

BRHS Update

Beaverlodge Regional High School



Volume Number Two, Issue Number Two January Two Thousand and Eleven
Principal: Mrs. Maureen Carter Vice Principals: Ms. Anna Nelson and Mr. Ken Pon

Now Playing: Semester One Final Exams

The end of semester one brings bittersweet feelings: students ready for the new challenges of their semester two classes must first deal with final examinations. There is nothing easy about final exams. It is stressful, and students need support at this time if they are to stay focussed. Here are some exam notes that everyone should make a note of:

Students are asked to please check the schedule for conflicts and make alternative arrangements with the teachers involved. All exams will be written in the Beaverlodge High School gymnasium.

- Exams begin at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. Students are permitted 2.5 hours to write their exams; diploma exam students should note the start time and length of each exam before they write, as this varies greatly. Special note: Diploma exam students only may have an extra one-half hour to write their exams. All students are required to stay in the gym for at least one hour.

- Students who are in the school during exam week must remain in designated study areas only.

- Students must bring their own pens, pencils and erasers, and calculators.

- Please remember to drop your textbook(s) and any library books off at the library when you come to write your exams. Bills for missing or damaged books will be mailed out at the beginning of Semester 2.

Exam Times - unless otherwise noted		
	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, January 12	English 30-1/30-2 - Part A - 9:00-11:30 am	
Thursday, January 13	Social 30-1 - Part A - 9:00-11:30 am Social 30-2 - Part A - 9:00-11:00 am	
Wednesday, January 19	English 30-1/30-2 Part B - 9:00-11:00 am Social 10-1/10-2 Social 20-1/20-2	English 10-1/10-2 English 20-1/20-2
Thursday, January 20	Social Studies 30-1/30-2 Part B - 9:00-11:00 am Math 10C	Math 20 Pure/Applied Math 31
Friday, January 21	Math 10-3 / Math 24 Chemistry 20	Physics 20 Science 10/14/24/20
Monday, January 24	Biology 30 - 9:00 - 11:00 am	Biology 20
Tuesday, January 25	Math 30P/30A - 9:00 - 11:00 am Conflict Exams/Correspondence	Conflict Exams/Correspondence/PAVE Alternate Day 1 (Cold Weather)
Wednesday, January 26	Chemistry 30 - 9:00-11:00 am Alternate Day 2 (Cold Weather)	Alternate Day 2 (Cold Weather)
Thursday, January 27	Physics 30 (walk-in) - 9:00-11:00 am Alternate Day 3 (Cold Weather)	Alternate Day 3 (Cold Weather)
Friday, January 28	Science 30 (walk-ins) - 9:00-11:00 am	Alternate Day 4 (Cold Weather)
Monday, January 31	Semester 2 begins	

this schedule is available online at www.brhs.ab.ca

Inclement Weather Policy

If school buses are cancelled on final exam days, there will be no announcements on the radio regarding what BRHS students are to do. THIS is what you need to know:

Diploma Exams:

If buses are cancelled as a result of cold weather or icy roads, the date of the provincial diploma exams cannot be changed. The exams can only be written at the scheduled time. The next scheduled time for most exams is in June.

- Safety should be your first consideration when deciding to risk adverse conditions to make it to your exams.
- Special circumstances consideration will be requested for students who are unable to make it to the exam due to inclement weather. In such cases the student's final mark is based on a combination of the teacher awarded mark and completed portions of the diploma examination.
- If you are more than one hour late, you will not be allowed to write the diploma exam.

Non-Diploma Exams:

If buses are cancelled as a result of cold weather or icy roads, the exams from each of those days will be moved to an "alternate day", as indicated below. Alternate Days:

- Tuesday, Jan. 25th will host the First Day Cancelled.
- Wednesday, Jan. 26th will host the Second Day Cancelled.
- Thursday, Jan 27th will host the Third Day Cancelled.

