



Baltimore School

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NEWSLETTER **April 11, 2014**

Holidays are Here

Easter is upon us once again. It means a lot of things to a lot of people. To many of our students it means ten days of no school. The past 3 months has been a difficult stretch for some, and the break is needed. To the parents, I encourage all of you to spend some quality time with your child over the Holidays. I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very enjoyable Easter Break.

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 11 - Hosting Gr. 11 Girls Provincial Basketball
- Apr. 15 - K-6 Literacy Assembly
- Apr. 16 - Gr. 7-12 Reports go home
- Apr. 17 - Last Day before Break
- Apr. 28 - First Day back from Break
- May 2 - Kinderstart session
- May 8 - Graduation Ceremony
- May 9 – PD Day (No school for students)
- May 16 – 50/50 Draw
- May 19 – Victoria Day Holiday
- May 23 – Jr./Sr. High Wake-a-Thon
- May 29 – Arts and Literature Fair

When You Visit Our School

Because of safety and liability issues, all visitors, including parents, must report to the office upon arrival to the school. It is no longer acceptable for a parent to enter the school and proceed directly to your child's classroom.

Varsity Sports

For the past several weekends Baltimore School Gym has been abuzz with excitement as we have hosted 3 Provincial basketball tournaments and we will be hosting our final tournament this coming weekend, the Grade 11 Provincials Girls Championship. Come out and cheer on our girls! A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into organizing these events and our Sports Varsity committee deserves so much credit for doing an excellent job. Thank you to TerriLynn Kavanagh, Paula Battcock, David

Chidley, Theresa Chidley, Leanna Dalton, Gladys Hayden and all the parents that come out to help.

PowerSchool

At the end of November, all Jr./Sr. High parents were sent home a username and password for PowerSchool. This username and password allows parents to go to a website and access all their child's marks and evaluations for each course. It provides parents the opportunity to check attendance and to find out if any work assignments are missing. A fair percentage of parents have been accessing this information on a regular basis, however, there are still a number of parents who have not accessed this information. If you have not gotten around to checking out this website, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. In the report card going out next week, the username and password for each student will once again be sent home.

Bussing Changes

Here at Baltimore School student safety is our utmost concern. One area of general concern is the bussing of students to and from home on a daily basis. It is School District policy that students are only allowed to travel on their regularly assigned bus and are not allowed to travel on another bus under any circumstance. Over the past few years, we have made exceptions to this rule if a note was sent from home or a phone call was made to the school. This was a courtesy that we allotted to parents. This practice is being stopped and students will only be allowed to travel on their assigned bus. The only exception to this rule will be if the student is changing buses for an extended period of time and permission from the administration is obtained in advance of this taking place. Permission for students to travel on a different bus to a friend's house after school will no longer be granted. Alternate arrangements will need to be made. We apologize for this change, however sending a child to a bus stop where no one is there to meet them because of miscommunication is not acceptable.

Please feel free to call the school at 432-2090 if you have any questions or concerns.

K – 6 Literacy Assembly

The 4th round of Literacy rewards will take place on Tuesday, April 15th. The K-6 Literacy Assembly will begin at 1:30pm and all parents are welcome to attend.

Heritage Fair

On Tuesday, March 25th Baltimore School held its Heritage Fair. Congratulations to all students who participated. The projects were very well done and the judges remarked that students were very knowledgeable about their topics. The winners in each grade were:

Grade 4

1st Katherine Kavanagh

2nd Kylie Carey

3rd Brooklyn Kane

Grade 5

1st Natalie Dalton & Destiny Niewhoff

2nd Kaitlyn Crocker & Mackenzie Rossiter

3rd Cheyenne Ryan

Grade 6

1st Brooklyn Kenny

2nd Colton Dunne

3rd Emily Kenny & Colleen Devine

Grade 7

1st Christi Aylward & Brianna Dalton

2nd Seamus Walsh

3rd Trent O'Brien

Grade 8

1st Jaxon Mayo

2nd Liam O'Brien

3rd Taylor Murphy & Deanna Hayden

Grade 9

1st Olivia O'Brien

2nd Kaitlyn Brophy

3rd Andrew Coombs

Three projects were selected to represent the school at the regional fair. Those students are:

Olivia O'Brien

Jaxon Mayo

Christi Aylward & Brianna Dalton

A special thanks to our Heritage Fair Judges: Regina White, Mary Chidley, Annette Mooney, Anne O'Keefe, Myra Brophy, Margie Clowe, Anna O'Brien, Lorraine Dunne, Mary Stratton and Jerome White.

