



Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi

Ecole Barrhead Elementary School

November 2011 Newsletter








Rising to the Challenge
Relève le défi



Please post at home

November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 6C to Keir Care Library Used Book Sale	5 Library Used Book Sale
6	7 P/T/S Interviews: K3 & K5	8  Photo Retake Day 9:00 am P/T/S Interviews: K4 & K6	9 P/T/S Interviews K3	10 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30 - Wear Red Gr 2 Swim 1:30 K4 P/T/S Interviews	11  Remembrance Day - No school	12
13	14 Mid- semester break - no school	15	16 Parent Council Meets 7:00 in Staff Room	17 Gr 5 Swim 2:00 	18 6B to Keir Care Gr 3 Skate 1:30	19
20	21 K1 P/T/S Interviews	22 P/T/S Interviews: K2 & K8	23 K1 P/T/S Interviews	24 Cultural Performance: Infinitus Gr 2 to Arden Theatre K2 & K8 P/T/S Interviews	25 6C to Keir Care	26
27	28	29 Gr 1 Swim 1:30 	30 2:30 Early Dismissal 			

Parents/Visitors

Please park your vehicle along the fence (street side) in **FRONT** of the school.



The parking spaces along the fence line (angle parking) are reserved for BES/BCHS staff and the Public Library staff/patrons. **Behind the school is reserved for buses and staff.**

There are no spots for public parking behind the school for the public.

Students away



Please phone the office if your child is going to be away from school for any reason. If a child is absent, office staff will phone parents to make sure that they are aware of their child's absence at school. It saves staff much time when you phone in.

FROM THE SCHOOL BUS LANE...



Please contact your school bus driver when your child will not be on the bus. You may contact them the night before, or before they leave for their morning run.

Virtues News



Can we teach kids to care? Well, it's a big job, but we can start by fostering empathy in our students. To develop empathy, students must be encouraged to become aware of others' feelings and to see situations from alternate points of view. Homeroom teachers have been introducing our virtue through a variety of activities in their classrooms: *Talking about the student's feelings, How cliques make kids feel left out, Dealing with Bullies, and the Scoop on Gossip* to cite a few. Grade 3 students will be decorating our virtues bulletin boards with the Empathy Theme.

Hello..... Goodbye..... BES Staff Changes

Welcome to our newest program assistants:

Wenda O'Malley - K3 & K8

Natasha Campbell - K1 & K2

Denise Degner - 4B

Welcome back to teacher, Joanne Kolstad. Mrs. Kolstad comes back to Grade 1F from a maternity leave. Mme Bibby will continue to work in 1F one day a week.

We bid a sad farewell to Janine Williams from 4B. Janine decided to go back to working as a nurse. She has promised to come back to work here as a sub when she can.

Setting Goals



Huge thanks to all of you who came with your children to meet with your child's teacher(s) to set goals for this school year. We feel blessed that so many of you took time to support what we do!

Early Dismissal



During early dismissal times teachers continue their work on Assessment for Learning and begin work on Differentiated Instruction. Teachers continue to seek out ways to engage their students in learning by working together in grade groups and cross-grade groups. New ideas are explored and techniques shared. Our early dismissal date for this month is November 30.

Photo Retake Day



If you are planning to have your child's picture retaken or taken for the first time, mark November 8 on your calendar. Parents of Monday/Wednesday ECS students will need to bring their children in that morning.

Kindergarten Student-Led Conferences



Kindergarten students are bringing their parents to student-led conferences this month. Thanks to all kindergarten parents who fit this valuable school activity into their busy schedules! Dates and times are booked with your child's teacher. Please make sure you book your time.

We are doing our Part!



We at BES are doing our part to keep our world clean. During the months of September and October, BES has recycled over \$543 worth of juice boxes and milk containers. Keep the great efforts going everyone!!

Recognition



Teachers have chosen a variety of ways to recognize student achievement and growth this year. Kindergarten, Grades One, Two and Three are continuing the tradition of Recognition Assemblies with assemblies being held in the Amphitheatre. Teachers pick 2 - 4 students from their classrooms to be recognized per assembly. Students receive a certificate while their teacher explains why the student is receiving the award. Parents of students receiving awards are invited to attend.

