



# Buffalo Head Prairie School

Box 60 (Hwy 697)  
Buffalo Head Prairie, AB T0H 4A0

Principal: Mr. Chris Fehr  
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Wendy Morris  
Trustee: Mr. John Zacharias

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November 27, 2020

Dear Parents:

As mentioned in yesterday's parent letter, the Government of Alberta recently declared a state of public health emergency and announced restrictions on specific items in the province. Students in grades 7-9 at Buffalo Head will be affected and will be required to learn from home from November 30 to December 23.

At the school level, we are determined to move forward in the best way possible to allow grade 7-9 students to continue the positive learning that has been happening this year.

Due to the fact that many of our families do not have access to the internet, online learning is not an option. After considering all possible options and discussing these with several junior high parents and school staff, we intend to proceed in the following way:

1. We are asking parents, if possible, to use Whatsapp to support junior high learning. Teachers may, at times, be videoing themselves teaching lessons. They will then send the video to parents via Whatsapp. *Please see the Whatsapp instructions included in this parent letter.* Students will view the Whatsapp video and use the teaching from the video to help them complete their school work. It is important to note that the use of Whatsapp will only occur when it is important for students to visually see the teaching for that day.
2. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, students will be asked to join a phone/video meeting with their teacher and cohort class. They will have the option of joining the meeting by calling a number on the telephone or by using a video meeting on a computer. During this time, each teacher will work through specific questions and areas of challenge with students. *As we are all new to this process, we will be learning together. **Instructions for the first class cohort meeting will be sent by call out on Monday morning.*** The duration of these meetings will be up to 60 minutes for each cohort group and will occur at the following times on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:
  - a. Math and Science(Cohort B Mr. Driedger- 9:00 to 10:00a.m.)
  - b. Language Arts and Social Studies (Cohort A Miss Davidson- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)*\*\*Please note: Monday's meeting will be a learning experience where teachers and students will have the opportunity to learn how to connect and try out the meeting system. As hosting these meetings is new to us, and we are just learning how to do this, the meeting times for Monday will be communicated in the call out.*
3. Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30, students may come to the school to get extra help from their teacher. Students will be required to stay with their cohort if they come to school for this extra help. These students would need to be driven to school by parents and could return home on the bus at the end of the school day.
4. Each school day, teachers will be 'on call' and will be ready to answer student or parent questions via telephone (teachers not available during their telephone teaching times or extra help times noted above). Students and parents should feel welcome to call with questions or to walk through learning activities where help is required.
5. If the above mentioned supports are not enough, parents of J.H. students may make a special appointment to have their child come into the school and meet with the teacher to get extra help.
6. It is **VERY** important to us that parents understand they are not expected to be the teachers. It is the responsibility of our school staff to provide the teaching and learning for your children.

<see reverse side for more information>



Phone: (780) 928-2282

Fax: (780) 928-2448

**"REACH for Success"**



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The first work package will be sent home Friday, November 26 and will contain a full week's work. Completed work should be returned to school every Friday with a sibling so it can be assessed by the classroom teacher. The first telephone learning conference will begin Monday, November 30.

We are trying our best to make the best of a challenging situation. Thank you parents for your support. Feel free to call at any times with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Morris and Mr. Fehr



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## Quick Start Guide to Whatsapp

In order to use WhatsApp, please add your child's teacher and their phone number to your contacts on your phone:

Mr. Dale Driedger +59178547296  
Miss Aileen Davidson +14037933781

They will be adding you to a group chat. Each day they will send a video of themselves teaching the lesson. There will be one video per subject. Please have your child watch the video and complete the assignment for that day. Teachers can be reached throughout the school day by phone or WhatsApp to answer questions as they arise.

To prevent you from getting many messages everyday, parents will not be able to respond or ask questions on the group chat. Please message your child's teacher privately if you wish to contact them through WhatsApp.

If you do not have WhatsApp installed on your phone, you can follow the steps below. There is also information on how to use WhatsApp. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the school.

### **How to install WhatsApp:**

1. Install the app from the **Play Store** (Android) or **App Store** (iPhone).
2. Open the app and approve the requested permissions.
3. Enter your **phone number** and tap **Confirm**.
4. Enter the **verification code** received via text message (WhatsApp may do this automatically).
5. Import existing contacts into the app (optional).

### **How to set up your WhatsApp profile:**



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1. Tap the **three dots** in the top-right corner of the app and tap **Settings**.
2. Tap **your name** at the top of the screen.
3. To change your picture, tap the **camera icon** and select a photo.
4. To change your name, tap the **pencil icon** next to Name.
5. Enter or adjust your bio by tapping the **pencil icon** next to About.

## How to start a chat

The first time you open the app you won't have any chats open, but you can start a new chat by tapping on the **chat bubble** in the bottom right.

From there, simply select the contact you want to chat with from the list. If you already have a previous chat with that contact, it will open that instead of a brand new chat. All that's left now is to type your message at the bottom of the screen. After entering your text, tap the **arrow icon** that appears alongside the text box to send it.

You can also send pictures or files on WhatsApp by tapping the **paperclip** or **camera** icons at the bottom of the screen. WhatsApp has a built-in camera app, but it's better to use your normal camera app to take the picture and select it in the gallery to send.

