



September 2025

The School Scoop...Your Monthly Dose of Awesome

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

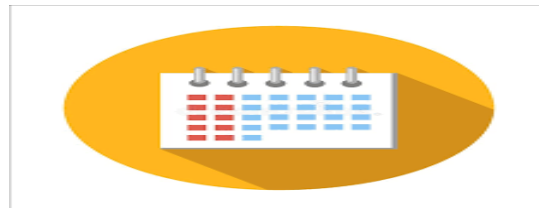
Welcome Back to Breton Elementary!



Welcome to the 2025/26 school year!! We are excited to see all the kiddos again, and to welcome any new families! Though the first weeks of the year can be hectic, our first priority at BES 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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What's Buzzing? Upcoming Events at Breton Elementary



- September 2: First Day for A-M families
- September 3: First Day for N-Z
- September 4: All 1 -6 students attend (KG second half of staggered start)
- September 10: PAC Meeting at 6:00 (in person & virtual)
- September 18: Terry Fox Run
- September 19: PD Day (no school for students)

- September 23: Western Day
- September 25: School Photo Day
- September 29: Orange Shirt Day
- September 30: NO SCHOOL - Truth & Reconciliation Day
- Christmas Concert - December 18th - Mark your calendars!

Parent/Student Handbook

 BES Parent Handbook



Breton Elementary is a K-6 School that averages between 160-180 students each year.

We have a staff of 17 members, including teachers, educational assistants, a Learning Commons Facilitator, Family Wellness Worker, Inclusive Learning Support Teacher and caretaking staff.

Our staff consists of:

Principal:	Ms. Breanna Zanolli
Secretary:	Mrs. Shannon Johnson
KG:	Mrs. Ashley Begg
Grade 1:	Mrs. Krysta Nacuk
Grade 2:	Mrs. Tammy Pierini
Grade 3:	Ms. Gayle Tarkowski
Grade 4:	Mr. Fox Johnson
Grade 5:	Mr. Craig Dusterhoft
Grade 6:	Miss Abrielle Throndson
Music:	Mr. Andrew Farrow
ILST:	Ms. Julie Saluk

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Shelly Brierley
Mrs. Kim Shokoples
Ms. Pattie Sutherland

Learning Commons:	Mrs. Kim Shokoples
Family Wellness Worker:	Mrs. Jennifer Olson-Ross
Caretaker:	Mrs. Elaine Chapman



The 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 **Wednesday, September 10th at 6pm**. Parents can attend in person, but there is also the option to join 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.)
- Support of school programs like Birthday Cups and After School Art club
- 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!

Staggered Entry

Staggered Entry Dates are as Follows:

September 2nd - Students with last names that begin with A-M only attend

September 3rd - Students with last names that begin with N-Z only attend.

September 4th - All Gr. 1-6 Students attend.

*** On these first staggered entry dates, parents are welcome to come into the school with their children (especially new 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.

Our School Day

Our day **begins at 8:25** when the bell will ring to allow students to enter the school. Our day officially **ends at 3:22** at which time students are dismissed. We have **staggered recess times for lower and upper grades**, creating smaller numbers of students on the playground at a time, which allows for easier supervision and access to playground equipment. While one group of students is outside at recess, the other students are eating snacks or lunch.



Recess/Eating Times

	Gr. K-3	Gr. 4-6
10:27 - 10:47	Recess	Snack time
10:47 - 11:07	Snack	Recess
12:52 - 1:12	Recess	Lunch
1:12 - 1:32	Lunch	Recess

Guidelines for a Safe and Healthy School Year

Hand Hygiene: Students are **encouraged** to **wash their hands** with soap and water throughout the day, like 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.

Sickness and Symptoms: We will still **strongly encourage any student or staff that develops any kind of flu-like/cold symptoms to stay home.** This practice greatly minimizes the overall number of students and staff who need to be away due to colds and flus tremendously!

Visitors and Volunteers: All visitors and volunteers are welcome in the school. **All visitors and volunteers must check in at the office and sign the visitor log. Please ensure that your record checks are up to date and the school office has a copy of them.**

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



Morning Bus Arrival and Drop Off Procedures

Buses begin to arrive at the school around 8:10, 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 driving and 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. You can also walk your child up to the school where they can set their backpack along the wall and then go and play until the bell goes at 8:25.

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.

