



BIG ROCK BEACON

DEC 2021

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THIS SCHOOL IS FOR KIDS



BIG ROCK SCHOOL IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

The holiday season is upon us and excitement is building in the halls as our students decorate their classroom doors. We have some fun days planned to celebrate the season including Christmas Shirt Day, Wear your Sparkle, Green, or Red Day, and PJ Day. Don't forget to mark your calendar with some of the important dates below including the PD Day on Dec. 10th and early dismissal on Dec. 17th:

December/January Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 2: Hot Lunch ordering for January Open

Monday, Dec. 6 – Friday, Dec. 17th: Collecting donations for the Okotoks Food Bank

Thursday, December 9: Last Day for Door Decorating Contest

Thursday, December 9: Christmas Shirt Day

Friday, December 10: PD Day **NO SCHOOL**

Wednesday, December 15: Lunch for the winner of the door decorating contest provided by Parent Council

Thursday, December 16: Wear your Sparkle or Green or Red Day

Friday, December 17: PJ Day

Friday, December 17: Early Dismissal 12:10PM

December 18-January 2: NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

Monday, December 27: Hot Lunch ordering for January closes (6PM)

Monday, January 3: Return to classes



Mask Reminder

Our disposable mask supplies are getting low, so please remind your students to bring their own masks to school.

Triple Ball

Our Triple Ball Team had a successful season with three tournaments at the Cargill Field House. They learned a great sport and will have the opportunity to take some of these great team skills with them to Junior High School. Congratulations on a great season Badgers!



Talent Show

Time to start thinking about submissions for the Virtual Talent Show... Christmas Break might be a great time to start filming. The deadline for submissions is January 14th. More information will be sent out before the break.

WHAT'S YOUR TALENT? WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT!





Is your child dressed properly for the weather?

Don't forget gloves, snow pants, winter jackets and toques. We may have to call home if your child has not dressed for the weather.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch ordering for January is now open and will close on January 27th at 6PM.

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/bigrock/>

** Please note that our Hot Lunch program is a PAC fundraiser completely run by volunteers. If your child is ill on a lunch date, you are welcome to pick up their lunch from the school. Please inform the office before 11:30AM the day of hot lunch. Consistent with previous years, there are no refunds as this is a PAC fundraiser. Late or unpaid lunches will not be processed. Thank you for your support for our Hot Lunch Program.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email bigrockhotlunch@gmail.com

School Fees Due

School fees are now due.

Payment Options:

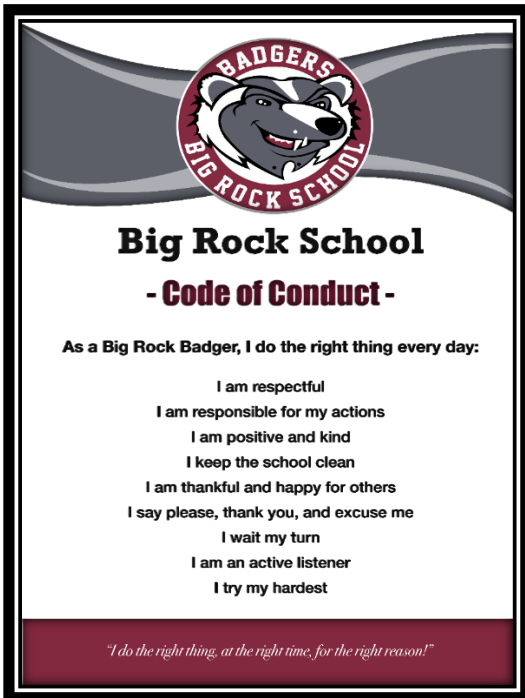
- Online through your Edsembli Account. Details and login info have been emailed to you so that you may pay by credit card,
- Cheque – please make payable to: “Foothills School Division #38”
- Cash – please note the office carries limited change, so exact cash is appreciated

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.

