4-6, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee, badminton, running club, archery, flag football, soccer, dodgeball, capture the flag, and other games. Physical Education is taught by the classroom teacher.

Daily Physical Activity is incorporated in class, and more often is a movement break between lessons , and Intramurals are run twice a week during recess and lunch times (basketball, volleyball and floor hockey).

### Learning another language

Students in grades 5/6 learn French as part of weekly instruction.

### Learning in the Classroom

We offer a wide range of learning activities (project based learning, differentiated instruction) which allow our students to develop competencies such as problem solving, critical thinking, cooperation and collaboration. Students work together under the facilitation of the teacher to complete a variety of projects and assignments throughout the year.

### Academic Supports

A school wide focus on using Daily 5 for literacy and numeracy instruction, Leveled Literacy Intervention, Mathletics, Google Classroom, See Saw and Reading Eggs in the classroom. Literacy and Numeracy support through Leveled Literacy and Numeracy, and Daily 5 Interventions in and out of class occurs daily in the school's grade 1-6 classes. Each teacher utilizes Guided Reading and Math routines to help students at their skill level. Supplemental programs to build skills further such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Math Seeds, RAZ kids, Lexia, Mipi, and Math Prodigy help our students improve. In preparation for PAT exams, grade 6 students finish their curriculum and have regular comprehensive reviews, practice exams, and tutorials.

Teachers use Strategies such as Exam Back, Levelled Literacy Interventions, Daily Five, student learning centres, differentiated instruction, and Words Their Way, Reading Eggs, Math seeds, Daily 3, Mathletics, Math Prodigy, Math Antics, Math Manipulatives, Handwriting without Tears, and Jolly Phonics as part of daily instruction.

We continue to provide yearlong opportunities for all students to develop a knowledge and understanding of, and respect for, the histories, cultures, languages, contributions, perspectives, experiences and contemporary contexts of First Nations, Metis and Inuit, and to enhance our school communities' understanding of First Nations, Metis and Inuit world views, cultural beliefs, languages and values, and teach about truth and reconciliation.

### Extracurricular

Students have access to a wide range of after school clubs and school events: art club, debate club, tech and multimedia club, musical bears, ultimate Frisbee, running club, snowshoeing club, archery club, volleyball, basketball, track and field, floor hockey, and badminton, Sports Day, Earth Rangers, Edmonton trip for div 2 (every year), family dances, Turkey Day, Christmas Concert, Fine Arts Multicultural Evening, Heritage Park Program, Oil Sands Discovery Center program, Vista Ridge Ski & Snowboarding program, participation in Girl Power Conference/Boys Conferences, and Grade 6 visit to Composite High school.

### Staff

We are lucky to have a caring and dedicated staff that works hard to meet the curriculum expectations while creating exciting and interesting lessons for our students, engaging them in hands on activities and challenging them as needed.

Teachers collaborate with grade partners, participate in a school based mentorship program for new teachers, and collaborate on Professional Learning Fridays and in Monthly Collaborative Response Meetings sharing expertise and knowledge.

Our School's half time Learning Assistance Teacher guides staff regarding students with special needs and works closely with parents to ensure the students' needs are being met. She also takes on small groups of students for instruction in reading and other specialized areas. We have a half time School Counselor who assists students with problems and issues. She also works with classes with Mindfulness training and organizes anti-bullying activities.

### Prep for Lifelong Learning

Leadership development opportunities are offered to older students as help in the main office, Students assisting students (Reading Buddies), MC's at assemblies, breakfast program helpers, student advisory council, and leaders in the classroom.

We work with students to support the community through activities related to the Terry Fox Foundation, The Wood Buffalo Food Bank, The United Way, And Jump Rope for Heart as well as fundraising for our own neighbourhood families.

We are teaching students to be conscious of their environment as a Green School. Students also learn to care for our environment by recycling drink containers, and

experimenting with growing vegetables in our Garden Tower. A future school goal is to build some outside planters so that we can have a school garden, and students can participate in a school outdoor environmental club.

### Parental Involvement

Parents are involved in decisions about their child's education via School Council and Parent Plus meetings. The School Council and the Principal communicate via a regular newsletter, Twitter and Facebook so parents are kept abreast of what is happening at the school through the media. Parents can remain in constant communication with the school via arranged meetings, email, phone calls, or following the Facebook page, Twitter and School Website. The office administration is always open to hearing concerns from parents.

The Principal shares and gets input from School Council members regarding school budget, school results and the growth plan. Parents volunteer their time to support numerous school based activities and fundraisers. Good community resources include: Mental Health Programs, our partnership with the RCMP, Earth Rangers, the Oil sands Discovery Center, Heritage Park, Vista Ridge, and the Family Foods grocery store.

One special community function that occurs traditionally is our Turkey Day where members of the community, parents and staff assist in teaching our students how to prepare a Turkey Dinner: peeling potatoes, cooking vegetables, setting tables, and serving guests food. It is an annual school celebration and huge event. This past year was the largest attendance ever by parents and members of the community.

