



Tracy Beattie – Principal/directrice

Carroll Glidden – Assistant Principal/directrice adjointe

Principal's Message

It is difficult to believe that six weeks have gone by since we last had students at the school. I know that this has been a difficult time for all of our families. We have really appreciated all the ways that we have been able to stay connected with our students. We also really appreciate all the supportive feedback that we have had from our families. Although the hallways of the school are very quiet right now, we wanted to keep you up to date on some important information happening here at the school.

We have had some staffing changes occur over the past few weeks that we want to make you aware of. First of all I would like to thank Mrs. Gillespie for the great work that she did with our Early Learning French Immersion class since January. We really appreciated the support that she provided to this class and for the contributions that she made to our school. Our Early Learning program has wrapped up for most of our students now and parents of these students should have received report cards in the mail last week.

We are excited to welcome Mme Alton-Snow back to the school. She has been away for the past few months and I know that she was very excited to reconnect with her students upon her return at the beginning of April. Our very best wishes go out to Mme Rostad who is now away on maternity leave. We are excitedly awaiting news of the new arrival to the Rostad family. Very special thanks go out as well to Mme Urkow. Although she was greatly missed in the Early Learning program for the past few months, we were very appreciative of her flexibility in covering in the grade one French Immersion class since January and for taking over for Mme Rostad's class until the end of the year. Her contributions to our staff have been greatly appreciated.

In addition to the changes and challenges our families have faced over the past weeks, our staff have also experienced a great deal of change in adapting to delivery of instruction online. We are also very appreciative of their flexibility and the creative ways they have connected with students. We hope that your child(ren) has been able to take part in the Google meetings, dance challenges, class dance parties and scavenger hunts. BRSD's Mental Health Capacity Building team has also provided a variety of activities that families can be involved in each month. These are available on the BRSD website and are also available on several teacher Google Classrooms as well as Mr. Heidt's physical activity classroom.

We want to remind all of our families that our Yearbook is now on sale. If you are hoping to get a copy you will want to act fast as we have already sold half the available copies. This year's edition will help all of us remember a very unique year and will also provide the opportunity to look back at the great memories that we have of this school year. Thank you to Mrs. Barclay for all her hard work in making this available to all our students, staff and families.

With all of the cancellations of events happening this year we want to ensure that our families are also aware of BRSD programs that will not be running this summer. We are sad to announce that the Reading University program that runs each July has been cancelled for this year. For families with students in older grades, please note that Summer School has also been cancelled for this summer. Many of you have contacted us with questions regarding fees being refunded. For those of you expecting refunds for Early Learning fees, cheques for those fees were mailed out last week. Transportation will be sending out refunds for bus passes shortly. If you have prepaid for hot lunches you can login to the online payment section on our website to see the amount of your refund. These cheques will be available in the next few weeks.

A reminder that pick up day for school materials is each Tuesday at the school from 9 am to 3 pm. Materials for pick up will be outside the school in bins each Tuesday, weather permitting. On days when pick up cannot be outside, the front doors of the school will be open and materials will be available in the front entryway. Gloves will be available each day for parents to use when picking up materials. Student work, or library books, can also be dropped off at this time. Please watch for information from your child(ren) teachers regarding materials/books that need to be picked up as not all classes/students need to pick up on this day. We would ask that whenever possible families are sticking to this pick up date. This helps ensure that safety precautions are in place and ensures that we are able to maintain social distancing procedures. We will leave a drop box outside each day if you have student work that needs to be returned at other times.

As we have indicated, we know that this new delivery of instruction comes with challenges to our students and our families. Please do not hesitate to call us at the school if there is any way in which we can help support you and your family.



We are planning for next school year...

