



# Barriere Elementary School

## Care, Connect, Contribute

September 2017 Newsletter



Welcome Back to the 2017-2018 School year!

Barriere Elementary staff is excited to open its doors again to welcome back to school students, parents and caregivers in our community. We are pleased to welcome returning staff members, including Mrs. Ashley MacDougall, who will be joining us in the intermediate division, and Ms. Salvati who will be taking on our part time Teacher-Librarian role. A huge BES welcome goes out to our new families who have recently moved to Barriere and will be joining our school community. We hope everybody had a summer holiday filled with fun, adventure, a little rest and lots of time with family and friends, and maybe even a few smoke free days too.

I look forward to the year ahead and the opportunity to continue to work with students, staff, parents and the community to continue to support Barriere Elementary as an exciting environment to learn, laugh and grow in.

Now, as every September before, it's time to dig into another great school year which includes...working hard to get back into the daily routines of early mornings, making lunches, riding the bus, making new friends, settling into new classes, growing independence and taking on new responsibilities for learning and student citizenship.

Here is to a great new school year!

Thank you to the parents/caregivers for your patience and understanding while the final student placements in classes are being made .

Mr. Cory Carmichael

~ Principal

### A NEW LOOK FOR BES

As many who have driven by the school over the summer have seen, BES has experienced a bit of a facelift, well at least the parking lot and basketball courts. We are excited about our new look, and as you may have noticed, fences have been replaced by cement barriers. This change has increased visibility a great deal, but also means students have the potential for greater ability to dart in and out of these barriers. So, with that knowledge, please be attentive, careful and slow when approaching the school parking lot.

*Kindergarten Gradual Entry begins Friday, September 8th, 2017.*

All Kindergarten students in the Kamloops/Thompson School District are required to attend a full day of school (8:30am-2:30pm) by Wednesday, September 13th. In order to ease the transition from home to school, we are inviting children to visit the Kindergarten classroom for shorter periods of time. Families should have previously signed up for "Welcome to K!" visit times and a "Welcome to K Interview" (parent-child-teacher interviews). Sign-up sheets were made available at the Kindergarten Orientation in June. If you have not signed up for these sessions, please call the school A.S.A.P.

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## CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS

All students are placed in colour groups for the first week of school, while classroom placements are finalized. The staff works hard in developing placements for students, taking into consideration a variety of factors: individual specific learning needs, academic groupings, independence level, allocated staffing resources, behavioural concerns, male/to female ratio, class regulation sizes etc. Parent requests are appreciated and given consideration, but at the end of the day not all accommodations can be made and final placement of children is the school's responsibility.

Each year staff wrestles with placement decisions and it is usually the case that the majority of placements are fine. Worries that might seem enormous during the first few days of school usually disappear once classroom programs and relationships have been established. As parents, you can do a lot to dispel your child's insecurities about this through your positive encouragement, support and consistent messaging. Each year is a new opportunity to make new friends, experience different learning environments and develop new social, academic and individual skills leading to increased resiliency and personal independence.

*Thank you to the parents/caregivers for your patience and understanding while the final student placements in classes are being made.*

## WAYS PARENTS CAN SUPPORT TEACHERS...

Teachers, and all staff, at Barriere Elementary are committed to helping each other and every student be the best they can be. We want to work together with parents and caregivers to provide opportunities for our students to grow and flourish and for students to see that parents and school staff are a team. Below are a few suggestions that you, as parents, can use as a reference, to help us and your child have a successful school year.



### *Get Both Sides of the Story*

The majority of the problems between parents and teachers can be solved by giving each other a chance to tell their side of the story. Children will often give an account of what happened in a way that avoids placing any negative light on themselves, and this can lead to big misunderstandings. As a parent it is hard not to believe every word that your child says and to take his or her word for fact, but just remember that before becoming upset or displeased with a teacher, you should give that individual the opportunity to share their perspective of the story...never make assumptions or jump to conclusions.

### *Be Patient*

Beginning a new school year with a new teacher, and different, often harder standards, is challenging for many students. Often they will complain the work is too hard, they have too much homework or that the teacher isn't fair. Sometimes when a student says they don't like a new teacher, it really translates into the reality that they do not like having to do harder work than they did the year before. Please bear with the teacher over the first few weeks and take any complaints from your child with a grain of salt, and don't hesitate to contact the teacher or the school. The most profound academic learning and emotional resilience often occurs when we are challenged and placed out of our comfort zone.

### *Avoid Negativity in the Home*

There are times when you may be upset with your child's teacher. When this happens, I would ask that parents deal directly with the teacher and avoid speaking about the matter in a negative way in front of their children. If a parent shows disrespect for the teacher at home, the child may feel that she or he has the right to show the same disrespect in the classroom. I will also say that if you do have an issue with your teacher and call me to discuss it, I will, in most cases refer you back to the teacher if you have not discussed it with them first. In my experience, and in most cases, most issues can be resolved in a respectful manner, and it is almost always better when done face to face. If you have made an attempt to resolve the matter with the teacher and no progress is made, then please contact the school to set a meeting up with the principal.

