



BIG ROCK BEACON

SEPT/OCT 2020

PHONE (403)938-6666

FAX (403)938-7141

THIS SCHOOL IS FOR KIDS



Welcome Back Big Rock Families!

Our 2020-2021 start up looked a bit different this year, but it was just as exciting as it has been in years past. It was wonderful to see all the new faces and all the familiar faces as we welcomed each other on the school grounds. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome any new families to our Big Rock School Community. We look forward to another fun-filled and exciting year of learning and growing

with you and your children. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!

BIG ROCK SCHOOL IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE!



School Photos are Happening!

Please mark your calendars – School photos will be happening October 13th and October 14th

October 13th is a Tuesday (the first day back after Thanksgiving weekend – please make sure to set a reminder)

Tuesday, October 13 – Division 1 - starting at 9am sharp

Jr Kindergarten Ms. Kennett, KNT, 1Evans, 1Stoddard, 2Harrison, 2Hammond, 1/2 Nieman, 3Perzan, 3Strand

Wednesday, October 14 – Division 2 - starting at 9am sharp

Jr Kindergarten Ms. Tone, KNM, 4Alexander, 4Hoyle, 3/4 Hayduk, 5 Fraser, 5 Karran, 5/6 Murray, 6Fraser, 6Plouffe

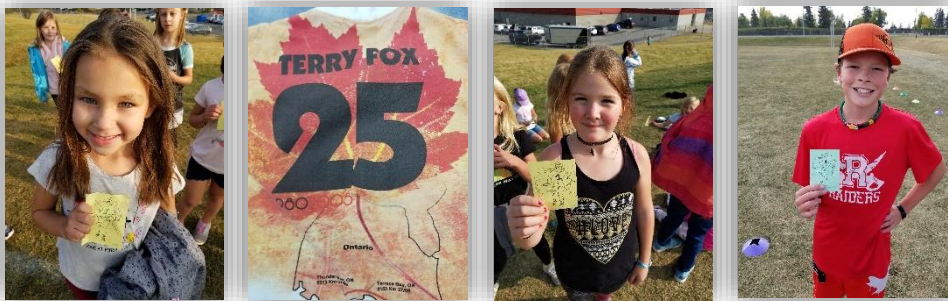
**** Please note that these will be individual photos only – there will be no class photos**

**** On-line ordering only. Students will be provided an online ordering number**

**** A retake day has not been scheduled and may not happen. **Photos will be taken outside.****

Terry Fox

The Terry Fox Run has been an important tradition at Big Rock School, and this year was no exception! Mr. Gill put together a great event for our students during their regular gym time and we were still able to raise **\$434.25** for cancer research. Over the two days, our students and staff were provided the opportunity to reflect on Terry's journey. Congratulations Badgers on your commitment to an amazing cause!



Bell Times

School Start 8:35am
Division 1 Morning Recess 10:00 - 10:15am
Division 2 Morning Recess 10:20 – 11:35
Division 1 Recess and Division 2 Lunch 11:35-11:55am
Division 2 Recess and Division 2 Lunch 11:55-12:15pm
Division 1 Afternoon Recess 1:35-1:50pm
Division 2 Afternoon Recess 1:55-2:10pm
School End 3:10pm

Sneak Peek at the Big Rock School Gym Floor



Contractors have been working hard and the gym floor is starting to look amazing! Here is a little sneak peek.

Thank goodness for the beautiful fall weather providing Mr. Gill with a wonderful outdoor gymnasium to run our Physical Education classes.

