



NEWSLETTER

May 6, 2021 - Issue #9

Administrator Message

by Mrs. Lazaruk & Mr. Sikorski

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." —Edwin Way Teale

May has certainly brought new possibilities and changes for all of us. With the rising numbers of COVID cases in the school, we had a number of staff who were required to isolate/quarantine. As of today, we have 7 confirmed cases of COVID and 11 staff members who are in isolation/quarantine. With so many staff members unable to be in the building, and with the shortage of substitute teachers, our school division received approval from Alberta Education to transition JSS to remote learning on May 3. Following this, on May 5, the government of Alberta announced that all schools in the province would move to remote learning May 7-24, inclusive. The plan is that the next two weeks will provide time for all schools to stop the spread of COVID and allow those staff members in isolation/quarantine to return to in-person classes on May 25.

Fortunately, our school has been well prepared for the transition to remote learning for some time. Teachers have already contacted families about how learning will continue over the next few weeks. We will continue to update families through School Messenger, through postings on our [school website](#) and through our [Twitter account](#).

Students have been demonstrating that they are living the School Promise each day. I Promise to

- take care of myself
- take care of each other
- take care of this place

In two months they have filled the large glass vase in the office and we are very proud of all of our students. Upon our return to school we will be having a cohorted outside dance party with some treats. Well Done Students!

JSS Parent Council & Parents' Society

Terra Manion, President

JSS Council & Parents' Society

jackstuartparentadvisory@gmail.com

Did you know that JSS Parents' Society is in charge of all the fundraising and decides where the raised money is spent? This year we have given the school treat bags, a discretionary fund which helped pay for the virtual field trips, we purchased 28 new chromebooks including licensing fees and gave each classroom some "mad money" to spend as they wished. A lot of books, games, lego, skipping ropes and many other fun things were purchased that otherwise would not have been. Along with the school, we are continually trying to do as much as restrictions will allow.

JSS Parents' Society is also trying to acquire funding for a fully inclusive, wheelchair accessible and playable playground edition including an accessible swing set for our school. The Excel Program at JSS is an AMAZING inclusive program for special needs that has students from all over the county and these kids, along with many others in our community, deserve to be able to join their peers on the playground.

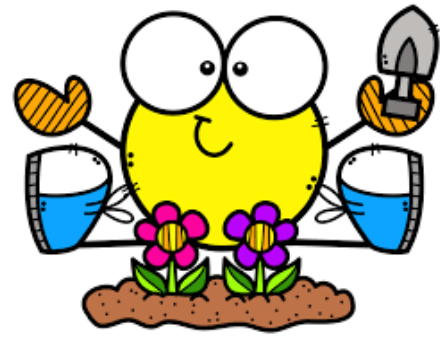
Our Spring Plant Fundraiser was a HUGE success with a \$4000 profit to us and over \$18,000 worth of plants sold! **Thank you so much** for all of your support and we truly hope you enjoy your plants! Not only did this finish paying for the Chromebooks but also added \$1800 extra for future things including the playground.

Spring Plant Curbside Pick up: May 5 & 6, 9 am to 5 pm at the far gym doors in the school parking lot. **All plants must be gone by Thursday 5 pm.** If you or someone on your behalf cannot make it during these times, please contact Terra 780-975-6533 to make other arrangements.

Next and FINAL School Council and Parents' Society Meeting will be held virtually on May 26 at 7pm (via Google Meet)

Important Dates:

May 6	Early Dismissal - 2:06 pm
May 7	No School - PD Day
May 24	No School - Victoria Day
May 25	In School classes resume
May 26	Parent Council/Society Google Meeting - 7:00 pm
June 3	Early Dismissal - 2:06 pm
June 4	No School - PD Day



Next Newsletter June 2, 2021



International Student Program is recruiting Host Families!

Battle River receives international students from over 8 different countries. We believe that promoting and fostering global citizenship is an important component in a well rounded education and we believe that students from other countries bring richness and diversity to our schools.

Battle River School Division has a small international program, hosting between 30-40 students per year. Our smaller numbers allow us to create personalized programming for our students. Students get many supports from the school and the community. Since we are doing such a great job, our program is growing!

With more students coming, we need additional caring families to host these students.

Want to be a Host Family?

Host families who welcome international students into their home:

- * Grow their understanding of the world and its peoples
 - * Make life-long friendships
- * Get to share the beauty of their home and community
- * Ensure their local economy benefits from the booming international education industry
 - * Receive a generous allowance to offset expenses

Please contact:
Gail Rombough, Relationship Manager

Phone: 780-781-0615 Email: homestay@brsd.ab.ca

Visit Our Website



Late French Immersion at ÉCKS

Parent and Student Information

What is Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion is a proven program designed for students who want to learn to speak, read and write French to a high degree, but who did not begin the program in Kindergarten or Grade 1. In BRSD, students who take Late French Immersion begin learning French in Grade 6.