### *Contact Teachers During Appropriate Times*

Please do not show up at your child's classroom unexpected to have an important discussion. Teachers love to have parents visit the school, sit in during lessons, and talk about their child's progress. All of those things, however, should be scheduled. When teachers are in the middle of a lesson they have prepared to engage a range of learners with a variety of needs, it is distracting and difficult to break the flow to have a hallway discussion that is unexpected. If you do have an emergency where you need to speak to someone or pick up your child, please contact the front office and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

## **Safe Arrival : Toll free number 1-844-350-2647**

A reminder for parents new to BES and the Kamloops/Thompson school district, SD73 has moved to an automated safe arrival program. **This means that parents must call into the system before 8:30 in the morning. Any student arriving after 8:30 will be considered late or absence, triggering the automated system to call home/cell for up to twenty minutes until a response is logged indicating the reason for the student's absence.**

**Please contact the school for more information or go to the link below**

<http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com>

If you have an Android or Apple device, you can also download the SafeArrival app. You can go to the Google Play store or the Apple App and search using the keyword "safearrival" (one word) to download the Synrevoice SafeArrival app.

## **AFTER SCHOOL PLANS**

After school is a busy and hectic time in the office, so...Please ensure that your child knows his/her after school plans/schedule before leaving for school in the morning, including bus routes, after school programs and/or prearranged pick up.

## **PAC ~ Parent Advisory Council**

**One very important group at each school is the PAC. We appreciate your continued support of this organization. The PAC is an advisory council, a fund raiser, and a supporter of the school. Without their efforts and contributions the school landscape would look very different! Please contact the school for more information regarding PAC meetings and schedule.**

## **New Bell Schedule 2017-2018**

Welcome Bell: Students enter the Building	8:20 am
Warning Bell: Students ready at their desks	8:35 am
School Starts: Students ready to learn	8:40 am
Recess	10:25 am
Lunch Starts: Play time outside	12:00pm
Lunch Meal time in classrooms	12:45 pm
School starts after lunch	1:00pm
Dismissal	2:40 pm
Bus Warning Bell	2:50 pm

## LOCKERS

Lockers have been assigned to students at the rate of one locker for every two students. Should the pair wish to put a lock on the locker, we request that it be a combination lock only, with the combination being recorded with the teacher.

## MEDICAL ALERT PLANNING

**Parents:** Remember, it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school. Contact the school office if you would like more information or to pick up the required forms. If your child already has a form on file at school please review and update the plan as soon as possible. School District personnel are not permitted to administer medication to students unless specifically authorized to do so by a Doctor. Please ensure you obtain a form/s from us that authorize the school to administer a prescription or identify the steps to take in a medical emergency. All medications must be clearly identified, labelled with your child's name. School staff is also not permitted to administer non-prescription medication either (aspirin, advil, tylenol etc.) with the appropriate documents provided to the school.



## NUT ALLERGIES

At BES we have several members of the staff, as well as students, who have severe allergies to nuts. These individuals carry EPI-PENS, but an allergic reaction can result in an emergency situation and hospitalization with life threatening consequences. As a parent I can relate to how difficult it is to get my child to eat their lunch or actual identify food groups they will eat. However, I cannot stress enough that at BES the importance of making sure students are sent with nut free lunch and snack options in all classes from K-7. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Lunch Program

The lunch program will be available again this year, starting on Monday, Sep 11th, for students who would like to participate. Punch cards are available from Mrs. Eustache in the Breakfast Room.

## WANTED: VOLUNTEER NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS

We are in need of parents or caregivers for this important position. Although we have a core group of supervisors for our noon hour break, many are attached to specific students with individual needs. As a noon hour supervisor, you have the opportunity to meet and get to know our amazing students, while contributing to a safe, caring and nurturing environment. As a commitment, we are completely flexible with whatever your schedule allows you to contribute.



Please contact Mr. C. Carmichael if you are interested in joining our team.

## Volleyball Already



Yes...even though Volleyball is still a few weeks away, we are getting prepared already. A big thank you to Mrs. Matthews, who will be heading up our volleyball endeavours this year, as well as to Mr. Allan who will be supporting Mrs. Matthews in coordinating athletics at BES this year. So, if you would like to volunteers and help support student athletes, please contact the school.

