



Daysland Digest



Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Volume 2020-21, Issue 3

Looking Ahead

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Welcome Back Breakfast & Virtual Assembly	15
Halloween Activities (2:00pm)	29
(Reminder: Due to COVID 19 Restrictions, parents will not be able to enter the school for Halloween Activities this year)	
Collaboration Day (no classes)	30
	<u>Nov.</u>
Staff Meeting (Early Dismissal @ 2:11pm)	5
Report Cards (1-12)	10
November Break (school closed)	11-17
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REMINDER: Please return all textbooks and/or library books that you may have from previous years to the school as soon as possible.



Principal's Report

This week we are welcoming our students back to school with a K-12 Welcome Back Breakfast and a virtual assembly on Thursday, October 15th. The school has ordered Subway Breakfast sandwiches and milk is being donated by Zimmer Holsteins. We need to be creative to find ways to keep old traditions alive during this pandemic to make school life as normal as possible for students. The staff is taking care of all the arrangements and I thank them for their efforts to support our students!

The weeks are flying by, and it is very important for senior high students to keep on top of their studies and school work. While they are only doing one core subject this Quarter (ends November 10th), it is very easy to fall behind if you miss an assignment, since the pace of the class is much faster than in a regular semester. Encourage your in-school, or at-home learner, to contact their teachers if they feel overwhelmed or need assistance. We are also pleased to welcome our at-home learners back to school anytime, and have already had a number of at-home students return to in-school learning this month.

As a reminder, our senior high students are on the Quarter system this year as follows:

- Quarter 1: September 3 to November 10
- Quarter 2: November 18 to January 29
- Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20
- Quarter 4: April 21 to June 29

The next Parent School Council Meeting will be held on October 21st. This is a great opportunity for parents to become more involved in their child's school and to learn more about school events and operations. Parent council meetings touch on vital issues like school planning, division initiatives and funding issues that allow schools to improve the educational environment for all of our students. Please feel welcome to attend or contact us for more details.

Please note that November has another fall break in the calendar from Remembrance Day, November 11th to Tuesday, November 17th with classes resuming on Wednesday, November 18th. This break received excellent parent feedback and the Board decided to continue the practice this year as well.

As we go forward in this unpredictable year, it is more important than ever to keep in touch with your child's teacher to ensure that you are forming an effective educational team for your child. We can't do it alone at school, and you can't do it alone at home - together we are better!

School Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 21st @ 7:00PM
Daysland School Learning Commons
Everyone Welcome!

Little Caesar's Pizza is Back!

Grade 9 to 12 students are selling Little Caesar's Pizza Kits to help raise money for Students' Union & Sr. High Basketball Jerseys.

Be sure to ask one of our students, or call the school if you are interested in purchasing a kit, or purchase online at PizzaKit.ca and use ID#384649.

Deadline for orders is Friday, November 6th.



Pizza will be delivered to customers Monday, November 23rd.

Student/Parent Portal & Report Cards

The Student/Parent Portal is now open for viewing. The Portal can be accessed by clicking on ConnectEd which can be found on our school website. If you require information about your username and password, please contact Mrs. Omoth.

The Portal will be closed to viewing from Wednesday, October 28th to Tuesday, November 10th while teachers prepare report cards.

Report cards for all students in grades 1 to 12 will be sent home on Tuesday, November 10th.

ECS Progress Reports will go home on Thursday, November 19th.

School Fees

School Fee Invoices were emailed out the last week of September. **Fees can now be paid on-line at <https://www.brsd.ab.ca/families/online-payments-ordering>**

The deadline to pay fees is October 31, 2020.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss payments options, please contact Mrs. Robbins or Mr. Kyle at the school.

Diploma Exam Update – Quarter 1

The Minister of Education has announced that the November Diploma Exams for Grade 12 students will be optional.

At this time, the announcement only affects our Math 30-1 and 30-2 students.

