



BIG ROCK BEACON

DEC 2020

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THIS SCHOOL IS FOR KIDS



December/January Upcoming Events

December 4: Grade 6 Vaccinations catch up day

December 11: PD Day NO SCHOOL

December 18: Early Dismissal 12:10PM Happy Holidays!

December 21-January 3: NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

January 4-8: At Home Learning – more information on our school website

<https://bigrock.fsd38.ab.ca/> and details will be sent home with your classroom teacher.

January 22: PD Day NO SCHOOL

Important Reminders

Mask Reminder:



Our disposable mask supplies are getting low, so please remind your students to bring their own masks to school. They should have been provided with two masks at the beginning of the school year. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Phone Messages:

It is the school's policy not to interrupt classes throughout the day. Sometimes messages can create confusion and anxiety for students. **If a message needs to reach your child, it will be relayed at a break: recess, lunch or end of day.** Please communicate this to your family. If your child needs to call home, **please remind them to leave a message.**

New Maplewood/Edsembli Account Information:

Our new Maplewood/Edsembli Student Information System is now operational across the Foothill School Division. The link can be found on the Big Rock School Website >> Parents >> Maplewood Connect.

[Maplewood/Edsmebli Parent Link](#)

School Fees are now payable:

Payment options include:

- a) Online using your Maplewood account. Login info has been emailed to you December 1, 2020.
- b) Cheque or Cash – Please make your cheque payable to The Foothills School Division

Please contact our Office 403-938-6666 should you require further assistance.

Student Illnesses

- Please continue to keep your children home if they are sick and monitor their condition before sending them back. We thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping Big Rock School safe and healthy for our students.
- Link to the Updated Checklist: [Covid-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist \(For Children Under 18\)](#)
- Another useful pdf from AHS: [Covid-19 How Long to Stay Home from School](#)

AHS Flow charts: [Core Symptoms](#) , [Secondary Symptoms](#) , [Close Contact](#)





Message from the Principal

Happy December!

Hello Big Rock Families and welcome to the last month of 2020! I have to admit it feels good to write those words; 2020 has definitely been a year unlike any in my teaching career.

This time of year we are usually in full Christmas mode at Big Rock School. Preparing for concerts, decorating, and various Christmas-themed activities usually fill our hallways with a buzz of activity and excitement. It is a bit quieter this year, but as I walk around the school, the Christmas spirit is definitely alive and well and we are finding new ways to tap into the festive spirit. We still have our beautiful door decorating, Mrs. Spangler is bringing festive cheer with every music class, and countless small but heartfelt acts of kindness, service, and gratitude occur at school every day. Different, but every bit as special! This is what makes Big Rock such an amazing community, and everyone plays their unique role in making such a great place to learn and develop.

As we transition into a well-deserved Christmas break, things will look a bit different when we return to learning in January. Once again we will be experiencing at-home learning for the first week of January. I do want to stress that at-home learning doesn't necessarily mean online learning. Technology definitely plays a role in getting the learning home, but we don't think that students need to be online in front of a screen for the entire learning day. Learning plans coming home will be a mix of online activities, as well as activities that will not need technology. If you feel that technology is going to be an issue for your family during that week, please reach out to your child's teacher to create a solution that works for your child and family.

