VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Being the Best We Can Be

June 2020

We are accepting registrations for K-6 for the 2020-2021 school year.
If you require further information, please stop by or call the office at (780) 853-5444

STAY CONNECTED WITH VES

Stay connected with VES on our website, Facebook, or to email the principal by clicking on the following buttons:

We are certainly experiencing a different end to the 2019/2020 school year and I know I speak for our staff when I say, "We have sure missed our students." We have missed the daily conversations and connection with them and are hopeful that we will get that part back to start the 2020/2021 school year. The past 3 months have been challenging for many, as we have not been able to do the things we are accustomed to doing. While learning online has been good in many ways, it has also been difficult.

We are experiencing changes at VES as we look to the next school year. We are moving more students out of grade 6 than we are expecting to have in ECS, meaning a drop in our school enrollment and a drop in our revenue. This is happening at the same time we are undergoing changes in how schools are funded by Alberta Education. As a result of these changes, we are required to reduce the number of staff in order to maintain a balanced budget. As such, Mrs. Claudette Bast will be moving to another school in BTPS to start the 2020/2021 school year. She has been at VES for several years and has been a valuable part of our team. We wish her well in her new teaching environment. She will be missed at VES. We will also say farewell to Miss Devery Stachura. She joined our staff in November of 2019, taking over for Miss Birch in grade 4. At that time, we were aware that we would likely be overstaffed at the end of the school year. Miss Stachura has fit in well with our staff and will be missed by our students. She too has been a valuable member of our team. We will also begin the new school year without Mrs. Ruth Prill, one of our Instructional Assistants. This too is a budget-related decision. BTPS has also had to make changes to staffing as a result of budget cutbacks. As such, we will be sad to see the departure of our Mental Health Professional (MHP), Mrs. Colleen Pilkey. She has been a valuable asset to several of our students and she will be missed. In addition, we will say farewell to Mrs. Joanne Flath, our Social Emotional Coach (SEC). She will still be working in the same capacity in BTPS, but has been assigned to other schools. We are sad to see her go. However, we will happily welcome our new SEC, Mrs. Tanya Laye. She will be at VES on Wednesday's and Friday mornings, similar to what has been in the past. We will also be happy to welcome back from leave, Mrs. Hallie Zaharko.

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Vermilion Elementary School Mission Statement:

Within a safe and nurturing community, we at Vermilion Elementary School, will foster personal and academic excellence, while treating each other with dignity and respect. As a team we will be the best we can be.

One of the significant changes in the new provincial budget system is that our revenue is no longer related to our Sept. 30 student count. Our revenue is now based on our previous year enrollment (20%), our current year enrollment (30%) and our projected enrollment for the following year (50%). However, if we do not meet our projected enrollment numbers, we will see adjustments to our budget in the following school year. As a result of the reduction of 1.0 fte teachers at our school, we will be moving to a split class. We will have a grade 2 class, a gr. ⅔ split class and a gr. 3 class. This will be a change for VES, as it has been some time since this has been a part of our class structure. A split class is really no different than a single grade class, as learning is often an individual process. Research has shown that students in a split class achieve as well or better than a single grade class. In our decisions regarding teaching assignments for next year, we felt it was important to choose a teacher who has previous experience teaching both the gr. 2 and 3 curriculums. As such, we will be moving Mrs. Throndson to teach this class. We have also made the decision to maintain a slightly smaller class size than the single grade classrooms. We have also been able to timetable a few class periods for the split class where each grade will be alone with their teacher. We have carefully selected students for the split class who we feel can be successful in such a setting, much as we carefully select students for single grade classes. We are confident that students in the split class will be successful.