Students, along with their parents will have up until the date of the exam (Friday, November 6th) to decide whether or not they wish to write. Students who do not write the Diploma Exam will receive the teacher awarded mark as their official mark and will not be penalized for this choice.

There are currently no plans to continue optional diplomas into subsequent quarters. Please see the attached "Diploma Exams – Questions and Answers" document for more information.

Q1. For November 2020, diploma exams are optional. Who determines who writes them?

Students and parents determine if they write their diploma exam or not. If the choice is made not to write them, students will receive an exemption. To receive an exemption, students need to be currently taking the course and receive a school-awarded mark for the November term.

Q2. I am registered to more than one diploma exam in November 2020. Can I choose to only write one of them, and receive an exemption from the other one?

Yes, for November 2020 students may choose to write only the diploma exams that they want. However, for two-part diploma exams like English Language Arts 30-1, students are required to write both parts.

Q3. Is there a deadline for students to decide if they want to write November 2020 diploma exams?

A student can choose not to write the diploma exam right up until the exam is administered. The department will provide diploma exams to schools through a [supplemental shipment process](#). To ensure adequate diploma exams are provided to schools in time for students to write them, schools are required to provide the approximate numbers of diploma exams to the department by **October 20, 2020**.

Q4. If a student chooses to write November 2020 diploma exams but is dissatisfied with the mark, can the student choose for it not to count?

No. If a student chooses to write the diploma exam, the mark from the exam will be combined with the school mark (70% school-awarded mark, 30% diploma exam mark).

Q5. I am registered to write diploma exams in January. Will I have this same option?

At this time, the normal administration of diploma exams is expected to occur for the balance of the 2020/21 school year. We are monitoring the situation and at this time optional diploma exams are only for the November exam sitting. All other writings are still planned as mandatory.

Q6. If I choose not to write the diploma exams in November, will I receive a zero?

No. Your November 2020 school mark will become the official final course mark.

Q7. I took a course in the past but did not write the diploma exam at that time. I am currently registered to write them in November 2020 and I am not currently re-taking the course. Do I have to write them?

Yes. Exemptions will only be provided for students who have a new school-awarded mark in November 2020 and choose not to write the exam. Exemptions are administration specific and are not retroactive.

Q8. I am an adult individual who is not currently enrolled in a course. I would like to challenge the diploma exam in November. Can I be exempt from the diploma exam?

No. When exemptions are provided for diploma exams, the school-awarded mark is provided in place of the diploma exam mark. Since a current school awarded mark is not available, the diploma exam would need to be completed.

Q9. I paid a re-write fee to write a diploma exam in November, but I am choosing not to write it. Will I be provided with a refund?

Yes, a refund will be issued.

Q10. What happens when a student does not write a diploma exam and applies to attend a post-secondary institution? Will this affect their application?

Students are encouraged to contact their prospective post-secondary institution to inquire about specific admission requirements. Government is working with post-secondary institutions to ensure admission decisions are sensitive to the unique circumstances for this school year.

Q11. Do students have to be registered in PASI for the diploma exam in order to receive the November exemption?

No. If students receive a school-awarded mark for the November administration, they will automatically receive an exemption if the diploma exam is not written.

Q12. Can schools use Quest A+ to administer November diploma exams?

Yes. Many schools have already requested the use of Quest A+ to administer both written response and machine-scored diploma exams. Schools can submit requests using this [link](#). For schools using Quest A+, paper diploma exams will be shipped as a backup to match numbers communicated to the department through the [supplemental shipment form](#).

Q13. I am registered to write a November 2020 diploma exam at one of the Provincial Writing Centres in Edmonton and Calgary. How can I indicate my preference to write or not write these diploma exams?

The department will reach out to students who are already registered to write diploma exams at either provincial diploma exam writing centres so they can indicate their preference.

Q14. I registered to write November 2020 diploma exams at a provincial writing centre in Edmonton or Calgary. Where will diploma exams take place?