Diploma Exam Help

PWSD "On Your Mark" Diploma exam tutorials begin again in January.

These teacher-run sessions are intensive six hour tutorials where students will review the course content and develop strategies to tackle diploma exam question formats. Loads of learning, and lunch and snacks are provided by PWSD free of charge.

All sessions are held at Peace Wapiti Academy and run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Students are reminded to ask their teachers for more information, but put these dates in your calendar.

Saturday January 15, 2011

Biology 30: Mrs. Rief and Mrs. Lario

Saturday January 22, 2011

Math 30 Pure: Miss Nagtegaal and Mrs. Lambert
Math 30 Applied: Mrs. Braim and Mr. Hassanali

Winter Bus Cancellations

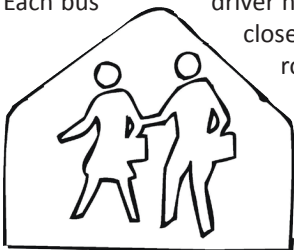
While our roads have been fairly good so far this year, we all know when living in northern Alberta it is only a matter of time before we have to close some bus routes due to poor road conditions. The purpose of this article is to give our parents some insight into how we reach the decision to cancel a bus route.

How do we reach a decision to close down all/ or any of our District bus routes?

During times of inclement weather, the Director of Transportation in the southern area of Peace Wapiti School Division, and a Transportation Supervisor located in the northern area of Peace Wapiti are on call. Between 4:00 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. they are in contact with a local highway maintenance company. If they feel possible road issues are developing in their area, these employees are on the road by 4:30 a.m. and over the course of the next two hours, they drive across Peace Wapiti School District on primary and secondary highways. They discuss the road conditions with the maintenance contractors in their area to identify road concerns. They cover approximately 150 to 200 kilometers each and during this time will perform braking tests, etc. to determine skid conditions. Our first concern is our primary highways as they have the highest levels of traffic and thus the greatest potential for bringing serious harm to our students. At about 6:00 a.m. the Director of Transportation will contact the Superintendent to discuss the road conditions and at that time a decision to close down all District buses or just buses within a certain area of the District is made. Once this decision is made, local radio stations are contacted. However, the reality is our District is the size of Wales (five times the size of PEI). It is very possible that we will have acceptable roads in one area and unacceptable roads in another area. It is for that reason each bus driver has the authority to cancel his/her route.

How does a bus driver reach a decision to close down his/her bus routes?

Each bus driver has the authority to close down his/her route. The bus driver will make a reasonable attempt to run their route but if after such an

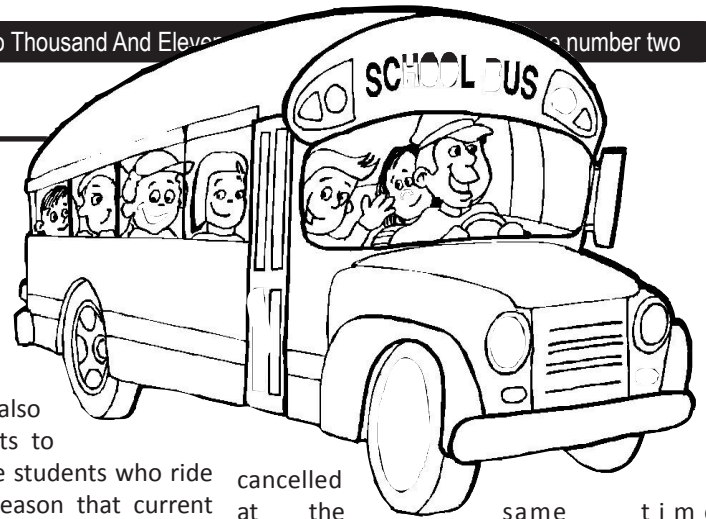


attempt, they feel that road conditions are unsafe, they will cancel their route. In doing so, they will notify the Director of Transportation so that local radio stations are notified and they will also make reasonable attempts to contact the parents of the students who ride their bus. It is for this reason that current phone numbers are essential. In the event that our bus drivers are unable to contact the parents of a small child they will take the necessary steps to ensure that the child is not left unsupervised. Our bus drivers are dedicated employees who believe in the value of our schools and the safety of students. If they have chosen to shut down their route, it will be with good reason. Please work with us to support them in a very difficult decision.