Bell Times

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

School Protocols



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.

Bigrock@fsd38.ab.ca

403-938-6666

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

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.

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



Student Illness and Masking

For more information on what to do in case of student illness, please refer to the Foothills School Division Renewal Plan, which can be found at www.fsd38.ab.ca. Within the Renewal Plan, you will find details about the provincial mandate for masking as well as the new Mask Exemption Process. Please know that schools no longer have the authority to grant mask exemptions and the process is now a provincial CMOH Health Order.

All visitors within the school are required to wear a mask as per the provincial CMOH Health Order.

"We understand that the pandemic and ongoing changes to provincial mask requirements and Public Health Orders are challenging. While the vast majority of our families have been extremely supportive, we kindly remind you that Foothills School Division staff are required to enforce these rules. We ask for your ongoing support as we maintain safe and welcoming environments within schools, at our bus stops, and in conversations with our team."

<https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/ci/p/5176>

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



Message from the Principal

Welcome to December!

Just like that, we find ourselves in December. December is the magical month where we start wrapping up Christmas gifts, and also start wrapping up the calendar year that is 2021. Either way, it is a time of reflection and celebration.

As I reflect on this year, I do want to celebrate the commitment of the entire Big Rock community for making our school a safe and welcoming place through this pandemic. Thank you to all the parents for your commitment and contributions to ensure safe continuity of learning over the past year. Your patience, understanding and support is greatly appreciated.

I also want to celebrate the return of field trips, athletics, and other activities that we were not able to do last year. Thank you to our staff for making these happen, and thank you to our parent volunteers that also make these enriching activities a reality.

This month is about getting in the holiday spirit. Again, this year things are a little different but we are still keeping the spirit of the holidays alive at Big Rock. Our Students' Matters team is a group of grade 5 and 6 students, and they are working hard to coordinate Christmas cheer in our announcements, and various holiday-themed events and activities throughout the month. Unfortunately, we still cannot have large gatherings for a Christmas concert this year, but we are working on recording some musical selections from each of our classes to share with our families. We are so proud of our staff and students as they continue to find creative ways to celebrate as a school community. I am excited to see how we continue to find new and creative ways to move forward in the new year!

Finally, we recently wrapped up our first reporting period of the school year and hosted our virtual parent teacher conferences. Thank you to everyone for not only participating in conferences, and for your ongoing support of your child's learning. I also understand that it is a busy time of year. If for some reason you couldn't take part in conferences, or if you have any questions about your child's learning, please make sure to reach out to your classroom teacher.

On behalf of everyone at Big Rock, I want to wish everyone all of the best this holiday season. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours in learning,

Scott

Message from our Patrollers

AMA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL CORNER

Friendly TIPS FOR SCHOOL ZONE *Safety*

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Drop-offs and pick-ups are prime time for school zone congestion. Avoid the mad rush by leaving early, parking down the block and stretching your legs. Scan between cars, steer clear of crosswalks and never let passengers out into the road.

Teach 'mini-me' to be safe at school with fun activities at www.WayToBe.ca

AMA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL™
CAA AMA

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 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
- 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: Opens on Friday December 2nd and closes on December 27th. No late orders will be accepted.**

- <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 Wednesday, January 19

Big Rock School Community Connections

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

December Kindness 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	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 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	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 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank
19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	15 Contact an older neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving
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	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!
			29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2022	

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



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 Hot Lunch ordering for January open	3
6 Collecting Donations for Okotoks Food Bank until December 17th	7	8	9 Christmas Shirt Day	10 PD DAY NO SCHOOL
13	14	15 Lunch for class with the winning festive door	16 Wear your SPARKLE, or RED, or GREEN	17 Early Dismissal 12:10PM PJ Day
20 Christmas Break until Jan 3	21	22	23	24
27 Hot Lunch order for Jan Closed 6PM	28	29	30	31
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Happy Holidays! See you back on January 3rd.</p>				