In November 2020, the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium (Edmonton) and the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium (Calgary) will be used as provincial diploma exam writing centres. These writing locations are used for adult individuals or students who do not attend a community high school. Exam Administration Branch will contact students currently registered at these locations to communicate logistical information.

Q15. My school authority nominated teachers to mark November 2020 diploma exams. Will teachers still be needed to mark?

Even though fewer numbers of students will write diploma exams, teachers will still be required to mark them. Marker invitations will be provided after student numbers are known.

VIRTUAL POST-SECONDARY EVENTS

What: Two Virtual Post-Secondary Fairs for BRSD High School Students & Families

When: Thursday, October 22 and Tuesday, November 24 from 6-8pm

ELAA

Educational Liaison Association Of Alberta

Why: This is a fantastic opportunity for you to ask questions to **28 Alberta post-secondary institutions** including Colleges, Universities, Technical Institutions, the RCMP, and Canadian Forces. You can inquire about **programs, admission requirements, scholarships, housing**, and much more! Nowhere else do you get all these institutions in one place so be sure to take full advantage of this opportunity to plan for your future. Invite your friends and family to join you!

How to Register: High school students can register and connect to the event using the directions shared in their **High School Plus Google Classroom**. If students have questions, they can contact their career counsellor.



Once logged in you can visit the exhibitor hall by selecting "Exhibit Hall" in the middle of the screen or by selecting the icon at the bottom of your screen.



From here you will see the exhibit hall where you can select different institutions to explore and learn more about. Be sure to visit each booth and see if they have programs and experiences that might be right for you!

In each booth you will be able to ask questions via the chatroom and recruiters can connect with you one on one if needed. There are materials such as **viewbooks** that you can collect in your briefcase by selecting the orange briefcase icon. Be sure to **download items in your briefcase before the event is over** so you have access to it after the event!



Click each item in your briefcase you want to download and then click the download selected in the bottom right corner to download a zip file. Ask for help in the lobby at the help desk if you are having trouble with anything!

We recommend that you check out each institution's virtual booth to see if they have programs that might be a good fit for you. Learn about **admission requirements, application deadlines, and costs**. Look into their info on **athletics, extra-curricular, scholarships, housing**, and all the other exciting opportunities that await you in your post-secondary journey!



Addiction & Mental Health News

October 2020

Empathy: What is it?

- Empathy is the ability to recognize the emotions of others. Children under two years of age can show empathy. It is never too early to foster empathy.
- Empathy helps children understand others' viewpoints, needs and intentions.
- Empathy is key to creating successful relationships. Strong relationships build resilience, which helps children bounce forward from difficult times.

Empathy encourages kind, helpful behavior

- Empathetic children are willing to share, help and comfort others.
- Model empathy by asking your child how they are feeling, listening to their feelings, and acknowledging their feelings.

Empathy creates a safer school culture

- Less bullying and a more tolerant environment is developed through increased empathy.

Empathy fosters positive student relationships

- Children who show empathy are more popular with their peers.

Empathy leads to school success

- Empathetic students are more cooperative in class, have better relationships with teachers and are more engaged in school.
- Students who practice empathy tend to excel in school.

MORE RESOURCES

[Greater Good Science Center: Empathy for students](#)
[Big Life Journal: Strategies to teach children empathy](#)
[MyHealthAlberta.ca: Promoting positive Mental Health](#)

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



MyHealthAlberta.ca

Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322
Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642



Health Link
Health Advice 24/7



Alberta Health
Services

Community News & Events

Due to COVID restrictions, for the first time since 1956, the Heisler Sausage Supper will not be held this year. Hope to see you next year!



Minor Hockey Bottle Drive

Friday, October 16th

Starting at 4:45pm

Please support our minor hockey association by leaving your bottles on the curb or lawn!

We will be driving around Friday to pick up. If you need them picked up earlier please contact Heather Miller (780)781-0456 or a minor hockey player.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

All parents and players please meet at the Daysland arena at 4:45pm Friday, we will hand out maps and head out from there. Many hands make light work! Thank you ahead of time for your help!