What if the parent feels the route is unsafe? Peace Wapiti leaves the final say to the parent regarding whether their child rides a bus during times of inclement weather. Should a parent feel that their area of a bus route is unacceptable, then they are free to decide not to place their child on the bus. We would ask that should the parent make such a decision, that they contact our Bus Shop at 532-7734 so that the driver is made aware of the road conditions in your area and the change in the route.

In addition to the above process, Peace Wapiti School Division #76 buses will not be stopping to pick up students on primary or secondary highways when weather conditions such as heavy fog have created a situation of limited or no visibility. The decision not to stop will be left to the driver's discretion. Should the bus driver decide not to stop parents will be notified via phone that the bus will not be picking up students that morning. Parents are encouraged to phone their bus driver or the Transportation Department (532-7734) if they feel weather conditions have made their stop dangerous.

For bus cancellations due to inclement weather or temperature, Peace Wapiti School Division is now divided into 6 zones based on High School attendance areas. All buses associated with a High School attendance area would be



cancelled at the same time. One or all of the zones could be cancelled at any one time. Parents would need to know which High School their Elementary School is associated with in order to know if the buses in their area are cancelled. Example. Beaverlodge High School attendance area would include Wembley Schools, Elmworth School, and Hythe School. Please check the inclement weather policy on the Peace Wapiti School Division website for a list of High School attendance areas and their associated schools. You can find the weather stations we use by going to our webpage and checking the quicklinks at the top. Cancellations will be announced on the local radio stations.

Finally, according to the American National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are nearly eight times safer than passenger vehicles. Our school buses are constructed far stronger than a family passenger vehicle and are driven by professional drivers, often with years of experience. They are the safest way to get a child to school; please work with us to keep them that way.

Tech Tidbit

Looking for a one stop shop to answer those everyday computer questions? How do I copy & paste? Crop images? Bookmark websites? Increase font size on a website? Teach Parents Tech <http://www.teachparentstech.org/> produced by Google, boasts over 50 basic how-to videos to help solve those everyday computer conundrums.

If you have school related tech issues or interesting sites to share, contact the PWSD Ed Tech Coordinator Jen Clevette by email: jenclevette@pwsd76.ab.ca

Family School Liaison Worker Program

Thanks to the support of County of Grande Prairie, Municipal District of Greenview, County of Birch Hills, County of Saddle Hills, the Family School Liaison Worker Program proudly serves Peace Wapiti Schools.

The Liaison Workers' role is to work together with families, the school and applicable community agencies to support families. This process may include working one on one with the student, having open discussion with teachers, peers, or family of the student, classroom presentations or specialized groups which allow students opportunities to learn about subjects not part of regular academics. These subjects include, but are not limited to, relationships, self esteem, emotions, bullying, crisis management or challenging behaviors. The Liaison can also work as a mediator to bridge communication between parent/ child or parent/ school and sometimes student/ school.

Jolene Nellis is the liaison worker for BRHS (as well as Wembley Elementary, Beaverlodge Elementary and Helen E. Taylor in Wembley). If you have any reason to require the services of Jolene, please notify the office and they will set up a meeting.

www.brhs.ab.ca

Library Policies

Library Purpose

- To provide a quiet, comfortable atmosphere for study, course work, test-writing and reading.
- To promote an enduring appreciation for reading and research and the value of a calm environment.

