

What a great start to a great year!

The BRICK Learning Centre is off to a great start for the 2019-2020 school year. It's bigger and better than ever: more students, more programs, and more reasons to celebrate.

This is a very special year, and our school 'family' is very excited about it. Not only is this the 90th birthday of our building, but the BRICK Learning Centre has a full slate of high school programming. New this year are a number of exciting options for our students, as well as our very popular old favourites such as Yoga, Foods, Active Living and Photography.

In addition to offering a full high school program, our teaching staff is excited to offer great option courses.

New this year are our Sewing and Career Transitions programs. We have also introduced a new workshop model that happens on Fridays. Students can access workshops on Digital Music,

"Maybe someday I'll use my training and be able to save a life."

We are very fortunate to have a top-notch, highly qualified First Aid instructor, Mr. Halbert. "Taking first aid helps you develop the skills you

course can be a hugely beneficial for students: "Taking this course will make your brain hurt and muscles ache. It will put through the



Active Living students enjoy working out.

need to protect and save yourself, your friends, your family, and your community," stated Mr. Halbert. "Taking First Aid can open up a

wrenger. The first breath you take after you have completed the course though will be the best breath you have ever taken. The sense of self-confidence you gain will last a lifetime. The ability to save a life is priceless."

Career Prep is a course that focuses on exploring career options available to Alberta students. This course is offered by Ms. Strychalski: "This course is helping students get to know themselves and how that can translate that knowledge into a career. They can earn anywhere from 1 to 5 credits depending on the number of modules they complete." Student have enjoyed learning that there are a number of careers out there that they never knew existed.

Mr. MacEachern teaches Digital Music. He is a very accomplished musician with a great deal of expertise with traditional instruments as well as synthesizers and computer-generated "beats".

"The class allows students to approach CTS credits like Digital Presentation and Visual Composition with a focus on their musical or AV-related interests," stated Mr. MacEachern. "As we get better at understanding and using the software, we intend to provide the opportunity to earn other credits such as General Music. Students have also been making and sampling beats in order to rap over them, and we were happy to hear from some of these artists at our recent talent show."

Not only are students developing advanced computer skills, but they are also able to build on their interest in music. "Students have been getting the hang of the basics of the very complex software," stated Mr. MacEachern, "but there's always more to learn and do, and we can't spend all day in the music lab. That's why we're planning



Photo by Zachariah Buffalo. The model featured is Aza Buffalo.

additional workshops on upcoming Fridays for students who want to deepen their understanding, or who are curious about making music but can't fit our regular Audio-Video class into their busy schedules."

Mr. Tisdale, principal, is offering both Tourism and Mechanics: "Mechanics 3010 is about buying and selling vehicles. It's great to know some basic things to look for when buying a vehicle and some strategies to employ when trying to sell one."

Textiles is currently being offered as a workshop by Ms. Amundson, who also teaches the ever-popular Foods. "For the first time, we are diving into the world of textiles. On two of the workshop Fridays, students can choose to make a tie-blanket, a square quilt or a pair of pajama bottoms."

The students are loving it. "We are enjoying getting to know each other while we work side by side completing our different projects,"

stated Ms. Amundson. "Students show a great sense of pride in their finished projects and it has been fun working with them in this unique



"Peekaboo" by Taya Windsor

setting."

The newest addition to our teaching staff, Mr. Wong, is teaching the very popular Active Living. Mr. Wong is a very skilled athlete who competes in Iron Man events

(Continued on Page 2)

"Pomegranate" by Hayley Docken

Mechanics, Textiles, Tourism and, the long-time favourite, First Aid.

"First Aid was really interesting," stated Aza Buffalo, student.

doorway into a new career, not just in medical services, but any in any career pathway."

Mr. Halbert also believes this



"Dark Lemon" by Savanah Wirchenko

Welcome to another great year at the best school in Alberta!

THE
BRICK
LEARNING CENTRE

(Continued from Page 1)

around North America. Mr. Wong is introducing students to a variety of new fitness routines as well as engaging them in important discussions about fitness goals. He will also be offering fitness-related workshops through-out the school year.

"The benefits to students are to living a healthy lifestyle and to engage in life-long fitness through different means," stated Mr. Wong. "This includes fitness activities within and outside of school."

Dre Louis, student, really enjoys Active Living: "Active Living is pretty fun. We go bowling sometimes and we get to work out in the work-out room."