Introducing your Big Rock School Staff 2020-2021

Grade 6F: Mr. Nathan Fraser

Grade 6P: Mr. Michael Plouffe

Grade 5K: Ms. Jessica Karran

Grade 5F: Ms. Laura Fraser

Grade 4H: Ms. Amanda Hoyle

Grade 4J: Ms. Jill Alexander

Grade 3S: Ms. Katlin Strand

Grade 3P: Ms. Amber Perzan

Grade 2H: Ms. Jodean Harrison

Grade 2S: Ms. Athena Hammond

Grade 1S: Ms. Lyndsey Stoddard

Grade 1E: Ms. Karen Evans

Montessori 5/6: Ms. Kelsey Murray

Montessori 3/4: Ms. Natasha Hayduk

Montessori 1/2: Ms. Lynsey Nieman

Kindergarten KNT/KNM: Ms. Trisha Newman

Jr. Kindergarten AM-W, PM-W: Ms. Tone Indbryn

Jr. Kindergarten AM-K, PM-K: Ms. Debbie Kennett

Music: Ms. Judy Spangler

Physical Education: Alec Gill

Learning Coach: Mr. Gordon Pedscalny

Family School Liaison Counsellor: April Reschny

Learning Commons Facilitator: Ms. LeAnn Latta

Custodians: Ms. Terry-Ann Watson, Jimmy

Office Admin: Ms. Debbie McHugh

Secretary: Ms. Lana Armitage

Vice Principal: Ms. Jill Alexander

Principal: Mr. Scott Carey

EAs: Tonia Kohls, Alisa Cowper, Anna Ladas, Kate McNeill, Robyn Parkin, Charlene Lintott, Allison Hammond

Pre-K & Kindy PUF EAs: Robyn Parkin, Kyla Hall, Anna Ladas, Allison Hammond, Jennifer Krause



Message from the Principal

Welcome to October!

Congratulations Badger families, we have arrived in October! I want to start by sharing my deepest gratitude to all of our families for making our return to school an amazing experience. No one knew what school would look like in the fall, and I'm proud to say that this has been a great month of getting back together and learning together at Big Rock. Our students were so prepared to return to school with safety as a priority. Our students were prepared because our parents were prepared. Thank you so much for helping make a successful relaunch!

We are learning more every day, and I want to thank you for your patience as we translate our relaunch guidelines into practice within the Big Rock context. Every question, call, and email helps us better understand the guidelines in practice. Thank you for reaching out to us and for your patience as we sometimes don't have the direct answers you are looking for.

This is particularly evident in the question of "Should I keep my child at home?" This is a perfect example of something that seems simple on paper, but it is very difficult in practice. Unfortunately there are no easy answers to this question, especially at 7:00AM in a busy household. As a staff we cannot offer medical advice so we will sound like a broken record as we refer you back to the [relaunch handbook](#) or [information from the province](#). If you are unsure, it is always best to consult medical advice either through your family physician or [Alberta Health Link \(811\)](#). If your child is in a position where they will be away from school for an extended period, please reach out to your child's teacher so we can maintain continuity of learning.

As relaunch has been relatively smooth, I am starting to get many questions around bringing back some aspects of school that have been put on hold with relaunch guidelines. We obviously want to bring back as much as possible as quickly as possible. With that said, we do still need to make safety our number one priority. These are also decisions that need to be made collaboratively with the division and the province. Our biggest priority right now is Halloween and Remembrance Day. We are working to see what we can do in these areas and we will keep you posted as these days draw near. In the meantime, when talking with your children about these things, try using the language of "not yet", meaning that we are working towards having these activities as soon as we can.

Finally, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I do want to once again give thanks to all of our Big Rock families. I am thankful for all of your efforts to not just keep your children, but all children safe every day. I am thankful for your well wishes and votes of confidence to our staff. I am thankful for your patience and understanding as we work together to move forward. I am thankful for keeping lines of communication open. And I am thankful for the amazing children you send us each and every day. I hope you all have a great thanksgiving!

Take Care,

Scott Carey

Attendance/Lates

When a child is going to be absent from school, please advise the school as soon as possible with name of student, class, and reason for the absence.

403-938-6666 or Bigrock@fsd38.ab.ca

If students are leaving early from school for any reason or have made other home time arrangements (pick up, transportation), parents must contact the office and their bus driver.

At this time, we are asking parents to make appointments to come into the school. If you are picking up your child early or for an appointment, please call the office when you arrive and we will make sure your student gets out the door safely to you.

Student Illness

For more information on what to do in case of student illness, please refer to the Foothills School Division Relaunch Handbook, which can be found at www.fsd38.ab.ca, or refer to the [Student Illness Document](#) from the Government of Alberta.

Please take the time in the morning to go through the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#)

Communication

Communication between individuals can open doors and build trust. Open and frequent communication cultivates a climate of mutual respect that builds rapport and fosters relationships between students, staff, parents and community members.