Kindergarten Registration is open for all BRSD schools

You can call your local school to register. Download the registration form from our website: brsd.ab.ca
In Camrose, Kindergarten programs are available at:

Chester Ronning School

Phone 780-672-5588

- Full days on Monday / Wednesday with occasional Fridays
- Full days Tuesday / Thursday with occasional Fridays

Jack Stuart School

Phone 780-672-0880

- Full days on Monday / Wednesday with occasional Fridays
- Full days Tuesday / Thursday with occasional Fridays

École Sifton School

Phone 780-672-2980

- French Immersion Kindergarten: Full Days on Monday / Wednesday with occasional Fridays
- English Program: Full Days on Monday / Wednesday with occasional Fridays

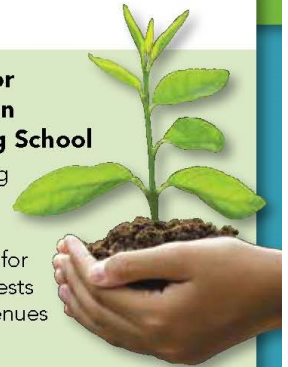
Sparling School

Phone 780-672-0106

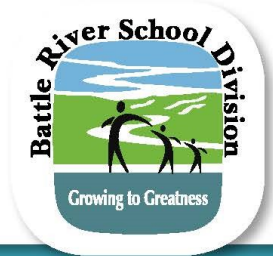
- Full Day Tuesday / Thursday with occasional Fridays

New opportunity for Nature Kindergarten available at Sparling School

- Regular programming on Monday / Wednesday
- Alternate Fridays are for discovering trails, forests and other outdoor venues in the local area



If you have a three- or four-year-old child who has been recommended to apply for Program Unit Funding (PUF) support by a medical professional, AHS or current Speech and Language consultant, please contact the BRSD Division Office to be considered for the limited program spaces for the 2020-21 school year. You will be required to complete a questionnaire and provide current assessment reports. The number to call is 780-672-6131 or forward name, age and reports to inclusion@brsd.ab.ca. Details of the program, such as days / times / location will be shared with you as soon as they are available. At this time, we are only accepting registrations from this group. It is possible additional Pre-K program spaces may become available later in the spring.



Our Francophone Choir at La Célébration de la Francophonie in March to the left.

A photo of our whole school on Pink Shirt Day is below





The Indoor Running Room Games was a great experience for our Grade 4 & 5 Runners. Photos above and top right.

Our Grade 5 Students had the pleasure of attending the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, photo on the right.

Photos below are from carnaval d'hiver.



Scenes from carnaval d'hiver, thank you to all our volunteers who made the week such a success!



Board of Trustees Battle River School Division

BRSD Board reviews funding realities for next year and more



Every Student, Every Day, A Success.



It's been a very unusual month for schools and school divisions and BRSD is no exception. The Board of Trustees held their first-ever online meeting April 30.

Funding Realities

BRSD had initially projected the School Division would have to reduce spending by about \$4 million dollars for next year because the reserves the Division has been using to offset deficits in Instructional funding are depleted.

Now that we have details of the new funding models, we know we are facing more changes. Funding for Inclusive Education, which enables us to provide everything from classroom support in the form of EAs to assistive technology and adaptive resources for specific students, has been reduced by \$2.5 million, from \$7.3 million to \$4.8 million. Plus, there are services beyond the Inclusive Education program that used to be covered and are not included in the new Specialized Learning Supports grant.

There are also changes to the PUF program (which enables us to provide early intervention services to children). Service levels have changed and our funding has been reduced by over \$1.7 million from \$2.4 million to about \$795,000.

Additionally, funds we used to receive to support Speech Language Services for Complex Communication, OT and PT, hearing and sight services and a portion of the FSLW program have also been eliminated. There is no way the PUF or Inclusive Education service we provide to students next year can look like it used to.

The Transportation and Facilities budgets have increased slightly for next year, and should allow us to offset some increases in costs.

Based on these realities, and many other factors, decisions about spending for next year will be discussed by the Board on May 14. A final budget is due May 31.

The Board of Trustees

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5402-48A Avenue, Camrose, Alberta, T4V 0L3
780-672-6131; www.brsvd.ab.ca

Board of Trustees Battle River School Division

Staffing changes

Due to the cancellation of classes in mid-March and a reduction in funding from the province for the remainder of this school year, BRSD, like many other school divisions, has made temporary layoffs. A total of 132 employees, including 79 bus drivers, bus monitors and courier drivers, 23 Learning Commons Facilitators and 30 Educational Assistants have been temporarily laid off.

