



PALLISER
BEYOND BORDERS

March/April 2016 Palliser Beyond Borders News

Greetings Palliser Beyond Borders Students and Parents:



Thanks to our guests who joined us at our official launch.

[See our new video and photographs from our March 4 Launch day!](#)

Spring Break Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that Spring Break @Palliser Beyond Borders is from **March 25th - April 3rd**. Although staff are not available you are welcome to continue working on your moodle courses. Be sure you are on track to complete your course by the end of the semester.

A note about the learning and teaching process

Our goal is to empower all our students in all grades and courses in your learning and assess in a meaningful and effective manner. Your role is to manage your time wisely, identify ways you learn best and reach to demonstrate your understanding.

Calculate how many weeks left before you must finish the course and divide up by weeks what you have left to complete in your course. Commit to the schedule.

We believe at Palliser Beyond Borders that there is a process of instruction, learning, feedback and assessment, opportunity for students to improve and bump up understanding of concepts. This process must happen before students complete summative assessments so students have every opportunity to enrich understanding before final assessments. For this reason we do not want students to expect that they can submit a whole course the night before an exam or diploma exam and accept that it is ok to "take the bad mark". We feel bad if students don't do well on exams and want to support every effort for students to demonstrate their very best understanding in our courses. If students do not meet the deadline dates for completing courses particularly for diploma courses, students must plan to write the diploma in the next cycle. We want you to have the review time you need after teacher assessment is complete to ensure you are ready for the summative assessment. If you need help or additional support, please contact your teacher. Have a safe and productive break.

For Diploma Students writing April Diplomas:

You must be done all assignments and in-class exams by April 4 if you plan on writing an April diploma. Diplomas start April 6th.

[Diploma Exam Information is posted here on our website](#)

Please make sure you are on track and have arranged for a Diploma Prep with your teacher. We expect students to complete the instruction and feedback loop before writing diplomas. We do not believe students who complete a course the night before a diploma are ready for this summative assessment nor have they completed the instructional process. Writing a diploma requires registration, ordering of exams and prior arrangements for accommodations. This must be done with ample notice. Students who are not ready to write in April can write in June. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your teacher.

[Blackboard Collaborate Schedule](#) (click this link for the classroom link to these classes on this schedule)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:30	English/Social Studies	GO/CTS/Options	Math/ Science	English/Social Studies	English/Social Studies
9:00-9:30					
9:30-10:00	Math/ Science	English/Social Studies	English/Social Studies	GO/CTS/Options	Math/ Science
10:00-10:30					
10:30-11:00	English/Social Studies	Math/ Science	Math/ Science	Math/ Science	GO/CTS/Options
11:00-11:30					
11:30-1:00					
1:00-1:30	Math/ Science	Math/ Science	GO/CTS/Options	English/Social Studies	Teachers engaged in professional development and unavailable
1:30-2:00					
2:00-2:30	GO/CTS/Options	English/Social Studies	English/Social Studies	Math/ Science	
2:30-3:00					
4:30-6:30		All courses: drop in Study Hall			

GO/CTS/Options: Everything except English, Social Studies, Math, Science

Attendance at Blackboard sessions has increased and we encourage you to come in for live instruction and help. Research and our

student completion data tell us that students' level of achievement and completion rates are improving when they participate weekly in live instructional sessions with their teachers. This keeps student focussed on "attending to their learning." Registration in an online course requires that students work on their moodle courses which are available 24/7 to students. In addition students are required to attend a weekly check in with each subject teacher. In the live checkins teachers will provide focus for the week, instruction on key skills and respond to specific questions about course material. Students are asked to:

- attend one of these blocks per week
- communicate with their subject teacher if your timetable does not permit attendance at one of these sessions
- continue to contact teachers and book appointments if you need additional support during teacher open office hour schedules posted on teacher [e-teacher pages](#) and in your courses.



Important Dates

April 4 : If you need to ensure you have your April diploma courses showing complete on your transcript in May please ensure all diploma course work is complete by April 4.

Student course completions by these dates will ensure we meet Alberta Education requirements for submitted mark completions prior to students writing the diploma exams.

Students who do not meet these June deadlines will be required to complete courses during summer school July 4- August 4, 2016 and write diplomas in August 2016.

May 1: Summer School registration begins May 1, 2016

June 1: English 30 and Social 30 courses must be complete by June 1st if students plan to write June diplomas. (Reviews are offered the week after and before the June 13th diploma.