Student Agendas: Please check your child's agenda **daily and initial**. The school, teachers and parents use the agenda to communicate with each other including messages, classroom notes, school notices, information bulletins and newsletters.

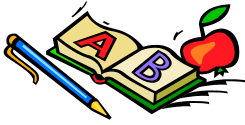
Phone/email/eblasts: The school, teachers and parents will use these tools for communicating.

Class and School Newsletters and Notices: Newsletters and notices pertaining to student learning and school activities and are distributed throughout the year.

Professional Development Bulletin: A professional development bulletin will communicate to parents about staff learning, as well as, school improvement plans and educational goals.

School Website: <http://bigrock.fsd38.ab.ca/>

Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation impacts how we can communicate with our parents. This legislation prohibits the sending of any type of **electronic message** that is commercial in nature unless the recipient has first provided consent, with the option to subscribe or unsubscribe. Types of solicitations impacted by this legislation include such things as request for parent volunteers, fundraisers, lunch programs, field trips, school photos, and notices for events that have fees associated with them. This legislation does not impact more traditional forms of communication including paper notices and newsletters sent home in school agendas. We encourage parents to continue to use and refer to student agendas for important pieces of information from their teachers and the school. Teachers will be depending more on this type of communication home.



SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have been sent home with your child.

Payment Options:

- Online through your Maplewood Account. Details and login info be emailed to you so that you may pay by credit card,
- Cheque – please make payable to: “Foothills School Division #38”
- Cash – please note the office carries limited change, so exact cash is appreciated

If you’re experiencing difficulties paying your fees, you may be eligible for the FSD#38 Fee Waiver Program. Forms are at the office to be submitted to our Foothills School Division.

VOLUNTEERS Fan-out



Each classroom needs to have 2 volunteers that will call out to parents in case of emergency ie: snowstorm, electrical failure, etc. If you are able to do this, please let the teacher know by speaking to her/him or putting a note in the agenda. The office will then give you a list to call.

Email Addresses



As we try to become more “green”, we encourage our parents to provide us with their e-mail address to use as another form of communication from home to school. We currently “e-blast” many information items from School and School Council. If you would like to receive our “e-blasts”, please contact the office to give or update your email address.

Safety Patrols



A Great Big thank you is extended to all of our wonderful students who volunteered to be safety patrols and to Ms. Karran, Ms. Hoyle, and Ms. Fraser for taking the lead and supervising again this year. Being a safety patrol at Big Rock School is a very important student leadership role in our school. Students from grades 5 and 6 received safety patrol training and started patrolling both of our crosswalks. The safety of all students and staff of Big Rock School is of great importance and our safety patrol program is an important part of our safety procedures and the measures we take in keeping our students safe.

Big Rock School Patrol Procedure for Crossing:

Patrollers and Lieutenant close the crosswalk when pedestrians approach.

Patroller on the left of Lieutenant says “Point” (when indicated by Lieutenant).

Lieutenant blows the first whistle.

Patrollers put their signs out and step forward into the crosswalk. Lieutenant puts their hand out and steps forward.

All team says “Double check”.

If it is clear, the patroller on the left says “proceed”.

If it is safe, the Lieutenant blows the second whistle and patrollers/lieutenant open the crosswalk and let pedestrians cross.

Lieutenant blows the third whistle to close the crosswalk once every one is across.

Patrollers are on the crosswalks from 8:15-8:35am in the morning and 3:10-3:35 in the afternoon.



Please follow the instructions of the patrollers. They work very hard each day to make our crosswalks safe. These students in grades 5 and 6 volunteer their time and often work in inclement weather and less favorable conditions. When parking near the crosswalk, please make sure that you are a minimum of 5 meters away (Okotoks Bylaw). It can make it very difficult/dangerous for patrollers if cars are parked too close.



School Parent Council **Home and School Association (Society)**

❖ **Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed**



- If you can spare an hour on Tuesdays or Thursdays for our hot lunch program, please email schoolcouncilbigrock@gmail.com
- **More information regarding the hot lunch program will come shortly.**

❖ Bottle Depot donations would be greatly appreciated


❖ Check out our Facebook page for info and updates

❖ Email us: schoolcouncilbigrock@gmail.com

❖ Council Meetings: **NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 8th, 2020 AT 6:30PM**

Join us for our monthly council meeting. We will be observing social distancing protocols and ask that you do not attend if you are feeling unwell or have been in close contact with someone who has Covid-19.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare at this time, so we are asking that children not attend.



