



BLACKIE BARK

August 29, 2024

CONTACT US



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201 John St, Blackie, AB

Dear Blackie Families,

Welcome back!! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with fun and memory making moments. Teachers have been busy all this week getting ready to welcome students on Tuesday, September 3. For the first day of school, please ensure your child has their school supplies and a clean pair of indoor shoes. Most teachers take the first day to get school supplies organized and routines established. If your child is feeling nervous about meeting their new teacher, please feel free to come into the school with them to help them get settled.

We have had to make a small class configuration change due to numbers, and so this year, the teacher list looks like:

Mrs. Lara Pearce - Kindergarten on Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Mr. Kevin Merkl - grade 1

Mrs. Lisa Kavanaugh - grade 2/3

Ms. Jill Alexander - grade 3/4

Mr. Chad Barton - grade 5/6

Mrs. Kim Battrum - grade 7/8

Mrs. Faye Holt - principal, learning coach and FSL 5/6 & 7/8

We would like to welcome Mrs. Alexandria Howden as a new Educational Assistant in our school. She will largely be supporting in grade 3/4. Mrs. Trudi Andres will be returning with us, supporting in grade 7/8. We are in the process of hiring one more Educational Assistant to support our littlest students. We wish Mrs. Arlene Hall and Mrs. Lesley Rowland the best in their new journeys.

Another change we have made this year is to flip lunch and lunch recess. Students will now eat from 12:00-12:25, and then go out and play from 12:25-12:50. We were finding kids were going out hangry, and in some cases not having enough time to eat. We hope this will alleviate these concerns.

If you are receiving this email and you know your child/children will NOT be returning to Blackie School, please call the office asap as we are finalizing class lists.

It truly is my joy and pleasure to be principal of this amazing school, Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.

Yours in Learning

Faye Holt

Upcoming News and Events

School Supplies

School Supplies can be found on our website here:

<https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/blackie/page/1849/school-supplies>

School Calendars

School Calendars can be found on our website here:

<https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/blackie/page/15611/calendars-2024-2025>

Events

Sep 3 – First day of school for Grades 1-8

Sep 6 – Pancake Breakfast supplied by our Parent School Council & Funding Association
(times and more details coming soon)

Sep 11 – Staggered entry for Kindergarten students (Mrs. Pearce will advise)

Sept 13 - Staggered entry for Kindergarten students (Mrs. Pearce will advise)

Sep 13 – Eric Walters – Author Visit 1pm

Sep 20 – Grade 3/4 Fieldtrip to Sam Center

Sep. 24 - First School Council Meeting at 6:30pm

Sep 25 – Blackfoot Crossing Field Trip

Sep 27 – No School – PD Day for teachers

Sep 30 – No School - STAT

Opportunity:

Want to enter to win \$10 000 for your family AND \$10 000 for our school? Click [here](#) for more information

Visit www.snackplaywin.ca to enter your family and our school!!



YOU COULD WIN \$10,000 + GIVE \$10,000 TO YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE

What if you had a whopping \$10,000 to kick off the school year?

Bear Paws® and UNO® are giving one lucky winner a chance to start September with an extra \$10,000 for their family, PLUS another \$10,000 to support their child's school!



Parent Questions and Wonders

Each month I will share some information about common questions that come our way.

Question: If my child is struggling, what supports are available and how do I access them?

Answer: Each child is different and requires different supports.

If you are concerned about **academic progress**, the first line of defense is your child's teacher. Check in with them about what they are seeing in the classroom, what you can do at home to support, and what the possible classroom next steps might be. After working with your child's teacher, the next step is to connect with the Learning Coach (Mrs. Holt). The Learning Coach helps implement ILPs (Inclusive Learning Plans), coordinates with medical professionals around diagnosis, and helps teachers find resources and strategies to support students. If more assessments are warranted, the Learning Coach will work with supports from division office to obtain these.

If you are concerned about **emotional and social aspects** of your child's development, again the first contact is your child's teacher. Ask them about how they interact with peers in the classroom, how do they handle conflict, what is their frustration tolerance like when things are hard? Families and teachers working together can make huge gains for students in these areas. If there are significant concerns we will involve both the Learning Coach and our Family School Liaison Counsellor (Mrs. April Reschny). Mrs. Reschny is here every Wednesday and works with students both individually and in groups. Again, if medical expertise is needed, Mrs. Reschny and Mrs. Holt and the classroom teacher can help families find supports in this area.

Again, every child and situation is different, if you are wondering, please reach out!

If you have a burning question, please send it to holt@fsd38.ab.ca