As a result of all of the changes, our teaching staff will look like this in 2020/2021 at VES:

ECS - Mrs. Zaharko

Gr. 1 - Mrs. Long and Mrs. McLaughlin

Gr. 2 - Mrs. Heinrich

Gr. ⅔ - Mrs. Throndson

Gr. 3 - Mrs. Tomkins

Gr. 4 - Mrs. Tupper and Mr. Haslehurst

Gr. 5 - Mr. Beecroft and Mr. Harvey

Gr. 6 - Mrs. Myshaniuk and Mrs. Joa

Music and Intervention - Miss King

Assistant Principal and Inclusive Learning - Mrs. Doherty

Principal & K-6 PE - Mr. Anhorn

At VES, we encourage communication between staff and parents. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher. By working together, we believe that we can have the most positive impact on a child and help them at 'Being the Best They Can Be'. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to our school, please feel free to contact either myself or our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Doherty.

As we wind down the current school year, we are continuing to experience events in a different fashion. We recently held a different than usual Gr. 6 Farewell. We invite everyone to come to the 'VES Cruising Into Summer' Parade on Friday, June 19 (12;00-1:00 pm). This will not be the typical goodbye we would usually get to experience with our students and parents, but it would still be great to see everyone for just a quick few moments. The Alberta government has indicated that schools are to be prepared for the following for September:

1. In-school classes resume (near normal operations with health measures)
2. In-school classes partially resume with additional health measures
3. At home learning continues (in-school classes are cancelled)

They have also indicated that they will provide further direction on Aug. 1, 2020. We are all doing our best to be optimistic that scenario 1 will be possible. In the meantime, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer and we certainly look forward to hopefully seeing you all in September. Together, we will get through these crazy times. Stay strong! Stay safe! Stay positive!

Mr. Calvin Anhorn

Principal

VES
Cruisin' Into Summer Parade

June 19, 2020
12pm - 1pm

Drive by Vermilion Elementary School for our Social Distance Crusin' into Summer Parade! Tunes will be playing and staff members will be outside to wave as you drive by. Watch out for the water guns!

We look forward to seeing you cruise by!

School Calendar

2020-2021

Aug 26	Teacher Directed Day – No Classes
Aug 27	School Learning Day – No Classes
Aug 28	BTPS Learning Day – No Classes
Aug 31	Teacher Directed Day – No Classes

Sept 1	Students First Day
Sept 7	Labour Day – No Classes
Sept 9	KA Muffin Morning
	Open House (7:45-9:00 a.m.)
Sept 10	KB & Gr. 1-6 Muffin Morning
	Open House (7:45-9:00 a.m.)
Sept 15	School Photos KB & Gr. 1-3
Sept 16	School Photos KA & Gr. 4-6
Sept 29 & 30	Fall Fundraiser

Oct 1-16	Fall Fundraiser
Oct 9	Celebration Day – No Classes
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes
Oct 13-20	Scholastic Book Fair
Oct 23	School Learning Day & Support
	Staff PL Day – No Classes

Nov 4-18	Kindergarten Fundraiser
Nov 4 & 5	Parent Teacher Interviews
Nov 9	School Learning Day – No Classes
Nov 10	ATA Professional Day – No Classes
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – No Classes
Nov 12 & 13	Days-in-Lieu – No Classes
Nov 1 9	School Photo Retakes
Nov 27 & 28	Theatre (Student Drama)
Nov 30	Gr. 6 Caroling

Dec 16	Christmas Concert – K, Gr. 1 & 2
Dec 17	Christmas Concert – Gr. 3-5
Dec 19-31	Christmas Break – No Classes

Jan 1-3	Christmas Break – No Classes
Jan 29	Teacher Directed Day – No Classes

Feb 1	School Learning Day – No Classes
Feb 2-26	Spring Fundraiser (if needed)
Feb 5	Science Fair
Feb 11 & 12	Teachers' Convention – No Classes
Feb 15	Family Day – No Classes
Feb 25	Celebration of Learning (5:00-7:30 p.m.)