Attendance

As the school year progresses our student attendance is becoming more of a concern. The rate of student absenteeism for the entire school is much higher than in most years. This year the school was closed for weather more than the average year, and therefore missing school is of even greater importance.

Whether your child is in Grade 1 or Grade 12, it is essential that they attend school every day unless there is an acceptable excuse.

Easter Break

The Easter Break begins on Thursday, April 17th and this is a full school day. The first day back after Break is Monday, April 28th and it will be Day 8.

Book Fair

From March 10-14th we held our annual Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to your continued support in promoting literacy we sold approximately \$3278. As a school we receive 60% value of books sold, which means that we could return over \$1967 back into our library! Needless to say, this was a huge success! We could not have done it without the help of the following volunteers, and we thank them for their time - Judy Walsh, Lesa Dalton, Lorna Dinn, Wendy Carew Walsh, Darlene Ryan, Kim Ryan, Natalie Normore, Krista Pomeroy, Tina Jordan, Melissa Doyle and Joanne Kavanagh.

Students Not Completing Assigned Work

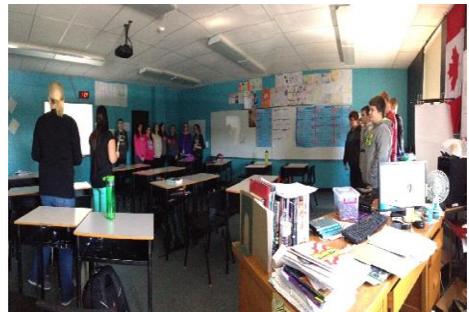
For several of our students, the completion of assigned work is not being finished in a timely manner. For some, it is acceptable to hand in work late. Although we will accept the work, much research has shown that students do a great deal poorer on tests and assignments when they are completed late. Please make every effort to get your child to complete their work on time.

Student Well-Being Presentations

Over the last several weeks we have been fortunate to have Ms. Alicia Cox deliver several workshops to our Jr. High and level 1 students through our affiliation with the Southern Shore CYN. The topics for these workshops have included self-esteem and

body image as well as media literacy and reproductive

health. These workshops have been well received and have generated great class discussion. If you know of any speakers or programs that our school community could benefit from please pass along your ideas.



Trip to CBC

The Level 1 students recently had the opportunity to tour the CBC studios in St. John's. This tour gave our students an opportunity to see, and participate in, radio and television broadcasting. The funding for this outing was made possible by a grant accessed through the CYN and aims at introducing students to new opportunities they may access after graduation. These same students are currently in the process of creating short films as class projects. On that note, don't be alarmed if you see small groups of students roving the community and filming, they could be just doing school work. We are hoping to have one more outing before the end of the year, allowing students to see another aspect of the entertainment industry which may spark career interest in them.

Thank You

A big thank you goes out to Tina Jordan and Krista Pomeroy who helped spearhead the drive to purchase pink t-shirts for our Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day.

Recycling

A reminder that when sending recyclables into the school, please try to separate any glass items from the rest.

Grad

The Level III Graduation Prom will be taking place on Thursday, May 8th. The Grand March for those who would like to attend begins at 9pm.

50/50 Raffle

The next fundraiser for our school will be a 50/50 Raffle which will be drawn on May 16th. Each family will be sent home a book of 10 tickets to sell. The tickets will be given to the students the first week back after the Easter Break. The money raised will go towards the purchase of more up-to-date technology equipment and to help with the restocking of our Library books. Thanks in advance for your support in this fundraising endeavour.

Building Repairs

The building repairs for Baltimore School are almost complete. Over the Easter Break the final painting will be completed and the window blinds will be installed. It has been almost a full calendar year from the time remedial work started at the school and we will be very thankful when we finally get our school back in full operating condition.

Southern Shore Hospitality

This was a note we received from a coach of an opposing team that was here at the school participating in a basketball tournament last month.

Hi Ms. McGrath,

I just wanted to say thanks for a great tournament. All the teams played well, the officials were great and all the coaches were very professional. I was very impressed with the facilities and your parents. Everything we needed was there at your fingertips. You did an awesome job! I also wanted to tell you a little personal story that I'm sure you will enjoy. When the last game was over and I went to my truck, it would not start and smoke came from under the hood. I popped the hood and within 5 minutes there was about 10 people gathered around my truck. I think 4 of the men were mechanics from Torbay to Ferryland. One guy was under the bonnet, one was under the truck and another went to his garage to make up a new ground wire. I was totally blown away! Darryl Lawlor from Cape Broyle, the owner of a garage there told me the problem was with my alternator and the only place I could get one on a Saturday night would be Canadian Tire. He called some of his friends in town to get one delivered with no success. I had to get a friend to pick one up and bring it out to me the next morning at my cabin in Horse Chops. When I got down to my truck the next morning, Darryl was already there with the alternator ready to come out and put in the new one for me. When I tried to pay Darryl, he would not take any money; he said he just wanted to help someone out that was stuck. Where does this happen? Ferryland, I guess. Anyway, the people on the Southern Shore are great and they turned what could have been a nightmare for me into a wonderful story.