Staff acknowledge student volunteers and parent volunteers through a yearly volunteer appreciation event.

### Citizenship

Students learn to be better citizens through our health and social programming in each grade. In addition, Students learn about character education through our 7 Teachings, through leadership opportunities and the Leader in Me program, and Girl Power and Mega Boys. We do a lot of community awareness fundraising via The Center of Hope and The Food Bank, as well as larger projects such as Jump Rope for Heart, the United Way, and Terry Fox foundations. Student leaders are constantly surprising us with their willingness to help the community as good citizens. We are environmentally conscious and have a recycling program within the school as well as participating in events such as Destination Conservation and Green Scene.

### Work Preparation

Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving are just a few examples of learning strategies to prepare students for the world of work. Teachers ensure that projects are purposeful and hold meaning because they relate to the work outside of school. In Grade 5 & 6 students have access to research about particular careers that may interest them. The Leader in Me Program is also preparing them by

teaching the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. We also liaison with our local high schools as our grade 6 students plan for their transition there for the next year.

### Continuous Improvement

Every year the staff analyzes our School results and looks at how we can further improve in areas that are needed. Strategies are implemented and often, specific interventions are provided to students in all grades to help them become more successful.

Our most recent results are posted on the website and show that we have VERY HIGH results which have improved significantly from the year prior and show overall excellence.

### 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 and please park in designated areas.



9. Please remember to not drop off students in the bus lanes or the parking lot entrance ways.
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.

During times of inclement weather students will enter the school through the front door and assemble in their cohorts in designated areas in the gymnasium.

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

This is our second year as a Leader In Me school and we have set our school wide focus on involving our students in more leadership activities and decision making.

## Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

***Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood*** teaches the art of sincere, reflective listening. Unknowingly, in conversation we filter what we hear through our own life experiences and frame of reference. Before a person finishes what they are saying, we've already formulated a response.

## Habit 6: Synergize

***Synergize*** is the habit of creative cooperation and can only be achieved by valuing the diverse paradigms and opinions of others. In a synergistic environment, true collaboration takes place because the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts.



## 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 participated in **Pink Shirt Day** activities on **February 19th** to show that we are all working together to prevent bullying in our schools, in our communities and online. Our Lac and counsellor worked with and provided some in class virtual activities for students and teachers to engage in.

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 virtually 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 virtual 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.

The School Council executive members for 2020/2021 school year:

Wendy MacMillan – Chairperson  
Jina Clarke – Vice Chairperson  
Stacy McNally – Secretary  
Katrina Jaycox – Networks Representative

Next virtual School Council Meeting will be held on **March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. All meetings are held virtually – please email Mr. Abbott with your intention to partake in the meeting and he will include you in the google meet. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend – this is a great way to keep in the know about your school community!

Wendy MacMillan

### **Beacon Hill Parents Plus January Report**

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!

Happy March Beacon Hill families!

Parents Plus is excited to roll out a couple new fundraisers this spring! First up, a Parking Spot raffle! Who wouldn't love a prime parking spot for morning drop off and afternoon pick up!? Ticket information will be coming home with your kids very soon ~ Be sure to grab yours!!

Thank you to our parents that have been joining our monthly meetings online! It's always great to see new faces! Everyone is welcome! **Our next meeting is March 18th at 6:30pm!** If you'd like to join us, please contact us via the Facebook page or email Mrs. Saxton!

Jina Clarke  
Chairperson

### **Tower Gardens**

Grade 2 & 3 and Kindergarten students are going to start a Tower Garden Project beginning next week growing vegetables. Students are excited with this endeavor.

**Spirit Week March 15th to March 19th**



Our first virtual monthly assembly will be **March 18th** and we will be highlighting classroom Mental Health, and Physical Health moments, as well as a School slideshow.



## **APPLE SCHOOLS: Health and Wellness Guidelines**

Students in APPLE Schools take ownership of their own health and demonstrate:

### **INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 1, 2, 3**

- 35% increase in physical activity
- 2-3 times more steps taken per day
- Increases in physical activity during school hours, after school hours, and on weekends

### **IMPROVED DIETARY HABITS 3, 4**

- Students eat 10% more fruits and vegetables and consume 237 fewer calories per day

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN LEARNING OUTCOMES 5, 6**

- Students show improved quality of life, leadership abilities, productivity and learning outcomes

### **IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH FOR ALL STUDENTS 1**

- Increases in physical activity are seen across all students, regardless of whether they were active or not beforehand
- Children with the lowest starting levels of activity benefit the most



## **Calendar of Events**

## March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 PTI	4 PTI	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Report Cards Due	12 No School PLF	13
14	15 Spirit Week Rainbow Day	16 Spirit Week Dress Your Best Day	17 Spirit Week Green Day	18 Spirit Week Literacy Day  Virtual Assembly	19 Spirit Week PJ DAY  Report Cards go home  No School ECDP/K Kindergarten Virtual Open House	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