Mar 5	BTPS Learning Day – No Classes
Mar 23-30	Scholastic Book Fair
Mar 25	Parent Teacher Interviews
Mar 30& 31	Gr. 6 Sausage Sale

Apr 1-13	Gr. 6 Sausage Sale
Apr 1-30	Yearbook Sales
Apr 2	Good Friday – No Classes
Apr 3-11	Easter Break – No Classes
Apr 30	Spring Concert

May 5	Gr. 6 ELA Provincial Achievement Test
May 7	School Learning Day – No Classes
May 20 & 21	Days-in-Lieu – No Classes
May 24	Victoria Day – No Classes

Jun 14-25	Gr. 6 Provincial Achievement Tests
Jun 24	Accelerated Reading
Jun 25	Track & Field
Jun 28	Gr. 6 Farewell
Jun 29	Students Last Day
Jun 28	Teacher Directed Day – No Classes

Bell Schedule

2020-2021

First Bell	8:30 a.m.
Teacher/Student	8:43 a.m.
1st Period	8:48 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.
2nd Period	9:30 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.
Recess	10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
3rd Period	10:25 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
4th Period	11:05 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch	11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Noon Recess	12:05 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
5th Period	12:30 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.
6th Period	1:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Recess	1:50 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.
7th Period	2:05 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
8th Period	2:45 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Dismissal Wave Times	3:27 ▮ 3:32 ▮ 3:35 p.m.
Buses Leave	3:32 ▮ 3:37 ▮ 3:42 p.m.

We prefer students to arrive after 8:30 a.m. when teacher supervision begins. If students arrive before the 8:30 a.m. bell, they will be required to wait in the main entrance or outside if weather conditions are suitable. After 8:30 a.m. students can drop off their belongings in their classroom at which time they may remain inside or go outside until the 8:43 a.a. bell.

2020-2021 BTPS SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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31						

FEBRUARY						
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28						

MARCH						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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30	31					

JUNE						
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27	28	29	30			

JULY						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2020-2021 LEGEND

- Holiday
- Teacher Directed
- School Learning Day
- BTPS Learning Day
- Central Office Closed
- Day-in-Lieu
- Celebration Day
- Convention / ATA PL Day
- First Student Day of Semester

The first day for students is **September 1st, 2020, February 2nd, 2021** is the first day of Term 2. **June 29th, 2021** is the last day of school for students.

Please be reminded that when inclement weather does not allow us to operate our buses, schools will be open, classes are occurring and student learning continues. As with any absence, students who miss material will be provided with an opportunity to receive instructional material through an alternate means or catch up on missed school work upon return to school.

Students are required to be in attendance until the last day of school as identified by the BTPS Board Approved Calendar. Final exams at the Grade 7 to 9 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in non-diploma courses at the Grade 10 to 12 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in diploma courses will occur as described in the Alberta Education Diploma exam schedule (www.education.alberta.ca) and submission of marks will occur the day prior to the diploma marks submission date. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur.

The 2020-2021 school calendar provides for instructional time for students that exceeds the requirements set by Alberta Education for instructional hours at the Grade 1-9 levels of 950 hours and at the Grade 10-12 levels for 1000 hours. The total student days in this year's calendar equals 181 days.

STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE DATES FOR 2020-2021

August 26	Teacher Directed
August 27	School Learning Day
August 28	BTPS Learning Day
August 31	Teacher Directed
September 7	Labour Day
October 9	Celebration Day
October 12	Thanksgiving Day
October 23	School Learning Day & Support Staff PL
November 9	School Learning Day
November 10	ATA Professional
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
November 13	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
Dec 21 - Jan 1	Christmas Break
January 29	Teacher Directed
February 1	School Learning Day
February 11 & 12	ATA Teachers' Convention
February 15	Family Day
March 5	BTPS Learning Day
April 2	Good Friday
April 5 - 9	Easter Break
May 7	School Learning Day
May 20	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
May 21	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
May 24	Victoria Day
June 30	Teacher Directed

*** Central Office Closure will be July 19th - July 30th, 2021*