Thanks,

David Joyce

Holy Trinity High Coach

Radio Station

Our second week of radio programming is scheduled for May 12 – 16. The committee is in the process of developing programming for the week. If you have any ideas or would like to participate in the on-air broadcasting, please contact Ms. McGrath at the school. This was a great success last Spring and we are sure it will be once again this year. Our goal is to have the permanent license in place for this Fall. Please support us in this very worthwhile venture.

Provincial Champions

Congratulations to our Sr. Girls Basketball team on winning the AA Provincials girls championship. The girls, along with their coaches, David and Theresa Chidley, travelled to St. Lawrence during March 14-16 weekend. The girls did not lose a game during the tournament and, more importantly, were tremendous ambassadors for the school and the Shore. Congratulations also go out to our Grade 5 and 6 Girls teams as both teams won Provincial championships in March. Great thanks go out to Leanna Dalton for coaching both these teams. Great job, Girls!

Enrichment Programs

As identified by one of our school goals, we as a school have placed an emphasis on providing academic enrichment for our students. Selected grade 7, 8 and 9 students will be participating in enrichment courses. The Enrichment Mini-course program is established through a partnership with the Eastern School District and the following post-secondary institutions: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Marine Institute, and the College of the North Atlantic. The program is designed to challenge and intrigue students. Some of the courses offered are: Japanese Language and Culture; Engineering Design; Basketball camps; and Aquaculture. It has been in existence since 1995 and is very well received by student participants. The following is a list of Baltimore students taking part in the enrichment program this Spring: Danielle Dalton, Liam O'Brien, Jaxon Mayo, Emily Kavanagh, Todd Walsh, Taryn Doyle and Vanessa Maloney.

Grade 7 – Level III Reporting Period

The third reporting period for our Jr./Sr. High students will take place next week. The report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, April 16th with the students. There will be no Parent/Teacher Interviews scheduled for this reporting period. If you need to contact a teacher, please call the school an appointment will be set up. Please note that in the report card envelope you will also find a copy of all work that is missing or incomplete from courses with a mark of 59% or lower. This information can be found on the Powerschool website as well. A copy of student's username and password for Powerschool is also enclosed.

Mathematics CRT

The Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 Language Arts CRT exams will not be administered

this year. The Department of Education has made a decision to alternate Mathematics and Language Arts CRT testing from year to year. The Mathematics CRT in Grades 3, 6 and 9 will still go ahead as scheduled for this year.

Arts and Literature Fair

On Thursday, May 29, we will be having our annual Arts and Literature Fair. The purpose of the fair is to celebrate the wonderful work of our students. The fair will begin at 4:00pm and end at 7:00. At 6:00pm students will be presenting some of their work in the library. We will be also having a **used book sale**, parents are asked to send their unwanted books to school with their child or drop them off at any time.

Afterschool Activities

The afterschool activities program at Baltimore School is having tremendous success once again this year. On Tuesdays and Thursdays after school there are over 100 students taking advantage of the activities offered. Activities such as tap dancing, guitar, knitting/crocheting, weight training, old time games, baking/decorating, fitness, ultimate frisbee, badminton, cheerleading, dance, skipping and parachute games are all being offered and the students are enjoying them immensely. A big thank you goes out to all of our parents and teachers who volunteer their time to make this happen.

Volunteer Appreciation Assembly

A school is more than a building with students and teachers; it is a place that must involve the entire community. At Baltimore School we are incredibly fortunate to have such community involvement and commitment. Volunteers are extremely important to a well functioning school. On Friday, May 30th at 11:00am we will be acknowledging and serving lunch to over 100 parent and community volunteers who have done their little part to make this past year at Baltimore an enjoyable and rewarding experience. From all the staff and students, we thank all of you for giving so freely of your time and energy.

Grade 7 - Level III Exams

The June exam period will begin Monday, June 16th and end on Wednesday, June 25th. It is very important that all students prepare well in advance for their final exams. Encourage students to take advantage of the many tutoring opportunities available.