



Baltimore School

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NEWSLETTER September 9, 2014

WE ARE A PEANUT, FISH & SHELLFISH-FREE SCHOOL

Welcome

Welcome to our new school year. We hope everyone in our school community, students, teachers and parents had a relaxing summer and that you are looking forward to starting a successful school year. The weather was great for most of the break (July) and hopefully most students got outside and enjoyed the sunshine. A special warm welcome is extended to all new students and teachers, including our Kindergarten students.

Last year we recognized over 100 parent volunteers; parents that came into our school throughout the year to help make our building a better place for all. This year we would like to increase that number once again. We are off to a good start to the school year and we hope this will be a very enjoyable and rewarding year for all. Our mascot, Bruno, will be an ever-present fixture at our school and will also travel to other schools with our teams for tournaments. Our overall enrolment numbers are down a little from last year as we have a total enrollment of 233 students. Besides our Kindergarten students, we have 3 new students at our school this year. Our Kindergarten class has 10 students.

Over the year we have improved the school in many ways. We are continually improving our technology with the acquisition of 20+ IPAD's along with our school-wide wireless capacity. All classrooms now are equipped with new TeamBoard or Smartboards in each classroom. Throughout the year we maintained our school with the purchase of new tables, chairs, desktops, gym equipment, science equipment and Ziggy's.

Last year we applied for and were approved for another Afterschool grant in the amount of \$23 000. We have not been approved for this amount again this year. The afterschool program was a great success the past 3 years, however, we may really need to work hard to ensure this program is successful with the loss of our Grant money.

In terms of communication, we try to have a very open school where your opinions and input is very much appreciated and encouraged. When problems or issues do arise, please feel free to drop by the school or contact us if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions. We all have the same goal of educating your children.

It is hoped that the information in this Newsletter will answer some of your questions and provide you with information that can make this a more fulfilling school year for everyone involved.

New Staff

This year we have a total of 20 teachers, 2 Students Assistants and 8 support staff. Staff turnover was very low once again. We have 4 new teaching staff this year. Ms. Helen O'Neill comes to us from Trepassey and she will be teaching mostly French and Social Studies in the High School along with Grade 7 Language Arts. Mr. Trent Templeman is our new Student Support teacher working with Jr./Sr. High and Mr. Templeman most recently worked on Bell Island. Ms. Erin Lake is our new half-time Student Support teacher working mostly with Grade 5 and 6 students. We also have a new Grade 1 teacher this year as Ms. Terrilynn Kavanagh has been hired to replace Ms. Power who transferred to the city. We extend a very warm welcome to all staff members. A complete staff list and their teaching assignments are attached to this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 18: Curriculum Night (begins @ 6:30pm)
Sept. 19: K - 6 Literacy Assembly
Oct. 3-5: Hosting Boys Provincial Softball
Oct. 10: Teacher Professional Development Day
Oct. 13: Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Oct. 17-19: Hosting Girls Provincial Softball
Oct. 29: Teacher Professional Development Day
Nov. 7: Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov. 10: Holiday (No school for students)
Nov. 11: Remembrance Day Holiday
Nov. 20: 2013-14 Graduation Awards Night
Nov. 27: Jr./Sr. High Parent-Teacher Interviews
Dec. 4: K - 6 Parent-Teacher Interviews
Dec. 15: K-12 Christmas Concert
Dec. 17: Santa Visit & Turkey Dinner
Dec. 19: Last day before Christmas Break
Jan. 5: School reopens after Christmas Break

Severe Allergies

We have students and teachers with severe allergies at our school. A reaction to certain products and foods could prove to be very harmful for several of our students, and in some cases they could even prove to be fatal. For this reason the school has been declared free of any source of **peanuts, all fish and all perfumes, aftershaves and colognes.**

Curriculum Night

Our annual curriculum night will go ahead next Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 in the school gym. Come out and meet your child's new teacher. We hope to see as many as possible.

Synrevoice

Synrevoice is now the number one method we use to contact parents in regards to school closures, delays or other noteworthy events. Last week Synrevoice was used to inform parents of school opening times and other pertinent information. We attempt to keep all information up to date, therefore if you did not receive a call from the school last week through Synrevoice, please contact the school and we will ensure that you get the calls from the school.