Ms. Freadrich is our Yoga instructor as well as our Assistant Principal: "I am excited to offer the opportunity for students to practice Yoga this year. Our Yoga block is first thing in the morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Students who participate regularly in Yoga will earn credits in Yoga 15. Yoga is also a valuable tool that students can use to help with mindfulness and focus that can have positive impacts on success at school. "We are connecting with ourselves through breath, movement and mindfulness," stated Ms. Freadrich. "Students are learning skills to connect with themselves, to help them regulate throughout the day, and they love the opportunity to rest and recharge. Namaste!"

Photography has been an important part of our school culture for several

years. This course is offered by Mr. Wilkinson.

Photography offers the students the opportunity to get more than a dozen credits, including up to six 30-level credits, which is often critical to getting a high school diploma. We have many students with tremendous artistic skill. Photography is definitely a great outlet for students looking for a way to express themselves artistically while learning a lot of extremely valuable computing skills.

"We are continuing our very successful Photography program," stated Mr. Wilkinson. "We started the year outdoors doing close-up

and landscape photography. We are now working indoors learning to edit in Photoshop. Students are also learning the basics of studio photography, starting with learning how to do lighting of close-up subjects. After Christmas we will move on to portrait photography, ultimately learning to use multiple synced strobes for individual and group portraits."

It's a popular course that produces the dozens of framed images found throughout our school.

"Photography is my favourite subject," stated Destiney Daychild-Rabbit, student. "It's really fun to edit and take pictures. I'm also getting lots of credits."

"This school year has been good," stated Aza Buffalo. "I have learned something new every day. I really like Photography because I love taking pictures and editing them. It's the easiest way to get credits while having a lot of fun."

The students at the BRICK Learning Centre love our wide variety of complimentary courses, but, more than anything, they are committed to the school and the opportunity to succeed in all subjects. Lee Bull is one of our many new students: "This school year is going pretty good. It gives me more opportunities



"Shadows" by Tinnea Daychild-Rabbit

than my other school did. I'm enjoying all my courses. I really like the work at this school. It's way more challenging. The work at my old school was too easy. I like that this school has a much more relaxed atmosphere."

Tinnea Daychild-Rabbit is also a new student: "I really like this school. It's a lot better than my last one. I like the teachers here. They help me out a lot to understand more. Ms. Strychalski is the best teacher I've ever had."

More than ever, this school is changing lives for the better. Students have found a place where they can succeed.

"I come to school a lot because I really want to get an education," stated Laurence Buffalo. "I like the way this school isn't boring like my old school. I know what to do now, and it has really helped me be suc-

cessful. Science and Humanities are good courses and I'm working hard in them."

Zachariah Buffalo is happy to be at the BRICK Learning Centre: "This school is better than other ones. It's important for me to go to school because I want to be a ball player. This school treats me with respect and I'm doing a lot better. I'm not getting mad at teachers like I was at the other one. I like Math. I can sit there and actually do my work in Math. Mr. Wong always makes me get back to work."

The BRICK Learning Centre is highly committed to serving the needs of our students. Our individualized program gives students who may have struggled in other school environments a new opportunity to succeed. The pride we all feel makes spending time at school the best times of our lives.



Photo by Aza Buffalo. Featured model is Karma Threesingers

Administrators' Message



by Ian Tisdale & Erin Freadrich

So Proud of the BRICK Learning Centre

result is more students are completing courses and we are continually seeing bigger and bigger grad classes. This year we are predicting the largest grad class yet, in excess of 40 students.

I am proud of our students. In many cases our students have needed to overcome significant life circumstances in order to attend to their studies. They use the services provided, the programs provided, the nature and structure of the building, and the caring and compassionate belief of staff

to build high levels of success for themselves. Many people believe we lack structure and

independent workers who realize that education is more than the work. They know it's about the learning.



rigour. In fact, I believe the opposite is true. Our most successful students are strong

As I look forward to this year and beyond, I am excited about where we are going. Four years ago we set a goal of 50 grads in 5 years. That first year there were 18 grads. Last year there were 37 grads. We strongly believe that next year we will be in excess of 50. The BRICK Learning Centre is an amazing place for students to come and to find success.

As winter settles in and I take a moment to reflect on our school I can't help but think of how proud I am of the BRICK Learning Centre. I am so incredibly honoured to work with some absolutely amazing people. Pride in itself can hold negative and positive meanings. Icarus is a character from Greek mythology who received some feathered wings from his dad. He was told not to fly too close to the sun but because of his pride, he did not listen. As the legend goes, the wax that held the wings together melted and the feathers fell off. Icarus plummeted into the sea never to be seen again. Pride also connotes the sense of deep satisfaction.