# SCHOOL STAFF:

Principal: Mr. C Carmichael

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. P. Migl

## Certified Education Assistants:

Mrs. R. Buchanan

Ms. A. Salle

Ms. S. Harper

Ms. L. Eustache, FNEW

Ms. C. Beeds

Ms. W. Sabyan

Ms. T. Murphy

## Primary Teaching Staff:

Mrs. L. Young

Mrs. L. Underhill

Mrs. M. Peterson

Mrs. L. McGravey

Mrs. K. Matthews

Miss R.Hoffman

## Intermediate Staff:

Mrs. L. Dunstan

Mrs. A. MacDougall

Miss C. Oates

Mr. K. Allan

Mr. B. Boulter

## Learning Assistance Resource Teacher:

Ms. J. Schilling

## Primary and Intermediate Prep:

Mrs D. Fraser

## Teacher Librarian:

Ms. J. Salvati

## Librarian Assistant:

Ms. A. Kennedy

## StrongStart Facilitator:

Mrs. T. Murphy

## School and Family Consultant:

Mrs. J. Kerslake

## Speech/Language Pathologist:

Ms. A. Wright

## School & Family Consultant

Mrs. J. Kerslake

## Custodial Staff:

Ms. P. Brown

Ms. B. Perpet

## 2017/2018 Teacher/classroom assignments:

Please note that depending on increased student enrolment may lead to reconfiguration of classes and the creation of combined classes.

DIV 001	Mr. Boulter	Gr. 6/7
DIV 002	Mr. Allan	Gr. 6/7
DIV 003	Ms. Dunstan	Gr. 5/6
DIV 004	Ms. Oates	Gr. 4
DIV 005	Mrs. Matthews	Gr. 3
DIV 006	Miss Hoffman	Gr. 2/3
DIV 007	Ms. McGravey	Gr. 2
DIV 008	Mrs. Peterson	Gr. 1/2
DIV 009	Mrs. Underhill	Gr. 1
DIV 010	Mrs. Young	Gr. KF
DIV 011	Mrs. MacDougall	Gr. 4/5

## BUS DRIVERS & ROUTES

Bus Number	Route	Driver
A1732	East Lake (29)	Kathy Grummit
6734	McLure (33)	Simon Jung
A4736	Cahilty (27)	Sharon Threatful
A4737	Little Fort (31)	Rolf Brem
A8736	Chu Chua (30)	Jack Kelley
A3736	Brennan Creek	Lance Naylor

*Students who live in town are welcome to ride the following buses:*

Barriere Ridge Stop – Little Fort bus (AM ONLY) & East Barriere (PM ONLY)

Barriere Laundromat Stop – Chu Chua bus

Connor Road Stop – Squam Bay bus

Armour Mountain Stop – Squam Bay bus

If you have any problems or questions regarding bus routes, please call the Barriere Bus Garage @ 250-672-9313 or the Kamloops District Transportation Department @ 250-372-5853. As you can appreciate the school cannot be responsible for organizing and monitoring over 150 students and their bus schedules. It is vital that families arrange for and plan their child's daily transportation to and from the school. We appreciate your understanding with this issue.

## Barriere StrongStart



**DATE:** Monday - Friday

**TIME:** 8:30 - 11:30

**PLACE:** Barriere Elementary School  
4475 Airfield Road

Every morning from 8:30 to 11:30, early childhood educator Tracy Murphy welcomes parents and caregivers and their preschool-aged children to the FREE drop in center, to join in early learning fun.

While attending StrongStart BC programs you can expect to learn and play with your child, interact and make new friends, plus find ways to assist your child learn their numbers, letters, printing skills and early literacy skills.

## FRONT OFFICE SIGN IN

All Visitors to the school, including parents, must check in at the front office. This allows us to keep track of who is in our school as well as minimize disruption to the classroom teacher and students. We appreciate your support and cooperation!

## **\$chool Fee\$**

In an ideal world we wouldn't have to charge school fees...but we are not there.

School fees play a vital role in the operation of the school and how we are able to support students and create learning opportunities for them. I understand that often paying the whole lump-sum fee at once can be a challenge or is not possible. Please see myself if this is the case and we can work out a payment schedule that supports parents, students and school.

A list of school fees for the upcoming school year will be sent home with students shortly.

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# **Barriere Elementary School Calendar 2017-2018**

**Days in session 193 • Non instructional days 8**

Labour Day	September 4 <sup>th</sup>
School Opens	September 5 <sup>th</sup>
Non-Instructional Day- <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	September 22 <sup>rd</sup>
LifeTouch Photography-Individual School Photos	September 20 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	October 9 <sup>th</sup>
Early Closure Parent Teacher Interviews	October 26 <sup>th</sup>
Non Instructional Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
LifeTouch Photography- Retakes	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Remembrance Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	November 13 <sup>th</sup>
First Term Report Cards Distributed	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Non Instructional Day- <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	December 4 <sup>th</sup>
Last Day before Christmas Vacation	December 22 <sup>nd</sup>
School Reopens after Christmas Vacation	January 8 <sup>th</sup>
Non Instructional Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	January 19 <sup>th</sup>
Family Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	February 12 <sup>th</sup>
Non Instructional Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	February 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Second Term Report Cards Distributed	March 16 <sup>th</sup>
Last Day before Spring Break	March 16 <sup>th</sup>
First Day back after Spring Break	March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Easter Monday – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Non Instructional Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Non-Instructional Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	May 18 <sup>th</sup>
Victoria Day – <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	May 21 <sup>st</sup>
Last Day of School for Students:	June 28 <sup>th</sup>
Early Dismissal, Third Term Report Cards, Bus Pick-up 12:15pm	
Administrative Day	June 29 <sup>th</sup>