

Principal's Report - November 2024

Mission: Innisfree Delnorte School, in partnership with our community, provides inclusive education through real-life, career-based programming.



Mantra: Together we learn and lead.

Important Dates:

December 5: Hot Lunch - Subway

December 19: Hot Lunch - Booster Juice, Christmas Supper and Concert

March: Elementary Swimming Lessons

April 10, 2025: Parent Teacher Interviews

April 7-11, 2025: Book Fair

School Programming/Events/Celebrations:

Student Learning:

Grade 1/2/3 - For the month of November students have been learning about poetry. The grade 3's have been trying their hand at limerick poems. Students are practicing lots throughout the week on new spelling and sight words. The 2's and 3's have been writing with more adjectives. Grade 1's and 2's have been learning about numbers; comparing and skip counting. The 3's have dove right into addition and subtraction up to 1000. We are wrapping up our Energy unit in science but will continue on computer science throughout the year which has to do with giving instructions to a person or computer and having them complete it and end up at a given point. Students have created beautiful painted Christmas trees along with cute snowmen for our door decoration. I encourage them to continue reading at home to help strengthen their fluency and comprehension skills at school!

Grade 4/5/6 - Students have been continuing with their spelling words and will begin their novel study on Harry Potter as soon as the books arrive! We have been focusing on reading comprehension, and will continue working on this skill. Students are wrapping up Earth Systems in Science and Place Value in Math and are set to begin Matter and Addition/Subtraction. In Art, we will be learning about colour theory and use that knowledge to make winter themed projects.

Staff Professional Learning: Our staff has engaged in a variety of learning opportunities over the past month. Ms. Miller updated her Violent Threat Risk Assessment training. Our staff worked on student engagement, pedagogy, Indigenous learning pieces, and use of AI tools at our November staff Professional Learning. We attended the ATA PD Day and learned about cardio drumming, heard from Inuit spokesperson Gouta Desmarais about her experiences with intergenerational trauma and the social assistance system, as well as Keynote speaker David Allison and his talk about Values. Mrs. Huppertz also attended a specialized math session hosted by Buffalo Trail. Upcoming, our teachers will be working for a full day each with our Innovation Coaches on a variety of pedagogy pieces including AI, planning, Mathology, and critical thinking instruction.

Staffing Update: Mrs. Sacha has returned to her teaching role. We wish Mrs. Olsen all the best and thank her for everything she contributed to our school during her time here.

Music Programming: We are working on arranging Piano lessons for following the winter break. Our Music program is working on a special presentation with our traditional Christmas Concert.

Sports: Senior High girls volleyball is wrapping up. We had a fun game between the teachers and the senior girls and they will have a wind up and play their parents the first week in December.

Basketball Club for Grades 4-9 will be starting up.

International Trip: In the coming weeks a survey will be sent out to families of students who will be in Grades 9-12 in Spring 2027 asking for preference in regards to our trip. We are in contact with EF Tours and awaiting quotes and information about available tours.

Islander of the Week: Our school has chosen to recognize weekly on the last day of the week an "Islander of the Week". These students will be nominated by persons in our school community for showing behaviors and efforts that enhance our welcoming, safe, and caring environment.

Handbook Feedback: The school handbook is [here](#).

Hot Lunch/Nutrition: Thank you Mercer family for the Quesadilla lunch for all on November 18th.

Graduation: Chips are being sold by the Grad class again. They are \$2.00 a bag and available at 11:50 am in the servery each day for all ECS-Grade 12 to purchase. Some planning meetings have occurred towards Guest speaker and color choices.

Ski Trip Update: Working with Rabbit Hill to be able to plan our upcoming ski trip. The tubing hill for our younger students or those interested in that activity alternate to skiing and boarding doesn't open until 11 am which is a special opening for our school. At this point, I assume a bring your own lunch and commitment to stop for supper following the skiing would be a good alternative to extending the ski trip hours to earlier as it would make a long 1.5 hour waiting period for our younger students and only gain 1 hour of time for the skiers.

School Messenger: BTPS recently adopted a new messaging system, School Messenger. In order to ensure you are ready to receive texts, you need to follow 2 easy steps to opt-in:

1. Make sure the school has your mobile phone in PowerSchool
2. Text Y or Yes to 978338. If you did not receive this message please contact delnorte@btps.ca

SchoolMessenger allows you to personalize communications from your school or district. After logging in, you will be able to:

- See your related SchoolMessenger Contacts across schools and districts.
- View the last 30 days of SchoolMessenger messages.
- Change your SchoolMessenger communication preferences.
- Opt-into Push notifications (mobile only).

Events:

Our **School Christmas Concert** will be at 7pm on December 19th at the Rec Center. We will have a community supper beforehand to fundraise towards the music program and other educational programming opportunities. Information and tickets were shared last week with families.

Student Services and Supports:

BTPS: Buffalo Trail Public Schools once again is providing Speech, Occupational Therapy, Behavioral Consultation, and Physical Therapy support in schools. We will also be receiving 1.5 days of Social Emotional Coach support in the coming months. Joanne Flath is our SEC.

Career Coordinator: Vince Saretsky, previous school principal, has been hired as a new career coordinator in the division. His focus is on increasing the application and understanding of the off campus programming in BTPS, especially Careers and RAP. Here is an information item from him: In October and in November many institutions have open houses. This is a great chance to checkout the school. (please check specific institutions web sites for info)

Here is a general look and address to access information:

<https://elaa.b-cdn.net/uploads/pdf/DAG2024v2docx.pdf> (you may have to paste the link)

Please contact your school office or vince.saretsky@btps.ca for more information around careers and off campus opportunities in BTPS.

FCSS: CALM 20 is working with FCSS to do some future planning and life focus lessons. One was done on October 9. The other sessions happen December 11 and December 18.

Funds Requests:

- Swimming for Grades 1-6
- Ski Trip Bussing - approx \$1500
- Music Program contribution (total \$2400 + piano tuning)

Budget and SGF information**SGF Information**

Budget Line	Purpose	Amount	Still to be debited....
General	Supply funds for field trips, school costs, and other account lines as needed.	-1,512.98 (music program fee, glass art, Frisbee Rob, bussing for career fair)	
Awards	Funding for awards	1611.57	
Sports	Funding for sports teams and tournaments.	1146.30	
Student Union	Dollars to provide supplies for student union activities and special occasions.	1732.82	
Breakfast Club	Funds to provide	1610.06	
Grad	Funds for this year and next year's graduating classes that they have raised so far.	6344.48	
Lindballe Memorial	TBD	1501.79	
Art	Supply materials for Art classes and the potential for funding for another Art Gala.	341.89	Supplies for September 27 activities.
CTS/A+ Grants	Dollars from A+ for energy grants or donations towards woodworking program to supply materials needed for shop class and complete the greenhouse project, along with the passion projects.	4,381.17	Still to debit is pump and water tank as well as solar panels for thai years project.
Total			18670.08

School Based Budget

Budget	Purpose	Amount
Initial Budget form Central Services/Ab Ed	All school related costs	678,698
Contingency Funding from BTPS	Funding extra teacher and support staff time beyond our WMA allocation	131,400
BTPS Funding	Enrollment increase funding	13,558
Total Budget 2023-2024:		\$823,656

Budget	Purpose	Amount
Staffing Allocation	Salary and benefits for all staff	774,930
Supplies/Services Allocation	Cost of providing education (books, supplies, software, etc.) and field trips or special services	48,726 Spent thus far.... \$6404 including software costs, phone, travel and mileage, phone, and classroom supplies.