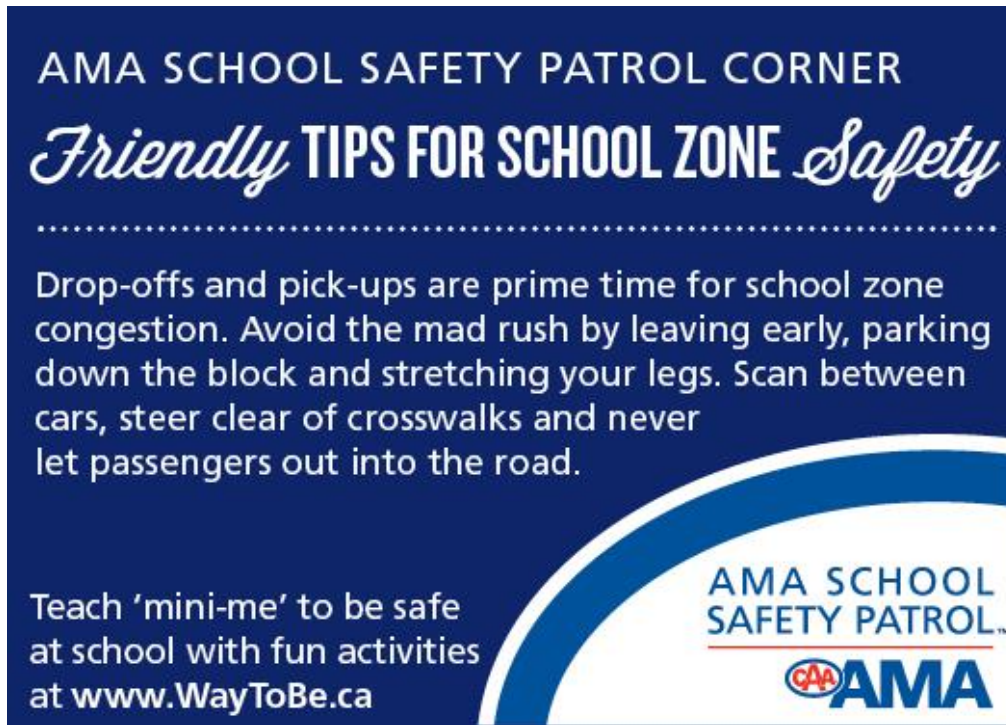
Reflecting back on the school year so far, I think back to August when, for the first time in my career, I had no idea how an upcoming school year would unfold. Today, I couldn't be more proud of everyone within the Big Rock community! Your commitment to safety, patience, understanding, and ability to pivot and change course on a moment's notice is commendable. We've made sacrifices in how we conduct ourselves, but have also found new ways to work together as a school community in the name of optimal learning for our students. I would like to thank everyone for your outstanding commitment to our Big Rock way of life!

I would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday as we transition to Christmas break. I am sure holidays will look different for many of you, but remember that different can still be every bit as special!

Take care and see you all in 2021!

Scott

Message from our Patrollers



Parking & Traffic Procedure

For the safety of everyone, it is too dangerous to have our parking lot used as a pick-up/ drop-off zone. We do realize, there isn't much parking space in the surrounding area so please give yourself extra time to find parking if you must do so.

- **The Parking Lot is for STAFF ONLY. Please DO NOT enter the Staff Parking Lot to park or drop-off at any time.**
- **The Handicap parking stall is NOT a drop-off or pick-up area (must have valid signage)**
- The East end of the bus loading zone is for buses only
- The West end of the bus loading zone (front doors area) can be used as a drop-off zone only, as long as no buses are present, no stopping please. Please give room for the crosswalk.
- The far West end of the school playground on Sheep River Drive can be used as a pick-up drop-off zone with ample room for cars and pedestrians to enter and exit safely.
- Please respect the Crosswalk Patrollers at all times
- \$170 fine for crossing the road in an unsafe manner (Jaywalking)
- Let's all pitch in for the safety of our children😊





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

❖ Hot Lunch



- Hot Lunch ordering for **January** : watch your email next week for January Hot lunch ordering dates.

<https://munchalunch.com/login.aspx>

- If you have any questions or concerns about the Hot Lunch program, please contact the Lunch Coordinator at: bigrocklunch@gmail.com

❖ Bottle Depot donations would be greatly appreciated

❖ Check out our Facebook page for info and updates

❖ Email us: schoolcouncilbigrock@gmail.com

❖ **Check out our facebook page for the most up to date information: Big Rock School Parent Council.**

❖ School Parent Council Meetings:

- Next meeting will be Thursday, January 21

Big Rock School Community Connections

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>



KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	13 See how many different people you can smile at today
21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Give away something that you have been holding on to	19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you	20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat
31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021	29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why				

Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters 



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**#DoGoodDecember**www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Check out the Town of Okotoks Community Event Calendar



<https://www.okotoks.ca/your-community/living-okotoks/community-event-calendar>

Looking for fun things to do with your kids this Winter Season?

<https://www.calgaryschild.com/calendar>



MONTH of DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4 Grade 6 Montessori Vaccinations and Grade 6 Catch-Up
7	8	9	10	11 PD DAY No School
14	15	16	17	18 Early Dismissal 12:10PM
21 Christmas Break until Jan 3				25 Merry Christmas
28	29	30	31	1
				
4	5	6	7	8
<div> <div>Big Rock At Home Learning January 4-8 (Jr.K to Grade 6)</div> </div>				