



"You Can't Spell BEST without B.E.S!"

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Welcome Back to Breton Elementary!

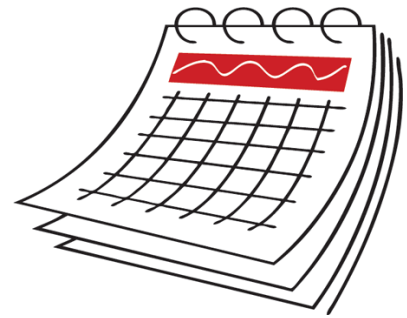
Welcome back to another new school year at BES! We are so excited to see the kids again and to **be able to start the year with NO health/safety restrictions** (other than common sense, of course - ha ha!). This means that we will be able to start up some cross-graded leadership groups, and host activities and events that can involve parents and the greater community. However, our **first priority is always to make sure that kids feel loved and cared for, know that we are excited to see them, and that BES is a fun, happy and safe place to do some powerful learning!**

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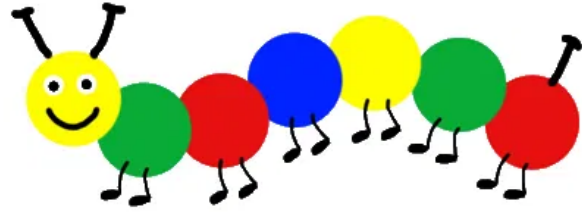


Upcoming Events at Breton Elementary

- September 1: First Day for A-M families (including KG)
- September 2: First Day for N-Z families (including KG)
- September 5: Labour Day (no school)
- September 6: All Grades attend
- September 12: PAC Meeting at 5:00 (in person & virtual)
- September 16: Terry Fox Run
- September 20: Photo Day
- September 21: Back to School BBQ/Meet the Teacher
- September 23: PD Day (no school for students)
- September 30: Orange Shirt Day



Parent Council



Parent Council is looking forward to another amazing year of **supporting and enriching the experiences of students at BES**. They also **look forward to having new parents participate** and partner with them towards this goal.

The first PAC meeting is on **Monday, September 12 at 5:00 pm**. Since parents can physically attend these meetings again, we will hold them **in person** but **also send out a virtual link** for those parents who find it easier to attend online. We encourage parents to participate to **find out more about what PAC is all about** and what exciting goals and projects they have planned for this year.

PAC also wants parents to know that they can **participate in meetings without having to make a long term commitment**. While some roles require more commitment, there are many instances where we need parent **volunteers for a very specific task or event**, at specific times of the year. So though you may not be able to become the Fundraising Coordinator, maybe you might be free one afternoon when we need help handing out Christmas poinsettias, or with the March hot lunch, etc. **We love and appreciate all levels of participation**, as it all supports PAC's goal of enhancing the learning and experiences of kids here at BES.

Some of the things PAC supports with fundraising:

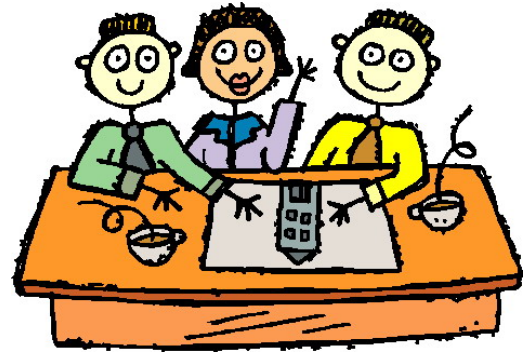
- Field trips (mostly covering busing - it's expensive!)
- Donations for classroom supplies to support curriculum (extra science, math, art and gym equipment)
- Special guest speakers/activities (Inline skating, drama presentations, etc.)
- Technology (our TinkerLab)
- Support of Leadership Groups like the Birthday Brigade; Beautification Team, etc.
- Special "treats" like pizza or ice cream for everyone!

These things help make our little school an AMAZING school and we'd look forward to having more parents join us. So **come check it out, meet new people, get connected to the school community, and help make a difference** to the students and staff at BES!

OUR STAFF

Here are the awesome members of our BES team! Most are familiar, but we have some new additions to our staff.