Bussing

The negotiated contract between the School Board and the bussing company has left us with 5 buses again this year. As of now our buses are full, especially the Cape Broyle, Admirals Cove, Brigus South, Calvert buses; therefore students are only allowed to travel on their scheduled bus. We cannot allow students to ride on their friends' bus. Alternate arrangements need to be made. Please check the School District website for bus routes.

Parents Visiting School During the Day

All parents and visitors who come to the school to see their children or to drop off items to them during the school day are to check in at the general office. No parent is permitted to move throughout the building to classrooms. Also, the front doors are now locked during the school day and you will need to be buzzed in by the Office. Once again, the safety of your children is our greatest concern. An environment where adults are moving freely in and out of a building filled with young children is not safe.

Parents Dropping off Students at School

To ensure the safety of all students, we ask that parents not drive onto the school parking lot during arrival and dismissal times for students. No private vehicles are permitted to travel on the road at the rear of the building. Busses are expected to arrive at school at 8:15 in the morning and depart at 2:55 in the afternoon. For no reason is any vehicle to be parked in the fire lane at the front of the building. Parents have often neglected this emergency lane as they park there to pick up their child or to drop something off at the general office. **Any vehicle found to be parked in this emergency lane, with a driver still in the vehicle or not, and for any length of time, will be reported to the local RCMP.** The safety of your children is our greatest concern.

Early Dismissals

If your child has an appointment or a valid reason to leave school early, please send a note to school indicating the time that they are being picked up and who is to pick them up. Due only to sickness or an emergency will students be permitted to call home for an early dismissal. In the past the number of early dismissals has been quite large, especially on Fridays. Classes do go ahead as scheduled on Friday afternoons at Baltimore School and parents are strongly encouraged to ensure their children are indeed in class.

Bell Schedule

Our school day is the same as it has been for the past number of years. First class begins at 8:45am, recess is from 10:45 to 11:00 and lunch break is from 11:54am to 12:36pm (Jr./Sr. High) and 11:54am to 12:45pm (Pri/Elem). Students are dismissed at 2:45pm and the busses leave the parking lot at 2:55pm. Kindergarten students attend school from 12:15- 2:45pm. A reminder that no vehicles are allowed to move onto or from the parking lot when students are boarding the bus at 2:45pm.

Overdue Textbooks and Outstanding Fees

All textbooks are provided free of charge to students at the beginning of each year. It is also an understanding that these textbooks must be returned in good shape at the end of the school year. Under school policy, students will not be given textbooks until all books from the previous year are returned or outstanding fees are paid.

Phone Use

The school has a public pay phone in its lobby area. This is the phone that students are expected to use. The phones in the general office are for teacher use only, except in cases where a student is sick and needs to call for a parent to pick them up. The school has only two lines and neither of these should be tied up with students placing orders at restaurants and calling home asking for permission to leave school early and the like. Cell phones are becoming more of an issue each year. The cell phones are not to be used during class time unless directed by the teacher. They become a distraction for all students. Please do not phone or text your child during school time. If a student is using the cell phone during class time, the phone will be confiscated by the teacher and it will only be returned to a parent/guardian. We must work together to ensure this issue does not become a distraction.

Smoke-Free Grounds and Facilities

Visitors, staff and students are reminded that all buildings, grounds and properties under the jurisdiction of the Eastern School District, are smoke-free. Please respect our smoke-free policy and support us in our efforts to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program will officially begin on Monday, Sept. 30. Breakfast will be available free of charge from 8:15 to 8:45 each morning in the cafeteria. All students are welcome! Because the program starts at 8:15am, **the buses will begin their run approximately 10 minutes early** in order to ensure all students have ample time to get their breakfast. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who have volunteered to help out with our program over the years and we encouraged others to help out also as we still are in need of volunteers. Once again this year we are in search of contributions of money, food, and non-consumable items. The program is a

tremendous success with over 100 students each morning taking part and we would like to see it grow even more. Along with this newsletter is a form requesting help for the Breakfast Program. Please fill out the form if you are able to help with your time or financially. Please contact Ms. Budgell if you have further questions.