BIG ROCK SCHOOL COUNCIL

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can spare an hour on tuesdays or
thursdays for our hot lunch program
please email us:
schoolcouncilbigrock@gmail.com

2020-2021 Big Rock School Council Members

A big thank you to our Parent Council members for their commitment to our school and to the families at Big Rock School. If you are looking to get involved, please consider attending the next Council meeting on October 8th.

- Alesha Manning, Parent Council Chair/ Society President
- Lorraine Harley, Parent Council Vice-Chair/ Society Vice President
- Megan Belland, Parent Council & Society Treasurer
- Darren Stuber, Parent Council & Society Secretary



Alesha Manning- Chair

Hi Everyone! My name is Alesha and I am excited to be returning as council chair for another year. This is my fourth year with council and I am looking forward to all of the exciting things to come this school year. My husband David and I are the proud parents to four amazing children, all of which have attended Big Rock School. Being a Big Rock mom since 2006, the school feels like home for us and I look forward to seeing all of you and hope you will join us for a meeting!



Lorraine Harley - Vice- Chair

I am a mother of 2 girls in Big Rock Montessori. This will be my third year with the council, I also volunteer as a guide leader for Girl Guides of Canada. I am always happy to lend a hand to help with the development of Big Rock programs and activities.



Megan Belland- Treasurer

This is my third year on council as treasurer and I also work full time as a Paramedic with Alberta Health Services. I am always busy with something! Sadly my time with council is coming to a close, as we will be looking for a parent to step in and learn the ropes.



Darren Stuber- Secretary

Darren is returning to the council team once again this year for his third year, He and his wife have been a part of the Big Rock family for a number of years and we are glad to have him aboard.

Community Connections

Note from Chris Fuzessy, Superintendent of Schools

To our valued community,

Foothills School Division has partnered with the Calgary Rural Primary Care Network to share their timely medical and socio-emotional supports. Please see [attached document](#) that outlines their many available services within our community.

FSD continues to actively build partnerships with Alberta Health Services to support our students, families, and staff. We believe that the CRPCN can help our families answer any emerging physical or mental health questions they may have and support them.

We understand that all Albertans are living through unique and challenging times. The safety and well-being of our schools and community continue to be our priority.

Okotoks Family Resource Network October programming for school age-high school children:



McMan

A fun and interactive way for children to connect and learn new skills in how to:

- Understand themselves and others better
- Feel more confident in social settings
- Improve communication skills
- Build better relationships
- Understand how to resolve conflicts
- ...and much more!

Contact Tina to register!
tina.king@mcmancalgary.ca
(403) 801-6903

McMan
Family Resource Network Okotoks
Presents

Life Skills for Children

Ages 7-13

This group will be offered virtually
Each child will require a device with internet access



McMan

Have you ever felt frustrated by anger- yours or someone else's?

This group will help you:

- Understand yourself and others better
- Manage your emotions better
- Feel more confident in social settings
- Build better relationships
- Understand how to resolve conflicts
- ... and much more!

McMan
Family Resource Network Okotoks
Presents

Skills for Anger for Children

Ages 7-13

This group will be offered virtually
Each child will require a device with internet access

Session #1	Session #2	Session #3
Tuesdays 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM September 8-29 October 6, 20, & 27 November 3	Tuesdays 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM September 8-29 October 6, 20, & 27 November 3	Wednesdays 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM September 30 October 7, 21, & 28 November 4, 18, & 25 December 2

22 Crystal Ridge Drive, Okotoks, AB T1S 2C3 | (403) 801-6903 | tina.king@mcmancalgary.ca




Session #4
Thursday's 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM October 1, 8, 22, 29

Contact Tina to register!
tina.king@mcmancalgary.ca
(403) 801-6903

22 Crystal Ridge Drive, Okotoks, AB T1S 2C3 | (403) 801-6903 | tina.king@mcmancalgary.ca



MONTH of OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6	7 Turkey Trot	8  Turkey Trot	9 No School
12  HAPPY THANKSGIVING No School	13 School Photos Division 1	14 School Photos Division 2 	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30