The Spirit Club



The BES Spirit Club was created last year, for grade 5/6 students, whose mandate it is to "make the sun shine even brighter at BES". The Spirit Club does a variety of activities such as Decorating Bulletin Boards, Announcements, Fun Days (November's is "Wear Red - November 10 in honour of Remembrance Day). Approximately 5 dedicated teachers are putting together their time and ideas to create a culture of fun and virtue at BES.

Roots of Empathy Program



Theme 1 "Meeting Baby" was started in October. All the students are very excited to meet their babies and their parents. ROE would like to welcome our 3 babies and their parents to BES. 1A and 1B welcome Kingston Tiggelaar, 1C welcomes Ariauna Fisler and 1F welcomes Gabriel Meunier. The next theme is "Crying". Bulletin boards have been set up in the classrooms to showcase our babies. Mrs. Van Loenen and Mrs. Hubscher are our ROE instructors this year.

Rural Crime Watch Winners!



Our students were asked to participate in a drawing contest making pictures for the Rural Crime Watch calendar.

The following students' drawings were

chosen as area winners:

Grade 2:

- 1 - Shaelynn Rochon
- 2 - Hayden Archibald

Grade 4:

- 1 - Amelia Chase
- 2 - Kayleen Douglas
- 3 - Zoie Parks

Grade 3:

- 1 - Riley Schaffrick
- 2 - Zoë Kaplan
- 3 - Maddy Ehl

Grade 5:

- 1 - Charly Robblee
- 2 - Keith Bowick
- 3 - Brooklyn Murrell

Remembrance Day



Reminder: If your son or daughter is a Brownie, Scout, Cadet, or Junior Forest Warden, please ask them to wear their uniforms to the Remembrance Day

assembly on November 10th. All other students are asked to wear red. The assembly is scheduled to begin at 10:30 am and scheduled to run for about an hour. All parents of the host house, Mount Denali Eagles (K8, 1C, 2B, 3B, 3/4F 5A, & 6B) are most welcome to attend.

Knitting Club



Knitting Club will begin after the Remembrance Day long weekend.

Registration forms will be going home on November 1 and we are very excited to get started. Once all registrations are collected the students will get a

letter confirming their knitting day. Thank you to all interested students and volunteers! New knitters will receive their supplies at the first meeting. We are going to have a great time!

Lunch Program Fundraiser Cookbooks for Sale



The FCSS Hot Lunch Program has cookbooks for sale as a fundraiser for the Program. They will make great gift exchange gifts or stocking stuffers for

only \$5 each. The books include many recipes from cookies to casseroles. They're sure to please anyone on your gift list. The cookbooks can be purchased from the FCSS office (674-3341) or the Barrhead Elementary School Kitchen.

Pantry Parcel



Are you going through a rough patch in your life or do you know someone who does not have enough to eat? Have you exhausted the number of times you can access the Food Bank? There is help available for you. St. Anne's Parish is offering Pantry Parcels to people who are having difficulty feeding their families. This program is open to elderly people, families with children, single moms or anyone else who is having some financial difficulties. To access the program all you need to do is phone St. Anne's parish office at 780 674 2662 and ask for Fr. Martin or call 780 674 6948 and ask for Deacon

BES Advisory Association News



Thank you all so much for your support of our **Mom's Pantry** fundraising project. The order has been submitted and the 'goods' will arrive on **Wednesday November 16th**. You will be able to pick up your orders between **Noon and 7:00 pm on the 16th**. Please remember that you are responsible for picking up all orders that your child collected - they will not be sent home with students. We are looking for volunteers to help out on the 16th with sorting and distributing orders, if you are able to help out for any amount of time between 9 am and 7 pm please contact Corrinna Walker at 780-674-7649.



Our next BES School Council/Advisory Association meeting is on **Wednesday November 16th at 7:00 pm** in the BES Staff room. Please join us to learn about things happening in your school, and to provide us with your opinion on how things are being done, and what you would like to see changed. Our Principal, Mr. Bujold, will be in attendance and Junior High students will be on-hand to provide babysitting in the gym. We hope to see you there.

