

THE BEACON

January 2021



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and Guardians...

Happy New Year!

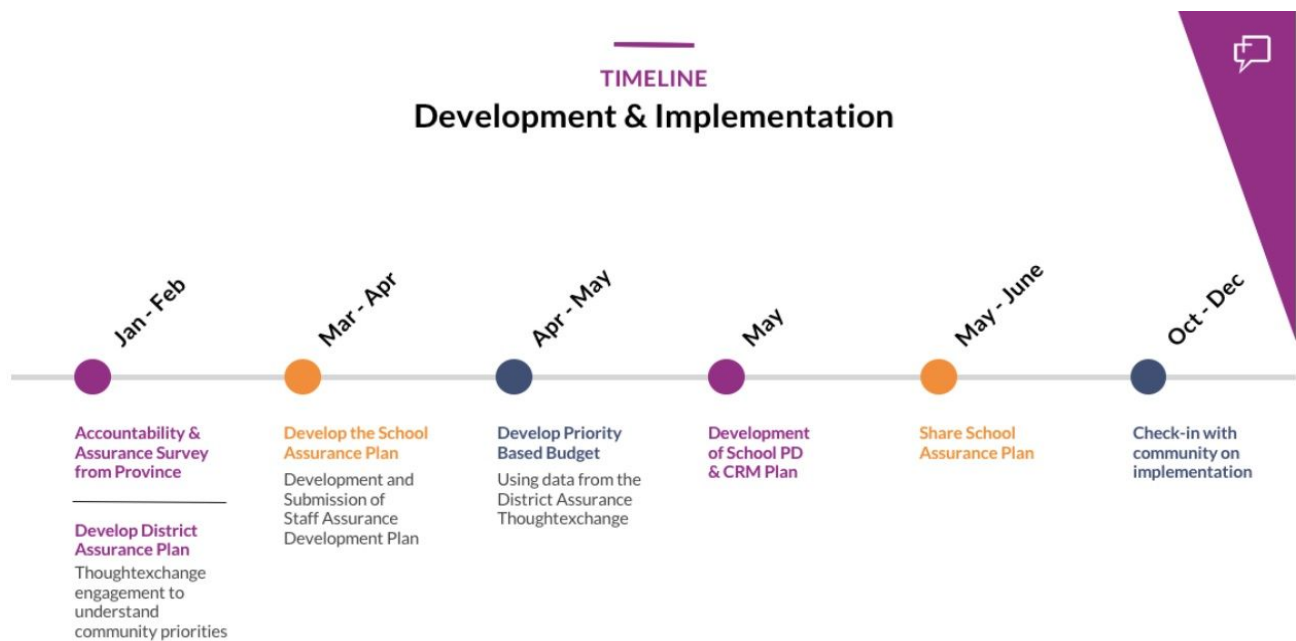
December was a super busy month:

- The first week back in January teachers delivered online classes for the entire week and 95% of our students were in attendance. An excellent job by both staff and students!
- A Virtual Christmas Concert-Greeting from the staff and students was shared just prior to the holidays. Our staff and students did an excellent job putting together the multimedia presentation. We hope you enjoyed it!
- Winter is here and please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather.
- We continue with our Literacy and Numeracy initiatives as one of our major school related goals, working with both the district literacy and numeracy coordinators.
- The last week of school before the holidays we held a fun filled theme week: December 14th was Red and Green Day; December 15th Holiday Hat/Hair Day; December 16th is Festive Sweater Day; and December 17th is PJ Day.
- The school has done well with our AHS guidelines and students continue to be busy and engaged in a variety of learning activities.
- We continue with our Leader In Me initiatives this school year with a focus on empowering student leadership opportunities and instructional practices.
- We would like to remind parents and guardians to make sure during student drop off and pick up to not park in the parking lot entrance ways. I know parking is scarce but please do not block entrances and exits.
- February 18th will be our first virtual school assembly which will include both physical and mental health moments, and a multimedia presentation.

There is a new Ministerial Order that has come into play that affects several aspects of what we do in the school.

1. The main focus is on Numeracy and Literacy (as before), the Data used to support goals in those areas, character education, and community engagement (to name a few).
2. The Accountability Pillar is changing to an Assurance Framework. Similar outcomes, but with more desire to hear from as many groups as possible → forward planning (Assurance Model Timeline slide).
3. The government wants us to be reaching out to all of the communities that are impacted by our school, both inside and outside of it.
4. The goal is to have equity of access for all groups to share their opinions, and a ThoughtExchange will be used as the mode to collect info.
5. The ThoughtExchange will be a critical tool in this new process as a way to authentically hear from many stakeholders.
6. This will be available in multiple languages via Google translate.
7. The first one coming out will focus around budgeting for the upcoming years.
8. As the funding model has changed in the last year, it is important to hear from our communities on what they feel our focus should be as a Division.
9. We will continue to have an amazing, high achieving school system that is diverse in its offerings and meets the needs of all students.
10. FMPSD is an exceptional division doing exceptional work.
11. The new provincial reality and funding formula will mean that the budget will look different and hard decisions will need to be made. This is why stakeholder input is so important and valuable to ensure the quality of our exceptional programming does not change.
12. No decisions on staffing or impacts of the budget changes have been determined. The voice of all stakeholders is important prior to making these decisions.
13. The ThoughtExchange is intended to be a supportive process in an effort to gain understanding. Every voice counts. This is our opportunity to be heard, as a staff member, as a parent, and as a community member.
14. We are all encouraged to complete the ThoughtExchange multiple times through these different lenses if we choose to. You might have a different perspective on your responses (or be answering regarding a different school) depending on your lens.