Library Policies

- Work quietly. Respect staff and students sharing this space.
- Food or drink is not allowed in the library
- Cell phone use is prohibited in the Library.
- Loaned library material is the responsibility of the borrower, even if item becomes lost or misplaced.
- Textbooks must be returned immediately upon completion of that course.
- Borrower will be charged the replacement cost for items that are lost, or returned in a damaged condition.

Grad Update

An important letter will be mailed to all graduates and their parents after Jan. 28th. Watch for it! This document contains information about graduation requirements, important dates and two reserved tickets for parents. If you do not receive your letter after that date please contact the school and verify your mailing address. If your address has changed recently please contact the school prior to that mailing date to be sure your letter arrives.

Thinking Ahead: Timetables and Scheduling

Semester two timetable changes can be made during exam week in January. Stop by the main office and get your name on the list to meet with administration to get your schedule worked out.

Also, grade ten students wanting to register for a grade 11 course in semester two must leave their name in the office and wait for their final marks prior to the course being added to their schedule. Space is limited, and priority will be determined by final semester one marks.

Bottles for Basketball

Arrangements have been made with Heather Gaudin at the Beaverlodge Bottle Depot, to allow people to drop bottles off on behalf of the BRHS Boys' Basketball Team.

Anyone interested in doing so can simply stipulate that the bottles are for the Boys Basketball Team @ BRHS as they drop off their recyclables. The team has also been added to the list on display at the depot so people can donate anonymously to the hoops cause if they choose.

- Regulations for loaning a library book, textbook, or other item (non-fiction, reference materials, camera, laptop);
 - * Five (5) months for textbook
 - * Two (2) weeks for fiction;
 - * One (1) week for reference, non-fiction & electronic resources;
- Fine for neglecting to return or renew library books is 10¢ per day
- Library computers are for student school assignments only. Student must know and follow PWSD's Internet acceptable use agreement.

Grade 12 Note: students who neglect to return their library books or textbooks, or who have lost or damaged them without reimbursing the school must clear library fines prior to participation in graduation. This policy is in keeping with BRHS rules that all fees must be paid in full prior to graduation.

Volleyball Medals

A big cheer for our 2010 girls volleyball team, who swooped into Provincials (after winning Zones in the BRHS gym) and walked out of the big show in Lloydminster with a bronze medal around their necks. Third in the province is not bad at all for a team that could fit in a mini van. It was a great season, capped with an outstanding post season performance from Coach Erin Martin and the girls. Way to go. Our boys team fell just short at zones, and it was there that the season ended. They showed a lot of heart all season, however, and of course, we are proud them. Well done.



Smoking Survey

During the first week of March, students at BRHS will be taking part in a nation wide survey that is looking at the attitudes and trends of Canadian teens toward smoking. The project is a research initiative headed up by the University of Waterloo and assisted by the University of Alberta. The survey will be completely anonymous, and a full copy of the survey will be available to view in the main office in the last two weeks of February. If you have any concerns, you are encouraged to look at the survey questions, and to contact the school.

If for any reason you would prefer your child not take part in the survey, you may opt them out by simply notifying the office prior to March 7th.

Staying in Touch

SchoolConnects

On January 31, 2011, BRHS will begin using SchoolConnects Automated Notification Service provided through Synrevoice Technologies Inc. SchoolConnects can deliver a wide variety of messages by phone and email to parents and our staff at a very high speed. It will help enhance overall communication within our school community and improve our emergency preparedness.

We believe that good attendance is an important factor contributing to the academic success of students.

To keep you informed of your child's class attendance in a timely manner, we will be using SchoolConnects to notify you by phone and email whenever your child is marked absent from class. The phone calls are usually made to your home phone in the evening when you are likely there. If you have a personal mobile phone, you have the choice of having SchoolConnects call your mobile phone to ensure that you personally get the messages. Please let the school know and we will be glad to make the change for you.

Upon receiving an absence notice, please call the school office at 780-354-2189 or send in a written note to let us know the reason for your child's absence.