I am proud of our community. I am proud of parents who, when we have activities like meet the teacher night, parent-teacher interviews, parent information nights,

dinners, and student activities like the talent show, show up. They truly understand the importance of education and the importance of supporting their children. The town of Ponoka is wonderfully supportive of the work we do here. During our 90th celebration, I was able to talk with so many community members who recall coming to school in this beautiful building.

I am proud of all our teachers. When I write about teachers I think of all adults in the building who are working to support our students' successes. In the morning when students walk in they are greeted with a warm welcome and a hearty breakfast. The staff truly embody the notion of family. Working one on one, ensuring our school is a safe and caring place of learning, staff are able to meet the educational needs of our students. The

BULLETIN

Teacher-Coordinator: Jim Wilkinson

Content Manager: Dianne Wilkinson

Photo Editor: Hayley Docken

Lead Content Creator: Lori Buffalo



**BRICK Learning Centre Bulletin is published by the
BRICK Learning Centre in Ponoka, Alberta**

BLC students and staff honour tradition at Remembrance Day Ceremony



Traditions are very important at the BRICK Learning Centre, and one of our most important traditions is to honour Canada's fallen war heroes and all those who have served and continue to serve in our Armed Forces. All students attended the November 6 Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Ponoka Legion. It was a very touching event and gave the students a great opportunity to express their tremendous gratitude for all the sacrifices made by so many Canadians who continue to safeguard our freedom.

"This year's ceremony was impactful and touching," reflected Principal Tisdale. "In my 25 years in education, this ceremony was one of the most memorable."

As is our tradition, this event was organized by Ms. Strychalski, the BRICK's lead Social Studies teacher.

In addition to an inspiring speech by Barb Olsen from the Ponoka Legion, students, Karma Threelfingers and Jaiven Moonias-Buffalo read "Flanders Fields" and "Reply to Flanders Fields".

Karma commented, "I think it's important to remember our soldiers, especially those who up their lives for us."

Mr. Tisdale, principal, also addressed the students and staff reminding us the importance of sacrifice and courage in a world that sometimes calls on us to stand up for freedom.

Thanks to all those who participated in this important event.



(Below - left to right) Karma Threelfingers, Barb Olsen and Jaiven Buffalo-Moonias.



**THE
TERRY
FOX**
for cancer research **RUN**



The BRICK Learning Centre's Terry Fox Run was held Oct. 10. Students and staff enjoyed having the opportunity to honour the memory of Terry Fox while raising awareness of the importance of supporting cancer research. The hotdogs following the event were enjoyed by all.



Minister of Education makes a very special visit to the BRICK Learning Centre

Students and staff at the BRICK Learning Centre were tremendously excited to have a visit from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange as well as Lacombe-Ponoka MLA Ron Orr. The October 3 visit included a tour of our amazing school and an opportunity for Minister LaGrange to meet many of our students and staff. She was extremely interested in our program and expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for the great work students and staff are doing at our school.

"It's exciting to see the Minister of Education engaging in first-hand experiences in schools," commented Principal Tisdale. "In my 25 years in education, this was the first time a minister of education took time to visit a school where I was working."

We were very proud to give Minister LaGrange an original work of art by one of our many fantastic student artists, Wynne Kaquitts.

Tisdale continued, "We are honoured to have Wynne as part of our school body. He is an extremely gifted and talented artist. The piece gifted to Minister LaGrange will hang beautifully in her office at the Legislature."

We are very thankful for the opportunity to share our story of success with the Minister of Education. Students and staff are very proud of our achievements, but it is particularly encouraging to receive so much attention and positive feedback from the very highest level of educational leadership in this province.

Thank you, Minister LaGrange, and congratulations to the students and staff of the BRICK Learning Centre for all the hard work and dedication that has led to this tremendous recognition.



Photos by Vince Burke



Community celebrates 90 years of the "Brick School"

It's 90 years old, but Ponoka's "Brick School" is still as active as ever as the BRICK Learning Centre – home to over 200 Wolf Creek Public Schools high school students. The 90th anniversary celebration on September 27 was attended by dignitaries, students and staff, as well former students and staff.

The event featured speeches and tours of the facility. Those in attendance also enjoyed cake as well as souvenir mugs commemorated the event.

Many former students and staff generously shared their favorite memories of their time in this historic building. Built in 1929, the BRICK Learning Centre is thought to be the one of the

oldest buildings in the province still serving as a school, second only to Old Scone Academic High School in Edmonton, which was completed in 1908.

Thanks to everyone who did so much to make this event such a great success! Thanks also to the many participants in this great celebration.