Computer Use Permission form

All students must have a computer use agreement form signed by a parent/guardian before access can be given to use the computer network and have internet access. The policy can be viewed on our website or at the NLESD website. Please sign the form that was sent home last week and return to the homeroom teacher.

Recycling

Recycling will once again take place at the school this year. Recyclables can be dropped off at the school beginning Wednesday, September 17th and every Wednesday thereafter. We encourage all parents to participate in this excellent program. Please remove straws and caps and place glass bottles in a box if possible.

Cafeteria Services

Our cafeteria services are provided by Chartwells. A menu for all items is attached to this newsletter. A copy has also been emailed to all parents. Primary and elementary students are requested to have their recess orders and money included in an envelope to be passed in at the beginning of the day.

Consent to Publish

This past week each student was given a "Production Consent Form" to be signed by a parent and returned to their homeroom teacher. This signed consent form is needed in order to publish names, pictures and promote the great work that many of our students do each year.

School Council

Any parent/guardian or community member who would like to become a School Council member for the upcoming year can please forward their name to Mr. Budgell by October 1st. If there are more names than positions, there may be the possibility of an election.

Varsity Sports Committee

The sports program is up and running and off to a very good start this year. The Varsity Committee was organized 5 years ago to oversee varsity sports and help the school better organize all events and to ensure as many students as possible have the opportunity to participate in afterschool sports. If you are interested in helping and want to be a part of this committee, please contact Ms. McGrath at the school, or Paula Battcock. This year Ms. McGrath and Ms. Kavanagh will oversee the committee on behalf of the school.

Yearbooks

The 2013-2014 School yearbooks arrive this week. If you purchased a yearbook last year, please drop

by the school and pick up your book. We have extra copies and if you are interested in purchasing a copy, the cost is \$20.

Literacy Kick-off Assembly

The K – Grade 6 Literacy Program will kick-off on Friday, Sept. 19. The assembly will take place in the cafeteria beginning at 1:30pm and we will then be proceeding back to class where we will share a reading period together. This parent/student reading time has proven to be very successful in the past as students enjoy the part of having their parent/guardian in the classroom reading with them. All parents are welcome to attend.

Head Lice

The head lice seem to have made a re-appearance over the summer as there were cases identified at the Health Clinic. It is still very important for parents to be vigilant in checking their children's heads on a regular basis. A presentation on what to look for and how to treat head lice can be viewed on the School District's website.

Celebrating Women's Health

Community Health will be offering a workshop for women. Ladies, please join us in celebrating Women's Health at Baltimore School on October 4, 2014 from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Meal catered by 'In Da Loop' restaurant and there are prizes to be won. Come learn about important ways to improve your mental and physical well-being. To book, please call/leave a message @432-2930 (Wendy O'Brien) or 432-2832 (Myra Brophy).

GET INVOLVED

Baltimore School is already buzzing with activities. Our softball practices have begun as we will be hosting both the boys (Oct. 3-5) and the girls (Oct. 17-19) provincial tournaments and the Cross-Country practices will begin next week. Encourage your children to get out and participate.

Student Leadership

School Council Executive for the upcoming year are:

Josh Stratton, Dominique Croft, Kristen Ryan, Olivia Carew, Jordan Mayo, Kyle Dalton, Courtney Kavanagh, Shannon Chidley and Victoria Battcock.

Grade 7: Brady Walsh – Rep

Emily Kenny – Alt

Grade 8: Trent O'Brien – Rep

Abby Boland – Alt

Grade 9: Nathan Ryan – Rep

Vanessa Maloney – Alt

Level 1: Kaitlyn Brophy – Rep

Brady Kenny – Alt

Level 2: Joshua Power – Rep

Karrie Ryan – Alt

Yearbook Committee

The members of this year's yearbook committee are: Courtney Kavanagh, Kristen Ryan, Kyle Dalton, Shannon Chidley and Olivia Carew.