Covid-related cancellations

A number of planned activities and events have been cancelled for this year, due to the uncertainties caused by the current situation. These include Reading University and Summer School programs, as well as the Friends of Battle River awards.

Many high schools are planning special events to mark what would have been graduation ceremony day for their Grade 12 students, while also hoping to offer some kind of more formal event in the fall.

School project updates

Restoration of Central High Sedgewick Public School, to repair damage caused by a roofing fire last August, is nearing completion. Junior and senior high classes have been taking place in trailers located on the school grounds since school began in September. The east half of the school has been occupied by elementary students and staff since November, while the west portion of the building, and the large gym, have continued to be a construction zone. Some flooring work remains, along with installation of fire-rated doors and windows in one area but, according to Assistant Superintendent Imogene Walsh, the restoration is looking good! With classes cancelled, all of the classroom trailers have now been removed.

After more than two years of planning and design work, the next step in the project to replace Chester Ronning School is finding a builder. The construction tendering process is expected to be underway before the end of May. The 50-year-old school, located in Camrose, was designated for replacement due to mechanical and structural issues.

Bus routes and calendar determined for Ryley School

In March, the Board of Trustees voted to consolidate Holden School and Ryley School into one school site serving students in K to 9, with high school students reallocated to either Tofield or Viking schools. In April, the Board voted that all schools in Battle River will follow the same five-day-week calendar, including Ryley School, effective September 1, 2020. Ryley currently operates on a four-day-week calendar. In addition, the Board determined attendance areas for high school students in that area, based on their geographic location in relation to Tofield and Viking schools.

Ag Program discussions with Round Hill

In March the Board of Trustees defeated a motion to close Round Hill School. During the school closure discussion process, a proposal was received to offer an Ag. Program at the school. At their April meeting, Board members struck a committee to meet with reps of this proposed program to determine the learning elements that could be provided and whether the program would be viable.

- information from the April 30, 2020 meeting of the BRSD Board of Trustees



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Administration

Superintendent:

Rita Marler

Assistant Supt, Learning:

Shan Jorgenson-Adam

Assistant Supt, Systems Support

Natasha Wilm

Assistant Supt, Business:

Imogene Walsh

For more information contact:

Director of Communications

Diane Hutchinson



5402-48A Avenue, Camrose, Alberta, T4V 0L3
780-672-6131; www.brsl.ab.ca

Understanding Emotions

Grief is a normal and healthy reaction that occurs when you lose someone or something important.

Many children are experiencing the loss of school, celebrations, and time with friends due to COVID-19.

It is natural to have uncomfortable feelings when experiencing loss.

Help children understand that their feelings are normal.

Am I experiencing feelings of grief and loss?

Feelings can be difficult to identify, and may be conflicting, such as sadness, anger, or confusion.

Activities may help stimulate thinking, deepen understanding and identify feelings. eg.) writing and drawing.

Remember to talk & write about what brings you joy and comfort.

Get the facts about COVID-19, talk with your children and answer their questions calmly and honestly.

Visit: ahs.ca/helpintoughtimes

Tips for Managing Emotions

It may be hard to accept your feelings. Simply acknowledge them.

Give yourself permission to express your feelings.

Be kind to yourself; your feelings may be unpredictable or uncomfortable.

Reach out and talk to someone you trust or connect with a health professional for assistance.

Building Resilience during a Pandemic

- Practice gratitude. Share 3 things you are grateful for each day with a friend.
- Set goals in your daily routine.
- Stay connected to your family & friends.
- Be patient with yourself.
- Participate in activities that bring you joy.
- Eat healthy & be physically active.
- Stick with a sleep routine.

[Text4Hope](#) provides daily, positive messages. To subscribe text COVID19HOPE to 393939

For more information visit:

ahs.ca/helpintoughtimes
myhealth.alberta.ca

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642