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Feist
Office Staff: Mrs. Shannon Johnson
Kindergarten: Ms. Krysta McKay
Grade 1: Miss Jenna Paterson**
Grade 2: Mrs. Tammy Pierini
Grade 3: Ms. Gayle Tarkowski
Grade 4: Mr. Fox Johnson
Grade 5: Mr. Craig Dusterhoft
Grade 6: Ms. Julie Saluk



Music/Classroom Support: Mr. Andrew Farrow
Educational Assistants: Mrs. Kim Shokoples
Mrs. Shelly Brierley
Mrs. Heather Schoepp
Miss Pattie Sutherland
Mrs. Connie Henry
Mrs. Lana Spiller

Student Support Services: Ms. Julie Saluk
Learning Commons: Ms. Chantelle Holmgren
Family Wellness Worker: Mrs. Jennifer Olson-Ross
Family Wellness Support: Ms. Chantelle Holmgren
Custodian: Mrs. Elaine Chapman

** Miss Paterson is filling in for Mrs. Gatzke, who is on a continued leave.

Health and Safety Guidelines for 2022-2023

At the writing of this newsletter, there are **NO restrictions** or health recommendations around Covid-19 - such a relief!

That being said...we know that Covid is still out there (though generally in a milder variation), and so are colds, flus and other illnesses, and so **we will still be encouraging staff, students and parents to keep practicing those common sense habits that can keep kids and staff from getting and/or spreading sickness in the school.**



Cleaning/Disinfecting: Custodial staff will still be doing cleaning/disinfecting of high-touch surfaces throughout the day. This is great for minimizing the spread of all germs and illnesses.

Hand Hygiene: Students will still be **encouraged to wash their hands** with soap and water when entering the building, after using the restrooms, after using shared equipment, and of course before eating. Hand sanitizer will be available to any staff/students who would like to use it, but it is not required.

Respiratory Etiquette: We will continue to encourage all staff and students to **use proper etiquette when sneezing or coughing** (sneeze or cough into the elbow or a tissue, not the hand), and to wash hands immediately after.

Sickness and Symptoms: We will still **strongly encourage any student or staff that develops any kind of flu-like/cold/Covid symptoms** (since they can be similar) **to stay home**. This practice last year not only minimized the actual number of COVID cases we had at Breton Elementary, but reduced the overall number of students and staff out with colds and flus tremendously! **We were healthier than ever last year because not only did we minimize Covid spread, but we minimized the spread of the common cold and flu and other nasty germs.**

Visitors and Volunteers: At this point, visitors and volunteers are welcome in the school (providing they are not sick). All visitors and volunteers must check in at the office, sign the guest book, and get a “visitor” lanyard to wear/display while in the building.

We thank in advance for partnering with us in keeping our school population safe and healthy!

Staggered Entry



Schools in Wild Rose School Division are all doing staggered starts again this year for students. This is because many schools reported that having fewer students come on those first couple of days made the “settling in” and “setting up” process much less stressful for staff and students. This year we are having approximately half the students come on Thursday and the other half on Friday.

Students whose last name begins with A - M will attend on Thursday, September 1.

Students whose last name begins with N - Z will attend on Friday, September 2.

All students in will attend starting on Tuesday, September 6, after the long weekend.

*** On these first staggered entry dates, parents are welcome to come into the school with their children (especially new students or KG students) to help them get settled. Otherwise, to avoid congestion in the boot room entrance areas we encourage parents to drop their children off outside the school and let them enter the building on their own.

Morning Bus Arrival and Drop Off Procedures



Buses begin to arrive at the school around 8:15, and will unload students one bus at a time, just like we’ve always done. Parents can also begin dropping off their kids around this time.

***The **bus loading/unloading zone is located along the front sidewalk of the school between the crosswalk all the way to the museum. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS AREA TO DROP OFF YOUR CHILD, EVEN IF THERE ARE NO BUSES PRESENTLY IN THAT ZONE.**

If you are dropping off your child, **please pull up along the curb in front of the school, to the north of the crosswalk.** Or you can stop on the other side of the street and your child can cross in the designated crosswalk area.

Also **please DO NOT PULL INTO THE PARKING LOT TO DROP OFF YOUR CHILD - this is not a designated drop off area,** and it can also interfere with bus loading/unloading as cars move in and out of the parking lot exits.

The bell to go inside will ring at **8:25 am.**

Dismissal and Parent Pick Up at Day's End

Our dismissal bell goes at **3:02 pm**. Parents wanting to pick up their children are **encouraged as much as possible to remain outside to meet their children**. This is **not due to COVID, but to avoid extra congestion and crowding in the front boot room/office area** at the end of the day. Now that classes won't be dismissed on a staggered schedule, that area of the school gets very crowded as 4 classes have to funnel through the boot room.