These discussions are meant to assure we keep the best education possible for students in our division going in a positive direction.



Our Parent Council and Parent Plus Association always need more members. Feel free to join us for our monthly virtual meetings. Both councils are composed of the same dedicated few; whose members have families and also work. Parents can and do make a great difference and our students, your children, benefit from your efforts!

Thank you to all the families of Beacon Hill Public School for all of the support we receive throughout the year and as always.

Beacon Hill School based re-entry plan is posted on the school website:
<https://beaconhill.fmpsdschools.ca/>

FMPSD usual links for re-entry.

<https://sites.google.com/fmpsd.ab.ca/fmpsdschoolre-entryinfo/home>

Continue to look for updated information on school re-entry as it is released by the school division. Some useful links to access regarding Covid 19 and School re-entry are:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17212.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx>

Graham Abbott
Principal

Helpful Hints for Parents

1. Encourage your child to develop a positive outlook toward school.
2. Stay in regular contact with your child's teachers.
3. Attend parent-teacher interview virtual meetings.
4. Inform the school in advance of your child's absence from school.
5. Contact school staff when an incident arises in school involving your child.
6. Cooperate with the school when solving issues involving your child.
7. Watch for changes in your child's mood or behavior that might suggest problems at school.
8. Inform teachers of issues that might affect your child's progress or behavior.
9. Review your child's homework and assignments, and sign their agendas.
10. Read at home and help out with school work if possible.
11. Regularly check all communications from the school (includes social media sites).

Please Remember

1. Polite cooperation with all school personnel is essential.
2. All visitors must sign in and out at the main office according to Covid19 AHS protocols.
3. All students have the right to attend school without being afraid or intimidated.
4. Harassment of any type (sexual, verbal or physical) and bullying (physical, verbal or via social media) will not be tolerated and dealt with accordingly.
5. Clothing, book bags, etc. that display inappropriate language, slogans, pictures or symbols, or anything that might be considered offensive will not be permitted.
6. Cell Phones are not to be used in the school during class times and must be kept in backpacks.
7. Bikes and scooters must be locked in the bike racks.
8. Please remember to drive slowly in the school zone and please park in designated areas.
9. Please remember to not drop off students in the bus lanes or the parking lot entrance ways.
10. Staff supervision of students starts at 7:55am and ends at 3:05pm.

Beacon Hill School Schedule

8:10am: First Bell
8:15am: am Bell
10:00am to 10:15am: Div 2 Recess
10:15am to 10:30am: Div 1 Recess
10:30am: Recess End bell
11:36am to 12:24pm: Lunch - Lunch Recess
11:36am to 12:00pm: Div 2 Recess - Div 1 Lunch

12:00am to 12:24pm: Div 1 Recess - Div 2 Lunch
2:50pm: School End

ECDP and Kindergarten

8:15am to 11:01am
12:04pm to 2:50pm

Parent and Visitors to the School

Parents will be advised to stay outside or in their vehicles for daily pick up and drop off. Students are assigned specific doors for school entry and exit. Parents are reminded to drop off their children as near to the school start time of 8:10am as possible.

During times of inclement weather students will enter the school through the front door and assemble in their cohorts in designated areas in the gymnasium.

Parents who need to enter the building for a meeting or to see the office staff must book an appointment. Upon entering the school visitor/parent/guardian will be asked to sanitize, wear a mask, and complete an Alberta Health Daily Checklist (COVID-19 Screening). If you check yes on any of the questions, we have the right to deny entry. Only staff and students are permitted beyond the main doors without an appointment.

All safety protocols are posted in all entrances of the building.

Everyone entering the building must wear a mask. Visitors will be closely tracked for contact tracing purposes and visitor movement within the school will be limited as much as possible.

Visitors are required to follow the school policies and practice strict physical distancing and hand hygiene.

People who have business at the school or who are dropping off items must do so at the main office. The occupancy in the main office at any one time will be limited to two families to a maximum of six visitors. Thank you for your understanding.

Leader In Me

This is our second year as a Leader In Me school and we have set our school wide focus on involving our students in more leadership activities and decision making.

Habit #3

Put First Things First

Work First, Then Play: I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit #4

Think Win Win

Everyone Can Win: I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.