Who should take Late French Immersion?

Late French Immersion is designed for students:

- Whose first language is not French
- Parents do not need to speak French for students to join Late French Immersion
- For over 90% of students currently in French Immersion, neither parent speaks French.
- Who want to develop the ability to speak, read, write and understand French to a high degree.
- Who have good work habits, who are motivated to learn and who want to be successful
- Who want to be in a small class. Our current Late French Immersion class has 15 students

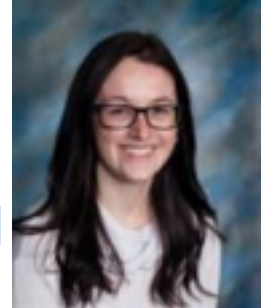
What are the benefits to learning French?

French is the second official language of Canada. Students who take Late French Immersion will develop enhanced study, communication and listening skills. Students who understand a second language have

increased educational and employment opportunities after graduating. Students will also have better access to other cultures through study and travel.

Quality Instruction

Our teacher, Mme Aaron Cammack ensures that all students receive a quality education while also developing their language skills. Mme Cammack creates a positive classroom environment where students are comfortable taking the risks necessary to learn a second language.



What courses do students take in French?

Students will take all core courses in French, including Math, Science, Social Studies, and French Language Arts. Students will also take English Language Arts. We try to ensure students also have opportunities to speak in French during Phys. Ed, Health and other Option blocks.

In Gr. 6, students in Late French Immersion do not have to write Provincial Achievement Tests in French Language Arts, Science, Math or Social Studies, as they spend a significant portion of the year learning the vocabulary that goes along with these subjects.

When students reach Grade 8, they will begin to be integrated into the Early French Immersion classroom with the other immersion students. By grade 9, students will be fully integrated into the classroom with the early immersion students. When students join with the Early Immersion students, they are able to express themselves fully in French.

What do our current students say about Late Immersion?

“Chance of a lifetime. I went in thinking it will be a normal school year but it was different. You get so close when there are only 6 students in your whole class! My teacher really helped me become better at French!”

-Grade 6 student

“The French Immersion program is a wonderful opportunity to learn a new language, as well as having a community in class that I've never had before, and Mme Cammack takes classroom enjoyment to another level! Never before, in all my 6 grades, have I had such a positive classroom environment set by students and teachers alike.”

-Grade 6 student

“The French program is a good opportunity to get a close community of classmates. I'd recommend trying it out if you're open to taking a risk and get good benefits through loads of hard work. Our teacher is amazing and is willing to go slow.”

- Grade 7 student

“The French Immersion program can seem a bit nerve-wracking, but after the first two weeks, it all smooths out and becomes very educational. It will open up job options, and it helps in the long run with your life. I highly recommend it!”

- Grade 7 student

Have questions? Please contact
ÉCKS Assistant Principal Lloyd
MacKenzie

Phone: 780-672-7785

eMail: lmackenzie@brsd.ab.ca

Registration forms
should be returned by
May 31st, 2021



Late French Immersion at ÉCKS

Registration Form

Student Name:

Current School:

Parent/Guardian name(s):

Address:

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone number

Mother:(_____)_____ - _____

Father:(_____)_____ - _____

Why do you and your child want to begin in the Late French Immersion Program?

Please send completed registration forms to Assistant Principal Lloyd MacKenzie at lmackenzie@brsd.ab.ca

PRACTICE **Mindfulness**

Practicing mindfulness together can help build your family's connection with each other.

Need help to calm a busy mind? Try this simple strategy to tune into your surroundings using your 5 senses. Look around you, what do you see, hear, smell, taste, feel?

Mental Health Tip

Move *YOUR BODY*

Move your body every day to improve your mental and physical well-being. The key is to make movement fun and try activities that you enjoy.

What is your family's favourite way to connect and get active together?

Mental Health Tip

Fuel *YOUR BODY*

Did you know that what you eat and drink affects how you feel? We know that it helps your body grow and stay strong, but it's also good for your brain.

Make a family goal to focus on drinking water to hydrate your body and keep your brain fuelled and energized.

Mental Health Tip



Build *ASSETS*

Did you know there are many things you can do to help your kids grow up great?

A simple way to build assets and model kindness is to tell your kids why they matter to you.

Talk together about how being kind makes you feel great! Kindness can reduce stress, fill your heart with joy, and assist you in feeling more helpful and hopeful.

Mental Health Tip

Interested in more ideas on how to create positive connections and build a healthy family? Join us for the

Move Your Mood June Family Challenge

Register in May at www.sparcreddeer.ca

Everything gets better when you move your body. www.participation.com

EXPAND YOUR **Mind**

Did you know that being creative, dancing, and listening to music are simple ways for your family to boost their mental well-being and release feel good chemicals in their brains?

Take time to expand your mind today. Be kind to yourself and others, have a great laugh, turn up the music and dance like no one is watching!

Mental Health Tip

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



Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642