June 10: all other courses must be completed by this date to allow review time before final exams and diploma exams. If students are not finished diploma courses they will write in August.

June 30: students must register for summer school if you need access to your courses to complete. Moodle access will be turned off to students who have not registered to continue.

information is posted in your courses and [here on the website](#)

Diploma Exams

Students must have completed the diploma course to be eligible to write in April or June. Students who are pre-registered for diplomas will have received communication from the Palliser Beyond Borders teacher with instructions for Diploma writing. [The schedule is here](#). Schools have been sent a list of registered students. Please contact lola.mix@pallisersd.ab.ca if something is amiss.

Palliser Beyond Borders School Calendar

School calendars vary slightly across our division. [Please refer to our calendar linked on our website](#) to know when teachers are available to work with students.

Diploma Reviews

Your teachers have information posted in your Moodle courses to help you with your diploma reviews. In addition they have been hosting live instructional sessions with you and this

April Report Cards will be

Student Completion	Teacher Mark Due
Assignments completed by this date will be reported in April reporting	April 11, 2016
Teacher marks due to Principal	April 18, 2016
Palliser Beyond borders begins distribution of reports to schools and students	April 22, 2016

June Diploma Marks DUE	6/10/2016	6/15/2016
August Diploma Marks DUE	8/2/2016	8/7/2016

News from Vulcan Outreach



MURDER'S in the HEIR

An Audience Interactive
Murder Mystery-Comedy

By Billy St. John
Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, INC., Englewood, Colorado.



Times & Dates:

Thursday, April 14 - Dessert Theatre, 7 pm

Friday, April 15 - Dessert Theatre, 7 pm

Saturday, April 16 - Dinner Theatre

Dinner 5:30 pm, Play 7 pm

Place: Vulcan Cultural Recreation Centre

New course now online!

- HSS 2040 (Family Foundations is now online)

Registration for summer school opens May 1

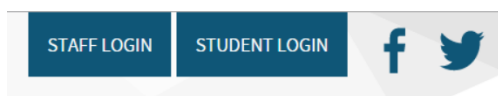
- Please note that the Getting Online course is required for all students who have not completed this 3 credit online orientation. This prepares the students for learning how to be successful online and is a required prerequisite for all online courses. Our data shows us that students successfully complete after 14-16 log ins who spend an hour or more with each log in. If students log in every day and work for an hour they can complete this course in two weeks.
- (Students who take longer, interestingly enough still log in between 14-16 times but spread their completion time over a longer period of time)
- [Registration for new to Palliser Beyond Borders students](#)
- [Registration for students already registered who need additional courses](#) (new and improved)

Information Sessions about Palliser Beyond Borders

- Information Sessions and an online Open House are monthly every second Tuesday at 5:30 - 6:30 pm.
- Location: [online meeting room \(click here\)](#)
- Parent meetings can be arranged individually with teachers according to student and parent availability. In addition Information sessions are offered monthly online. [Parents and students can register here.](#)

Changes on our website

You will notice we have launched a new and improved website. Students can log directly to their moodle dashboard from <http://palliserbeyondborders.com/>



[Palliser Alternative Outreach School now open in Calgary](#)



A New Learning Landscape

Palliser Beyond Borders c/o County Central High School, Box 390 Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0 | Phone 403-485-6180

[@PalliserBB](#) [facebook.com/palliserbeyondborders](#)

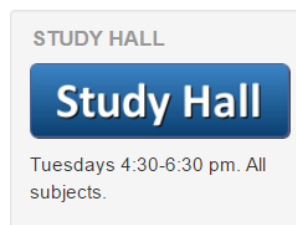
palliserbeyondborders.com

We welcome Caroline Schollaardt, teacher, and Elvira Pagsanghan, Administrative Assistant, to our team. This new Outreach campus operating under the umbrella of Palliser Beyond Borders is in Calgary. Students who wish to attend this campus can make an appointment. [All online courses offered through Palliser Beyond Borders are available](#) to students who wish to enrol. Students attending other Palliser School in Calgary are welcome to come onsite for teacher instruction or to work on your courses. [Information is on our website](#)

Suite 120, 2635 37 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB, T1Y 5Z6, Phone number 1-403-291-0584

[Study Hall - help in all subject areas](#)

Look for the link at <http://moodle.prs26.ca/my/>



School Advisory Committee meets online monthly

- More information about Palliser Beyond Borders and our programs are available at these meetings or [posted here.](#)