PLEASE do not park in the bus loading zones, nor close to the crosswalk (on the school side) as this can interfere with the Safety Patrollers being able to see oncoming traffic and helping to cross children safely to the other side.

Back to School Forms and Information

Your child will be bringing home some forms on the first day of school. Included will be the following:

- **Welcome Letter** explaining a bit about our school.
- **“Off Grounds” permission form.** This allows your child to go for walks off school grounds, or go into the ravine for gym or science activities. **Please sign the BACK** side of this form.
- **Information for Volunteering** There is a white form that explains what checks/forms parents need in order to be able to volunteer at the school.
- **School Cash Instructions:** This explains how to set up an account so that you can pay any event or field trip fees online.

Your child's teacher may also send home their own classroom letter and other classroom information - this will be unique to each grade level.

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It's BACK!!!

It's been 3 years since our last one but we are **FINALLY** having our annual "Back to School BBQ/Meet the Teacher" Event!!

We will be hosting this event on **Wednesday, September 22 from**

4:00 - 5:30 pm. Families are welcome to come and enjoy barbecued **hot dogs, juice and cookies**, and then tour the school and **meet their children's teachers and see their classrooms.**

For **families who have joined us** since the beginning of the pandemic or are brand **new to our school**, there will be a **short video presentation in the library about the Leader in Me program** - what it is, and how it supports students in developing strong interpersonal skills, confidence and leadership. This presentation will run at **4:30 and again at 5:00** so we can accommodate different schedules. There will also be handouts to take home to help understand the 7 Habits and what they are, etc.



Terry Fox Run

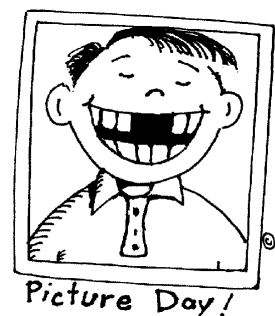


Once again BES is looking forward to our annual Terry Fox Run, and raising money for the Cancer Society through our "Toonies for Terry" money collection drive. The run is (tentatively) **scheduled for Friday, September 16**, as long as weather and track availability cooperate. If it's all good, we will head over to the track at Breton High and walk/run around it for an hour. More details will be coming as we get closer to the date to confirm everything.

School Photos!

Mark your calendars - school photos are coming!

Photos for all students **will be taken on Tuesday, September 20.**



Volunteering at Breton Elementary

With the lifting of all health and safety protocols, we are **once again able to access the wealth of support and expertise in parent volunteers.**

We typically have parents do things to support classrooms such as helping kids with extra practice in learning letters and sounds, numbers and counting as well as extra practice with reading. We also enjoy parent help with PAC events such as fundraiser “distribution” (handing out pies or flower arrangements, or whatever was ordered) and hot lunch help. And once in a while an extra set (or two) of hands is appreciated in preparing learning materials and changing bulletin board displays.

If you are interested in being able to volunteer, you need to have the following paperwork on file:

- **A criminal record check** done through the local RCMP
- **A child intervention check** to be completed online at cs-ircrequest@gov.ab.ca

The Wild Rose School Division Policy states that these **forms must be updated every 3 years** so if you have already submitted these to the school, it might be a good idea to check that they have not expired.

*****A letter is being sent home with each child with information on how to obtain the checks you need.**



Help our Kids Cross Safely!

Our school Safety Patrol program will hopefully be up and running in the next couple of weeks! Students in grades 5 and 6 who are interested in providing this valuable service to our students will attend a training session later this month. Forms will be sent home.

We ask that all parents picking up their children after school respect the Safety Patrollers and model proper use of the crossing service they provide by crossing at the designated crosswalk area. We also ask that parents **DO NOT walk their children BETWEEN buses** for obvious safety reasons.



Thanks for supporting the work of our patrollers and for helping to model correct safety procedures for our students!

Contact Us: Breton Elementary School, Box 220, Breton, AB, T0C 0P0

Phone: 780-696-3555

Email: michelle.feist@wrsd.ca shannon.johnson@wrsd.ca

Follow us on Facebook at Breton Elementary School to keep up with news and events at BES!