Daysland Business Association presents Halloween Parade-All Welcome in Costume

- Friday October 30th - 8pm (line up Catholic Church at 7:45pm)
- Anyone can enter: Walk in Costume and/or Decorate a Float
- Bring your jack-o-lanterns and display on the meridian then take home after
- Call Mandy with any questions at 780-374-2107

4th Annual Scarecrow Festival-Business and Residence

- Decorate your Storefront or front yard for October
- Prizes Available for Commercial and Residential (Judging October 26th)
- Must Register to Wendy at 780-679-7564 or dayslandbusiness@gmail.com





Thunderstars Minor Hockey Association and Play Skate 2020-2021

Is your child or children interested in playing hockey or just wants to learn to Skate? If so we would love to have them join our ThunderStars teams or Join Play Skate.

What is Play Skate?

A learn to skate program for young kids aged 3-8, who will learn to skate with guidance from Minor Hockey Coaches as well many volunteers. We will have a 5 week session starting Monday, November 16th. We will also be running another 5 week session starting in January. Cost per 5 week session is only \$50!!

Our Goal is to introduce kids to skating first and hockey second. We have a great organization of volunteers that we would like you to be part of!!

As well if you still want to sign up for Hockey – If your child or children have never played hockey at the Initiation or Novice level, fees will be reduced for first time players. This is a great year to sign up!

If your children are on the fence about playing competitive hockey, we will be offering a three week trial period for a \$50.00 fee. For more information on this, contact Darcie Brady or Mat Ponto

We will also try to assist new kids who are uncertain about hockey by providing “Try bags” of equipment for Initiation/ Novice. If you’re unsure if hockey is for your child and don’t want to buy all new equipment we will try to supply bags that you can use to get the season started. Please contact us if this would be of interest to you.

**If you would like more information or to register, please call or text
Darcie Brady: 780-678-4444 or Mat Ponto: 780-608-8479
Email: thunderstarsmha.registar@gmail.com before October 15th, 2020**

Also you can check out our website: <http://www.thunderstarsminorhockey.com>



Flagstaff Food Bank

Flagstaff Christmas Sharing 2020

**A project of the Flagstaff Food Bank
Box 352
Killam, AB T0B 2L0**

TO: Flagstaff County Citizens, Churches, Schools and Community Organizations

RE: FLAGSTAFF CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM

Once again, the Flagstaff Food Bank will be co-ordinating the annual Christmas Sharing Program in the Flagstaff region. Because of the pandemic we are taking this opportunity to change the program to better empower the recipients to plan their Christmas in a different manner from the past. As we shift in our changing world, we will provide coupons to clients to purchase their own food and gifts at participating grocery, drug store and hardware locations throughout Flagstaff.

Some gifts will still be available this year, depending on existing supplies, along with the coupons, so clients' needs can be met while we follow the pandemic protocols of limiting the access of our volunteers to clients.

We would appreciate donations between **November 1st and December 11th, 2020. Donations can be dropped off at the Flagstaff Family and Community Services building at 4809 49th Avenue in Killam.** Drop-offs can be made anytime from November 1st to December 11th between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Please contact FFCS at 780-385-3976 if you have any questions about our program.

As the “Adopt a Family Program” was such a great success in past years, we will be running this program once again with some changes. Anyone interested in adopting a family, please call 780-385-3976 before November 20th. From this date forward when you adopt a family, we are asking for a monetary donation to cover the needs of the family payable to Flagstaff Christmas Sharing. These funds will be converted to coupons for distribution to your adopted family.

If you are aware of families in need, with their permission, please feel free to call and submit their name, telephone number and family size. All contacts will be handled with the strictest confidence. Please submit all requests by November 20th, 2020.

Thank you for your co-operation and support

Yours in Community Sharing,
Flagstaff Christmas Sharing Program
Box 352
Killam, AB, T0B 2L0