Keep up the great work of being involved with your child's education. Have a great November.

From the Library



A big thank you to everyone who visited our Scholastic Book Fair. Your purchases helped the Library add more great books to the collection. Congratulations also to all our contest winners.



A gentle reminder to be kind to your library books. Handle books gently and with clean hands. Put library books inside a clean, dry plastic bag when carrying it inside your backpack. At home, after reading them, place books in a dry, out of the way place off the floor, away from your bed, and safe from pets or younger brothers or sisters. Remind yourself when Library Day is with a note on your fridge or bathroom mirror.

Big congratulations to Mrs. Shrode's Class 1A, our "Libeary" Bear winners for the month of October: These students did an outstanding job of

remembering to return their library books on time.
Give yourselves two thumbs up!



Reminder to families: The Library is open evenings until 8pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Library is great place for a family outing, to play board games, chess and check out information



Mark on your calendar Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 to 3pm for the Library's "Country Christmas", an afternoon of family activities, crafts, games, entertainment and refreshments.



The Friends of the Library are taking orders this week for live Christmas wreaths, and wreaths made of bird seed. Proceeds will purchase more books for our Young Adult collection.

Also this week, November 4 & 5 is the Library's Big Used Book Sale, with lots of used children's books for sale for a small donation. Drop in for some great bargains.



The Library will be closed Friday, November 11.

There will be no school November 11, 12, 13, and 14. Classes will resume again on November 15. Have a great long weekend everyone.



Making Math Count For Your Child

This is a resource from Alberta School Boards Association Resources for Families.

Your children will develop more confidence in their math ability if they understand the following points:

Problems can be solved in different ways

While math problems may have just one answer, there may be many ways to get to that answer. Learning math is more than getting the answer right; it's a process of solving problems and applying what is learned to new problems.

Wrong answers sometimes can be useful

Accuracy is always important in math. However, sometimes a wrong answer opens the door to helping children figure out why they made mistakes. Analyzing wrong answers can help children understand the concepts underlying a problem and apply reasoning skills to arrive at the correct answer.

Ask your children to explain how they solved math problems. Their explanations might help you discover if they need help with number skills, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, or with the concepts involved in solving the problem.

Encourage risk taking in math

Help your children see the value of trying to solve a problem, even if it's difficult. As they work, encourage them to talk about what they are thinking. This will help them strengthen math skills and become independent thinkers and problem solvers.

Doing math in your head is handy

Mathematics isn't restricted to pencil and paper activities. Mental math (in your head) is a handy for calculating tips in restaurants and estimating how much gas you can afford. Involve your kids in these calculations.

Other tips to help your kids with math

Visit your children's schools. Meet with their teachers and ask how your children approach mathematics. Do they enjoy it? Do they participate actively? Do they understand assignments and complete them accurately? If teachers indicate that your children have problems with math, ask for specific things you can do to help them.

Check math homework and other assignments. If older children are having trouble finishing assignments, check their work, too. After your children's teachers return math homework, have your children bring it home so that you can read the comments to see if they have done the assignment satisfactorily. Do not do homework for your child. Your role is to ensure children understand the assignments and that they have the necessary supplies to do them. Getting over-involved can make children dependent. It takes away from homework helping children to become independent and responsible.

Check your school website for information about homework assignments, class schedules, and lesson plans.

Help your children see that the mathematics they are learning is very much a part of everyday life.

From statistics in sports to the sale price of clothing to the amount of gas needed to travel from one city to another, mathematics is important to us every day. Help your children link their "school" math to practical events.

Point out that many jobs require mathematical skills. Your children may recognize that many people must have good math skills to do their jobs—scientists, doctors, computer technicians, accountants and bankers, for example. However, they may not realize that many other jobs also require math. Point out that math is used in jobs such as running a business; being a plumber, carpenter, electrician or mechanic; being a salesperson or clerk, and designing clothes—or buildings. Let children know that having strong math skills will open up many great career opportunities.

Show your children that you like mathematics. Letting your children see that you use math—and that you aren't afraid of it—will build positive attitudes more readily than just telling them that they should learn it.

