

Buffalo Trail Learning Hub



Principal's Message



It's seems like this semester is progressing quickly and it is hard to believe we are already counting down the days until Christmas. It is a busy time of year and our students have been working hard to remain on schedule with their courses. Just a reminder that our online course content is to be wrapped up by January 12th and exams should be completed by January 19th. It's coming up fast, so be sure to be diligent in your studies.

All work and no play makes for a dull environment though, so we are spicing things up at the Hub with many Christmas spirit days and activities in December to keep it light and fun. Be sure to check out the attached calendar or the online calendar on our website to see how you can participate.

One of the nicest ways we wrap up 2023 is by sharing our annual Christmas Dinner on December 6 with outreach students, staff and special guests. This is a favourite day of mine as we get to see the Christmas spirit permeate throughout our building. As I check my list, I am happy to report that I only see names on the "nice" side of the list. We have such great students! Enjoy your families and have a well-deserved break when it arrives. Happy Holidays!

Dave Sherbinin
Principal



Upcoming Events

Christmas Dinner

December 6 - for outreach students, staff and guests.

Christmas Break - No school

December 23 to January 7

December Newsletter

Hub Happenings

Learning Hub by the numbers

Currently the Learning Hub is serving students in the following categories:

Concurrent Students

-these are students enrolled primarily in another school, but who are accessing courses through us.

- Local Schools:
 - J.R. Robson school -> 5 students
 - St. Jerome's school -> 8 students
- Other BTPS schools -> 136 students

Outreach Students

-these are students who call the Hub their school and attend our facility in person.

- Outreach -> 23 students

Distance Learners

-these are students who learn online from home. Some are located locally, while others hail from all corners of the province.

- Distance Learners -> 56 students

Parent Provided Home Education

-these are students who are being home educated by parents in partnership with BTPS. We provide some oversight and funding.

- Home Learners -> 6 students

Our overall student numbers tend to fluctuate as students complete courses and new students sign up and join us mid semester





December

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 	2
5	4 	5 	6 Hub Christmas Dinner 	7 Hot chocolate station Hub Open Until 7:00PM	8 Christmas Sock Day 	9
10	11 	12 Build a Gingerbread House Day 	15 Winter Sport Fan Day 	14 Hot chocolate station Hub Open Until 7:00PM	15 Christmas Attire Day 	16
17	18 	19 Milk & Cookies Day 	20 Christmas Hat Day 	21 Hot chocolate station Hub Open Until 7:00PM	22 Cozy Day 	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No School – Christmas Break						

Connect with us



Buffalo Trail Learning Hub



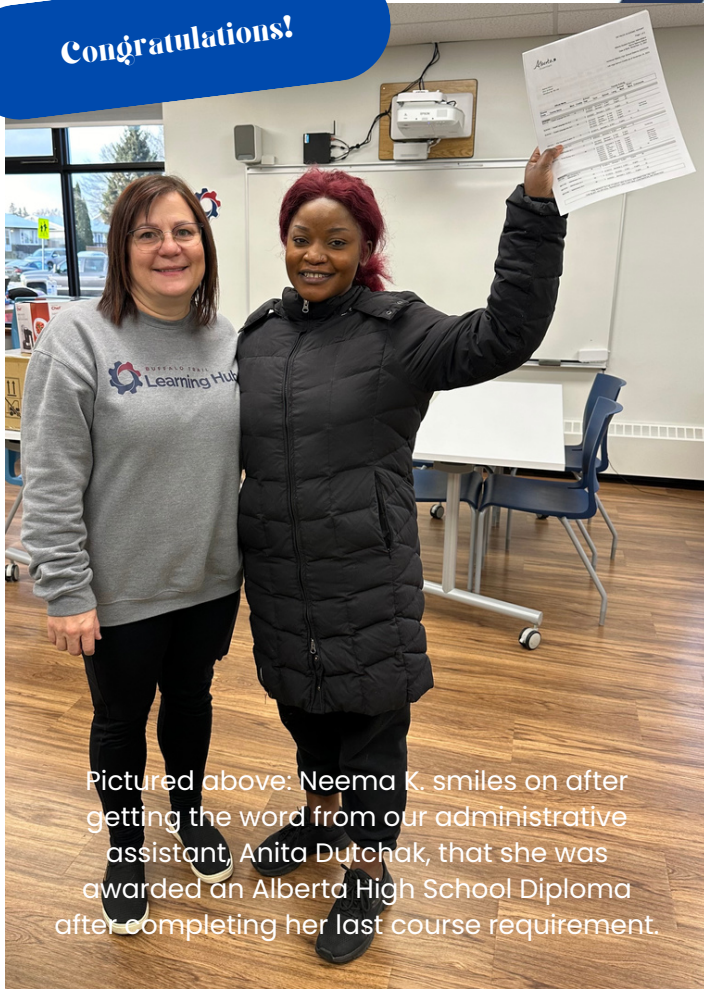
@btlearninghub



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Students are prepared for life after K-12

Congratulations!



