

TRUSTEE COMMUNITY UPDATE



**BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18**

MARCH-APRIL 2011

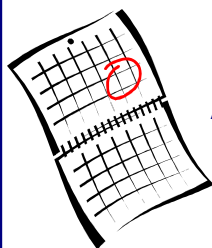
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 is made up of 9 communities, including Leduc County. These communities are: New Sarepta, Beaumont, Leduc, Devon, Calmar, New Humble, Thorsby, Warburg and the Hutterite Colony. We also operate programs in Home-Based Schooling and Distance Learning from our Outreach School.

Budget 2011

The Budget announced in February 2011 will be challenging for Black Gold. Some key points to note are:

- Base funding for Severe Disabilities remains frozen for the 3rd consecutive year
- AISI funding will be cut 50% as of September 1, 2011
- The government will fulfill the Alberta Weekly Earnings increase for teachers.

Black Gold will receive an estimated 1% increase in operating revenue with our costs being significantly higher than 1%. Through this challenging budget we will continue to focus on the best education for students.



Academic Planning Calendar

Black Gold website has an academic planning calendar for the 2011-12 academic year. Here students and parents can plan schedules for the year ahead. Go to:

<http://www.blackgold.ab.ca/Schools1/Calendar/2011-12SchoolYearCalendar.htm>

Beaumont Grade Configuration

The Beaumont Trustee, Administration, Department Heads, Principals and Parent Representatives attended meetings to look at student placement in Beaumont. Recommendations were:

1. Continue to advocate for a new school in Beaumont.
2. Acquire five modulars for Beaumont:
 - a. Three at École J. E. Lapointe School
 - b. Two at École Coloniale Estates School
3. Maintain lease space at Knights of Columbus Hall for École Bellevue School
4. No grade reconfiguration changes are required for the 2011-12 school year
5. Reconvene the Committee in January 2012

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings occur on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month beginning at 10:30 a.m., 5th floor at Central Office, County Centre in Nisku. If you have an item you wish to address, please contact Ruth Andres, Secretary-Treasurer of Black Gold Regional Division at 780-955-6025.

To access more information on Black Gold Regional Schools, please visit our website at www.blackgold.ca.

Board Contacts

As members of the Board of Education of Black Gold Regional Division No. 18, we commit ourselves to working with staff members and other relevant stakeholder groups to provide the highest possible standard of educational opportunities for our students. Our goal is to help students fulfill personal aspirations while they learn how to become life-long learners and contributing members of society.

Beaumont
County Central
County East
County West
Devon
Leduc
Leduc

Lorna Misselbrook
Rebecca Eilander
Johnette Lemke
Sam Kobeluck
Sandy Koroll
Lori Bauckman
Barb Martinson

lorna.misselbrook@blackgold.ca
rebecca.eilander@blackgold.ca
johnette.lemke@blackgold.ca
sam.kobeluck@blackgold.ca
sandy.koroll@blackgold.ca
lori.bauckman@blackgold.ca
barb.martinson@blackgold.ca

Trustee Events

This fall and winter, trustees have attended and been involved in a variety of functions and committees including:

- Public School Boards' Association meetings
- Awards ceremonies for students
- School visits: trustees visit all 28 schools in our Division throughout the school year
- Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3
- Alberta Initiative for Student Improvement Conference
- New Trustee Workshop
- Council of School Councils Meeting
- Meetings with Municipal Town Councils
- Zone 2/3 MLA Meet and Greet

Black Gold Technology



Currently there are 64 netbook project carts (30 netbooks per cart) in the Division. Carts are deployed as schools indicate they are ready for a set, within the limitations of support time available (generally 3 to 4 carts per month).

Some schools have purchased additional netbooks to create 2 sets where small class sizes allow this.

Approximately 200 teachers are presently involved in the projects. Carts are currently dedicated to grades 3 to 12 core subject areas; generally assigned to groups of three teachers.

Additionally, 150 netbooks have been distributed to Special Needs students through the Instructional Coach in Student Services, with more to be available in April.

As was planned, netbooks now outnumber regular lab computers, as some labs are being decommissioned in schools where space is at a premium. As additional netbook carts are deployed over the next two years, it is expected that older computer labs will begin to be phased out.

Black Gold Healthy Schools



Our Division has been involved with many programs to promote healthy eating and lifestyles for our students. Our Healthy Hearts program is known world wide for documenting the positive effects healthy exercise habits have on learning.

To see the great things our Healthy Hearts team is doing please go to our website: www.blackgold.ca and click on Resources/AISI/Healthy Hearts.

In addition to the above, Black Gold Regional Schools has instituted a Healthy Schools Program. Lead Teachers have been incorporated to help educate staff and students in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and mental health so that wellness becomes a way of life. Learn more by visiting our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bghealthyschools/home>



Did You Know?

Black Gold Regional Schools:

- Educates nearly 9,000 students each year: 37% in the City of Leduc; 32% in Beaumont; 10% in Devon; remaining 21% spread throughout the rural areas
- Is the 10th largest school Division in Alberta
- Employs over 1,200 staff across the Division
- Is the largest individual employer in the region
- Administers a budget of nearly \$94 million

Welcome Spring!

