Badger Bulletin

Friday November 20th, 2026

Dear Families,

What an incredible week of movement, music, and learning at Big Rock! Our Grades 3–6 students had the opportunity to work with an artist from Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, exploring jazz dance through movement, rhythm, creativity, and self-expression. It was wonderful to see students stepping outside their comfort zones, trying something new, and having fun together. We are so grateful for experiences like this that bring the arts to life and create lasting memories for our students.

On Wednesday and Thursday next week, we are inviting families in for Learner Conferences. This is a terrific opportunity to connect in a face-to-face meeting with your child's teacher to celebrate growth and identify important next steps for learning. It is our goal to see all of our families, so we hope you've had a chance to sign up. Please make sure to contact the school office if you need support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Tammi
Interim Principal

Did You Know… 72 of our Grade 5 & 6 students have signed up as School Patrols this year?

Our student patrollers take on an important leadership role at Big Rock School, helping support safety while also developing responsibility, confidence and a sense of service to their school community. Patrols are one of several opportunities at Big Rock that allow students to contribute meaningfully and help others.

Help Us Keep Our Community Safe:

Safety is a big priority at Big Rock School. While our main crosswalks are hosted by Patrols, we have two East-West crosswalks that have heavy traffic before and after school.

Please be mindful when turning at these intersections, especially in the dark morning times.
Many people regularly walk through the staff parking lot on the way to school. We would ask that you walk on the sidewalks or on the grass instead rather than cutting through the parking lot.

School Fees:

School fees have now been posted to student accounts. Families are asked to review their account and submit payment at their earliest convenience. If you have questions about your fees or need assistance, please contact the school office.

Field Trip Portal:

Foothills School Division is moving to a new platform for Field Trip permission. We are one of the pilot schools for this year. **This means we are no longer using Edsembli to complete field trip forms.** Parents must sign up – using the same email that is connected to Edsembli. We have had positive feedback from both staff and students about the new platform.

Foothills School Division: Engagement Opportunity:

Over the last few years, Foothills School Division (FSD) has heard from families, staff, and students about the role of technology in learning. To better understand the perspectives and ideas of the community we serve, we are opening a conversation on this topic. This engagement will gather input about the role and use of technology in classrooms, with particular attention to elementary school settings.

The goal is to clarify where technology adds instructional value, where it may be refined, and how the FSD can balance learning, well-being, access, career readiness, and support childhood development across the division. This engagement is not to inspect the role of assistive technology as it supports students with diverse learning needs.

Our conversation is not framed around "technology or no technology". It will be around this guiding question: ***What is the role of technology in elementary student learning?***

You can access this survey on FSD's Website, or you can click here.

Some technology changes we've made this year at Big Rock School:

- Students are no longer watching movies each day while eating lunch. We are encouraging them to talk to their peers instead.
- Teachers use technology purposefully, selecting it when it meaningfully supports learning. This may look different in differently-aged classrooms, and with students whose programming supports the use of technology as accommodations.

- While many students enjoy listening to music while they work, research suggests that music, particularly music with lyrics, can interfere with focus, comprehension, and learning. For this reason, listening to music is generally not encouraged during independent work unless it is intentionally being used for a specific learning purpose. This also helps us limit unnecessary access to YouTube, which is the primary way students access music at school.

Christmas Support Opportunities in the Okotoks and Foothills Area

Several community organizations are offering support to families this holiday season. Available programs include gifts for children, food hampers, holiday meals, and other seasonal supports for families experiencing financial or personal challenges.

Available Supports:

- **MyCityCare Okotoks - Shop of Wonders** provides families the opportunity to register and schedule a time to shop for gifts for their family. This program serves families in Okotoks, High River, Diamond Valley, Millarville, Blackie, Cayley, and Longview. Link to register

  https://mycitycareoko.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1316420

- **Magic of Christmas Foothills** provides gifts, food, holiday treats, and Christmas cheer to local families facing emotional or financial challenges. Registration assistance is available through the Family School Liaison Counsellor, with a registration deadline of **November 27**.
- **Okotoks Food Bank Christmas Food Hamper Program** offers holiday food hampers, including main dish options such as turkey, turkey roll, ham, or dietary accommodations for eligible Foothills-area residents. Proof of address is required and you must be registered for the Food Hamper program before you can sign up for the Christmas Hamper.

Families interested in learning more about these supports or receiving assistance with registrations are encouraged to contact the Family School Liaison Counsellor, **Ms. April**, at reschnya@fsd38.ab.ca. All inquiries will be handled respectfully and confidentially.

Student-Led Impact Initiative: Warm Clothing Drive – Extended to December 4th

We have extended the warm clothing drive in support of Project Warmth Society. Families may now drop off up until December 4th. A collection box will be located near the school office for families to drop off donations. These donations will help individuals and families stay warm throughout Alberta's colder months.

What can you donate?

- New or gently used clothing that is in mint condition (and freshly laundered)
- Winter jackets
- Coats
- Gloves/mittens
- Toques
- Boots
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags

What cannot be donated?

- Baby Clothes are not accepted

Book Fair:

Scholastic book fair is back!

After School Hours:
Open during Learner Conferences and during our Winter festival if you would like to shop with your child.

During School Hours:
November 24 – 26:
Students will preview the book fair and create a wish list during their regular Learning Commons time.
November 30 – December 3rd:
Students will visit during Learning Commons time to make purchases.

The scholastic book fair is a great fundraiser for our school and all money raised goes directly to purchasing books and resources.

Your support, as always, is much appreciated, and I look forward to seeing you at the book fair.

Many thanks
Ruth Woodward
Learning Commons Facilitator

Important Dates:

Monday, Nov 23: Rowan House (Grades 2 and 5)
Tuesday, Nov 24: Elder Shirley Hill visiting Big Rock School
Wednesday, Nov 25 & Thursday, Nov 26: Fall Learner Conferences **–** Please see email to sign up
Friday, Nov 27: Non-Instructional Day: Teachers will be focusing on Infusing Indigenous Perspectives into Circle Time, Numeracy Learning, Examining Data and Using it to Plan Forward
December 3: Winter Festival – 5:30 – 8 pm