We are excited about using SchoolConnects to enhance communication and improve the quality of education for your child.

BRHS e-mail List.

In a further effort to establish an easier path with which to relay information, Peace Wapiti School District has set up an electronic mailing list option at all of its schools.

By adding your email address to the BRHS mailing list, you will receive information (like this newsletter) electronically rather than in paper form. As well as saving paper, it allows us to pass on information more regularly, and in a more timely manner.

It is our hope to eventually be almost completely paperless in our information sharing. This is the first step toward that goal.

Of course, your email addresses remain confidential and will never be shared with any other party. Sign up now by going to www.brhs.ab.ca and follow the link on the left of the page.

Accountability Pillar

In January or February of 2011, all parents of grade 4, 7 and 10 students in the province will be receiving a survey in the mail from Alberta Education. The document is titled "Accountability Pillar Survey". Students and teachers receive a similar survey at the school. The survey tools are designed to find out how satisfied parents, teachers and students are in the following areas:

i. Safe and Caring School Environment

- Provide a BRHS Handbook to all students upon registering that lists courses, rules, etc.
- School counselors available for high school academic planning, post-secondary planning, personal concerns, and test anxiety workshops
- Provide students the opportunity to meet with outside agencies such as AADAC, Mental Health, and FCSS on weekly basis at BRHS

ii. Access to a Broad Program of Studies

- Offer a full-range of core subjects and offer large variety of elective classes such as Art, P.Ed, French, and CTS courses including Career Transitions, Construction Technology (Industrial Arts), Communication Technology (photography, etc.), Cosmetology, Design Studies (drafting/design fundamentals), Energy and Mines, Fashion Studies, Financial Management, Foods, Forestry, Information Processing, Leadership, and Legal Studies, Safety Program, Wilderness Safety, and Tourism
- Offer students alternate education formats such as: traditional correspondence and on-line courses (PAVE)

iii. Educational Quality

- Encourage the development of the following work management skills (school work ethics are a building block to work ethics) through:
 - * Punctuality and regular class attendance
 - * Team building and cooperation skills – group work, class projects
 - * Respect for adults, teachers, supervisors, classmates, colleagues, and themselves
 - * Pride in their work – BRHS has a large number of students who earn scholarships and have success in their chosen professions
- Lunch-time math tutorial and access to computers for completing assignments for all subjects.

iv. Student Preparation for the World of Work

- Resume and cover letter instruction

• Work Experience courses are available both semesters and during the summer

- Career Open Houses: GPRC open houses and science open house, Career Night at GP Composite, post-secondary visits, student-for-a-day program, and job shadowing- organized through the counseling office
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) – opportunity to begin a trade in high school
- Skills Canada competition

v. Building of Citizenship in Students

- Leadership activities within the school and classroom
- Opportunities to become involved in the school: leadership and citizenship projects, sports teams (football, volleyball, basketball, curling, golf, badminton, track & field, etc.), girls' group, and travel club

vi. Level of Parental Involvement in Child's Education

- Parent/Teacher Interviews once each semester, and parents can book appointments to discuss their child's education other times when needed.
- School Council meetings
- Parents are welcome at concerts, sporting events, graduation, and honors celebrations, etc.
- Education Planning: grade nine parents are invited to high school registration, August registration days, and BRHS has an open door policy for parents to contact the school to discuss their child's educational plan

vii. School Improvement Processes

- Communications from BRHS to parents: school newsletters, school sign, Beaverlodge Advertiser, report cards, etc.
- Teacher-led diploma exam study workshops
- Principal and Vice-Principals are available to meet with students and parents to discuss educational concerns

All parents, students, and teachers are greatly encouraged to complete these surveys. The information that Alberta Education receives in these documents is extremely important in the delivery of education. The information assists in creating the education plan for the coming school year.

If you have any questions regarding the survey once you receive it, or if you do not receive a survey and feel that you should have, please contact the school and we will help as best we can.