



Barriere Elementary School

Newsletter November 2019

Care – Connect- Contribute

Upcoming Events

Picture Retakes	Nov 5 (new date!)
Remembrance Day assembly	Nov 8 @10:45am
Remembrance Day, no school	Nov 11
BES Book Fair	Nov 18-20
Inservice Day, no school	Dec 2
Christmas Concert, afternoon and evening performance	Dec 19
Winter Break	Dec 23-Jan 3

Principal's message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are starting our third month of the school year. This month is packed with great opportunities for our students.

We will have our first recognition assembly for the year on Monday, November 4 at 8:45am. If your child is being recognized at this assembly, their teacher will be in contact with you. On Friday, November 8th, our Remembrance Day assembly will be presented in the gym. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

During the week of November 18-20, our annual Book Fair will be on in our library. Thank you to Mrs. Leone and Mrs. Kennedy for organizing this for our school. We appreciate your dedication to our library and the students!

Our Presentation of Learning is postponed to March or April. Please contact your child's teacher for information about your child's progress.

Thank you to our hard working PAC for the fabulous carnival last month. It was very well attended. The next PAC events are Hot Lunch on Nov 4 and the Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser (Nov 4-13).

As the weather is turning cold, students are reminded to bring coats, pants, gloves and hats to school on a regular basis. Please remind your child to wear their coats during recess and lunch.

Hope to see you at some of our events this month!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Hawkins

Blazers Hockey Game

We are excited to announce we have free tickets to give away to our families. The game will be Friday, November 29. There will be a maximum of 4 tickets per family. We only have a limited number of tickets to give away so interested families will be put in a draw. Please email Mrs. Hawkins or contact the office if you are interested in entering in the draw. Due date for the draw is Monday, November 25 - 8:40 am. If your family won the draw, you will be contacted by email or phone.

Volleyball

Thank you to Mrs. Matthews and Mr. McCaugherty for coaching our girls volleyball team this year. They have a couple more weeks of the regular season. The girls are learning and improving every game. Way to go, girls!

WITS Program

At Barriere, we have started to use the WITS program to support peaceful problem solving. It teaches students to make safe and positive choices about peer conflict. It provides a common language for children and the adults to use in the school environment.

The WITS program stands for: **W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out, **S**eek help
The program is being taught school wide as well as in classrooms.

This same language can also be used at home. Talking about WITS at home teaches children to apply these strategies beyond the school walls. When parents help children process strategies to deal with conflicts, they empower their children to stand up for themselves, show they are available to help solve problems and teach their children the skills they need to solve problems before they escalate.

Four Steps for Solving Sibling or Peer Conflicts recommended by the WITS program

1. Ask what the conflict is about.
2. Ask the children which of their WITS they could use to solve the conflict. They may need to try all the WITS strategies in order to find a resolution.
3. Ask what they think might happen if they used their WITS.
4. Talk about why using their WITS is a better choice than fighting.

If you would like more information on the WITS program, visit <https://witsprogram.ca>.

Curling

Youth curling will soon begin at the Barriere Curling Rink for students in grade 1-6. Curling will start **November 4th** and run until **February 10th**. They will break over our same **Christmas** break. Lessons will be on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:30, and the cost of the program is \$20.00. **STUDENTS ARE TO COME PREPARED DRESSED IN LAYERS WITH CLEAN RUNNING SHOES, GLOVES, STRETCHY CLOTHING AND A COAT.**

The bus will drop students off at the high school and then the students will walk to the curling rink on Dunn Lake Rd. You have the option of driving your child to curling. You can pick up your child at the curling rink at 4:30.

Parent volunteers are also needed as on-ice helpers, in the kitchen making snacks, and for clean up.

Registration forms are at the office. Questions? Please contact Mrs. MacDougall for more information.

Find your Fit

Find Your Fit is a career related, interactive event which is coming to Barriere Secondary on Tuesday November 5th throughout the day for the secondary students. They are staying through to the late afternoon and evening for community members, parents and any students in grade 5-6 (and any grade 7-12 students who want to come back).

WEBSITE

<https://barriere-elem.sd73.bc.ca/>

As you may already be aware of, we have an updated website. You will find lots of useful information on the website (i.e. dates, important events, newsletters, Parent Advisory Council information, Breakfast Program information).

Please check it out!

SD73 mobile app

(Please be advised that this is not the Safe Arrival app!)

SD73, our staff and our schools are committed to communicating with parents in as many ways as possible. We want you to know what is happening in regards to the education of your children!

Our mobile app is our latest tool. Once downloaded to your Apple or Android smartphone or tablet, the app will allow you to choose to receive news about your school straight to your device, and allow us the opportunity to reach out to you when we have important news to share.

Key functions of our app includes:

- Receive notifications about alerts, incidents or critical events in your school
- Subscribe to receive updates from your school
- Download invites for specific events at your school, including ProD days, concerts, sport events, etc. to your personal calendar
- Stay in touch with school staff

For further information please check out the SD73 district site

<https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/mobile-app.aspx>

School Fees

Thank you to those who have already paid for school fees. 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. If you have not had a chance to pay your fees, please contact the office asap. We understand that often paying the whole lump sum fee at once can be a challenge or is not possible. Please see Mrs. Hawkins if this is the case and we can work out a payment schedule that supports parents, students and school.

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 in the morning. Any student arriving after 8:40am will be considered late or absent, 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

www.go.schoolmessenger.ca

If you have an Android or Apple device, you can also download the SafeArrival

AFTER SCHOOL PLANS & CELL PHONES

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.

Students may use cell phones to communicate with parents before or after school or at appropriate break times. Cell phones are not to be used in class and must be stored away securely, and at the students own risk. Please review with your child the appropriate times to use their cell phone, and remind them that they are not to video, take pictures or post images of other children/students. Please be mindful that you are not texting your child during class time as this is a distraction and disruption to their learning. If you have a message that can not wait until the end of the day, please contact the school and the message will be delivered to your child.

BIKES, SCOOTERS & OTHER FUN THINGS

Many of our students make their way to and from school on two or multi-wheeled forms of transportation. Please review with your children how to safely operate their bike, board or scooter, be aware of traffic and to wear their helmets.

Scholastic Book Fair

When? - November 18-20

Where? - BES Library

Time - Nov. 18th, 9:00am – 3pm

Nov. 19th, 9:00am – 6pm

Nov. 20th, 9:00am - 3pm

Early Arrival

Our school doors are open at 8:20 am each day to welcome back our students for another day of learning.

On cold weather days, please be mindful of sending your child too early. Thank you for your consideration and support with early arrival.