Pictured above: Neema K. smiles on after getting the word from our administrative assistant, Anita Dutchak, that she was awarded an Alberta High School Diploma after completing her last course requirement.

Students and staff health and wellness are supported.

Below: Aquariums – a healthy initiative.



Below: Prepping for exams.



Students have opportunities for rich learning experiences from highly effective staff

Below: Fun in CTS Foods!



The question, 'will we ever understand teens?' is as puzzling as the question of which came first, chicken or the egg? While we might not ever truly understand teens, we can learn more about what makes them behave the way they do.

You might be wondering if the teen in your life is going through a tough time. Are they just going through those 'teenage years'? Or is there truly something wrong? (from: *mentalhealthliteracy.org*)

As educators, we often come across teens in distress. This can be for a variety of reasons, generally as a result of a change in home or school life. It can be the result of family breakup, death of a loved one, work load, stress of making or not making a team, test anxiety, etc.

Teachers are not counsellors or therapists. As educators, we listen and then we try to get students to someone trained in mental health, to whom we simply describe the behaviour we are seeing.

At the Learning Hub, students do have access to our Social Emotional Coach (SEC), Joanne. She can meet with students once to hear their concerns and then she will reach out to parents to provide information, support, and access consent to continue to see the student, if this is something agreed upon. The goal of the SEC program is short term support and to act as a liaison between students and families, and healthcare providers.

One idea we had, also to help families, was to add a link on our website to mental health supports that families can access in the local Vermilion area. We are currently building this and will send out additional info.

Two great resources available for more mental health information are:

1. <https://mentalhealthliteracy.org/>
2. <https://alberta.cmha.ca/>

Please remember:

- **If someone you care for is at-risk of harm to themselves or others, call 9-1-1**



Communicating With Your Healthcare Provider

What Every Parent Should Ask

Diagnosis

- What do you think my child's diagnosis is?
- What else could it be?
- What does this mean for my child's day-to-day life and for their future?
- What does my child need to do to get well?
- Where can my child get more information?

Treatment Options

- What are my child's treatment options?
- What kind of studies have been done on these treatments?
- What does this mean for my child's day-to-day life and for their future?
- What are the benefits and risks of each treatment?
- How likely is each treatment to help my child?

Medication

- What does this medicine do to my child's body?
- What other medicines would be considered and why are you recommending this one?
- What kinds of studies have been done with this medicine?
- What other medicines or treatments has it be compared to?
- How likely is this medicine to help a person, like my child?
- What are the risks and benefits of this medication?
- Will the medicine interact with anything my child is already taking?
- What are the potential side effects? Will they fade over time?
- As a parent, when can I expect to see results in my child?
- How will my child know if the medication is working for them?
- How long will my child have to take the medication?
- What will happen if this medication does not work for my child?

Psychological Treatments (therapy)

- How will this therapy help my child?
- What are the alternative therapies and why are you recommending this one over the others?
- What kinds of studies have been done with this therapy?
- What other treatments has this therapy been compared to?
- How likely is this therapy to help a person, like my child?
- What are the risks and benefits of this therapy?
- What are the potential side effects of this therapy?
- As a parent, when can I expect to see results in my child?
- How long will my child need to continue therapy?
- What will happen if this treatment does not work for my child?

SIMPLE CONNECTIONS
stronger families

Family Connect & Play



Vermilion Regional Centre

FREE

Families with children under 6 are invited to a
FREE Drop-In @ the Indoor Playground to

Connect & Play

Wednesdays ~ January 10 ~ May 1

10:00 - 11:30 am



family activity & playtime
snack provided for children

Transportation in Vermilion available if needed
please contact Pat at 780-853-3718

Hosted by:





*SIMPLE CONNECTIONS
stronger families*

FAMILY FUNDAYS

SUNDAYS

1:00 - 3:00 PM

JANUARY

21 & 28

FEBRUARY

4 & 11

J.R. Robson High School Gyms

Free event open to families from all schools to connect & play.

Play with large games, giant inflatables, & basketball.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Snack-to-go provided to all children & youth.

Hosted by:



Don't forget...

We are open late most Thursdays

The Hub is open until 7:00PM on most Thursdays each month to accommodate those who are working, those who need some extra support, and even those who like to sleep in :) Check out the [calendar](#) of events on our website to confirm that we are open.