Parents and Bullying

Bullying Defined

"A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed repeatedly and overtime to negative actions on the part of one or more students..."

"A repeated and chronic instance of aggression and intimidation that targets a specific individual is bullying."

Types of Bullying: Physical, Verbal, Social and Cyberbullying.

Why students bully: to have power or control over another; to bring someone down they are jealous of; to relieve boredom; to get revenge; to impress others and increase their status; and to get attention. Fact: many bullies have been bullied themselves or they come from families where there is violence or abuse.

How can you help?

Be proactive and listen to and support your child; monitor internet and cell phone use; teach your child to respect others and to be tolerant of those with different opinions, beliefs and backgrounds; encourage your child to be confident, to stand up tall, use body language that shows they are strong; and be a good listener and report any

concerns to the school officials.

Beacon Hill School will participate in **Pink Shirt Day** activities this February to show that we are all working together to prevent bullying in our schools, in our communities and online. Our Lac and counsellor will be working on some inclass virtual activities for students and teachers to engage in.

Classroom teachers remind students on a regular basis about proper playground and classroom etiquette and about "no hands on" with other students. The main office deals appropriately with incidents of misbehavior and the school promotes acceptable and positive behavior.



Beacon Hill School Council

School Council meets once a month virtually during the school year to discuss items concerning our school – working collaboratively with the Principal, Teachers and Administration to ensure that our students receive the highest quality of education. Opportunities are available for parents to have input at the school, district and provincial levels.

Some of the items that have been discussed in the past include:

- Suggestions for introduction of new programs – ie. Leader in Me
- Bus Transportation
- Input & Discussion into ACSA Resolutions
- Discussion of School Activities/Programming

At each monthly meeting, the Principal will always provide a report regarding the school's activities, programs and direction regarding education. Networks Representatives will provide a report regarding discussions that have occurred at a district level.

All parents and guardians are members of the school council, so please join us so that your voice can be heard. For more information, please contact any of the executives below.

The School Council executive members for 2020/2021 school year:

Wendy MacMillan – Chairperson
Jina Clarke – Vice Chairperson
Stacy McNally – Secretary

Katrina Jaycox – Networks Representative

Next School Council Meeting will be held on **February 9th at 6:30pm**. All meetings are held virtually – please email Mr. Abbott with your intention to partake in the meeting and he will include you in the google meet. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend – this is a great way to keep in the know about your school community!

Wendy MacMillan

Beacon Hill Parents Plus January Report

Your 2020/21 Executive members are:

Jina Clarke - Chairperson

Katrina Jaycox - Vice Chairperson

Donna Wilson - Secretary

Nola Nippard - Treasurer

Stacy McNally - Social Media Coordinator

Congratulations to those elected and thank you for taking on important rolls in our association!

Happy New Year Beacon Hill families!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, however you chose to celebrate!

Our January Parents Plus Association meeting will be held via Google Meet on Thursday, January 21 at 6:30pm.

Please let Mrs. Saxton know if you are interested in joining us and we will provide a link!

Thank you.
Jina Clarke
Chairperson

Valentines Day

Students are able to bring in Valentines Day cards but we are asking all valentines cards to be brought in on Monday, February 8th so we can quarantine them for 72 hours as per AHS guidelines prior for distribution to go home on Thursday, February 11th.



Monthly Virtual Assemblies

Our first virtual monthly assembly will be February 18th and we will be highlighting classroom Mental Health and Physical Health moments, as well as a School slideshow.

APPLE SCHOOLS: Health and Wellness Guidelines

Students in APPLE Schools take ownership of their own health and demonstrate:

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 1, 2, 3

- 35% increase in physical activity
- 2-3 times more steps taken per day
- Increases in physical activity during school hours, after school hours, and on weekends

IMPROVED DIETARY HABITS 3, 4

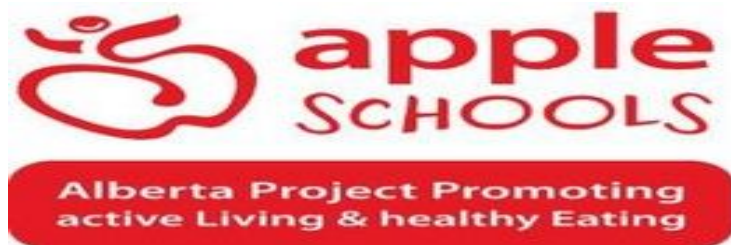
- Students eat 10% more fruits and vegetables and consume 237 fewer calories per day

IMPROVEMENTS IN LEARNING OUTCOMES 5, 6

- Students show improved quality of life, leadership abilities, productivity and learning outcomes

IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH FOR ALL STUDENTS 1

- Increases in physical activity are seen across all students, regardless of whether they were active or not beforehand
- Children with the lowest starting levels of activity benefit the most



Calendar of Events

January 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Classes resume	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 PLF #6	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29 PLF #7	30