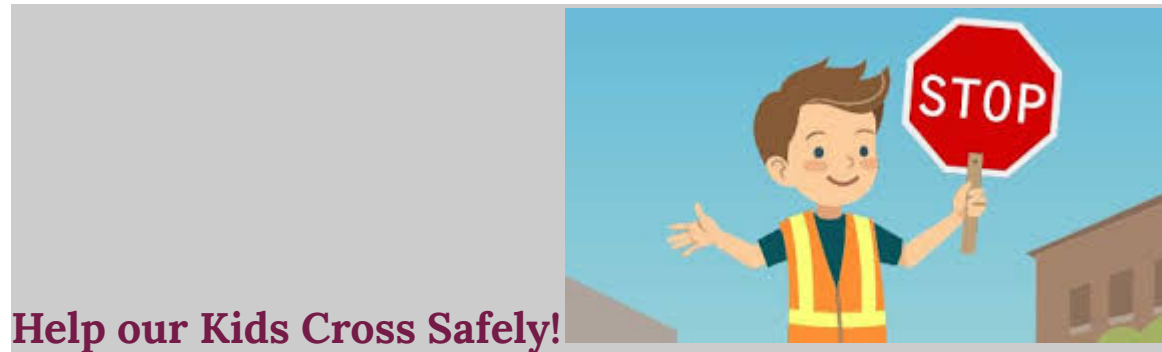
The bell to go inside will ring at **8:25 am.** In the event of inclement weather, students will be invited to go inside upon arrival.

Dismissal and Parent Pick Up at Day's End

Our dismissal bell goes at **3:22 pm.** Parents wanting to pick up their children are **encouraged as much as possible to remain outside to meet their children.** This is **to avoid extra congestion and crowding in the front boot room/office area** at the end of the day.

This 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.



We anticipate having our school Safety Patrol program operational within the next few weeks! Later this month, fifth and sixth graders who are eager to be a safety patroller will get more information.

We kindly request that all parents who pick up their kids from school show consideration for the Safety Patrollers and appropriately utilize the crossing service they offer by using the designated crosswalk location. For obvious safety concerns, we also encourage parents not to walk their kids between buses.

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

Back to School Forms and Information



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

- **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.

****PLEASE NOTE:** The “**Local Field Trip Form**” (permission to go in the ravine or on walks around the village) and “**Demographic/Emergency Contact**” information **must be filled out online** using your Powerschool account. (These will be uploaded in the next couple of weeks).

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

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 Thursday, September 18th. Stay tuned for more information to come closer to this date.**



September School Spirit Day - Western Day!



We have planned this year to have a school spirit/dress up day once a month in order to have some fun and allow staff and students to express some creativity. Our first school spirit day should be easy for most kids to participate in – **Western Day!** On **September 23rd**, we encourage students to come dressed up in some rootin’ tootin’ cowboy gear to celebrate all things western. So you have a few weeks to shine up those cowboy boots and dust off any cowboy hats!

School Photos



Mark your calendars – school photos are on **September 25th.**

Volunteering at Breton Elementary



If you are **interested** in being able to volunteer in your child's classroom or within the school, **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.**

What's the Scoop at Breton Elementary...

We strive to keep you up to date with the most current information, upcoming events and exciting learning that is happening!

- **Breton Elementary Facebook Page:** This is our **most up-to-date way of communicating** information to families. Our Facebook page is where we share photos of our students doing fun and interesting activities, along with upcoming events to be aware of. **We encourage parents to follow us on Facebook to make sure you don't miss out on information** and super cute pictures of your kids!
- **School newsletter** - This comes out at the **beginning of each month** and is **emailed directly to families**. The newsletter will contain any important dates and information about Parent Council news, school events and spirit days, field trips, hot lunch dates, etc. **If you are not receiving these, please contact the office to make sure we have your correct email address.** Paper copies are also available to be sent home on request.
- **Emails:** There are times when new/important information has to be shared with all families in-between monthly newsletters. This will come in the form of an email. So please **make sure we have your correct email address at the school.**
- **Classroom Communication-** some teachers send home monthly newsletters detailing topics of study for the month, and any special events; **others use phone apps** to communicate with parents. Your child's teacher will let you know how they like to keep you informed about classroom events as well as how you can best contact them.
- **Breton Elementary Website:** This can be reached by first going to the Wild Rose School Division website, then clicking on the link for "schools". To be honest, our website is in need

of some updating and restructuring, and this is a project we are going to be undertaking this year. It will contain our school supply lists and some other information, but it is not the “go to” place for weekly and monthly happenings. By the end of our restructuring/updating we hope to have the monthly newsletters uploaded there as well, and begin to post photos of school events. It is a work in progress!

If you have any questions about anything going on at the school, please feel free to contact the office or your child's teacher.

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

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