

**September 2017**

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## *Newsletter #1 September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017*

### **Mrs. Scott's Scoop:**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to another school year, and a special welcome to all of our new families, new staff members, and new Vice-Principal, Mr. Hanson. My name is Deneen Scott and this is my third year as principal of this amazing school ☺. This is my 30<sup>th</sup> year in education, and I am looking forward to a new and exciting year. I would like to thank staff, students, and parents ahead of time for your patience and support during this very busy first week of school. Go, Broncos, Go!

### **Mr. Hanson's Hodge-Podge:**

Hello to my new community of Bernard Elementary School. I am very honoured to be joining the Bronco team in my 10<sup>th</sup> year in Chilliwack, and 14<sup>th</sup> year as an Administrator. Before coming to Bernard Elementary School, I spent time in Chilliwack at FG Leary, Greendale, and Rosedale Middle, Rosedale Elementary, and the new K-9 school. There is no doubt that I chose the right career path as I truly enjoy working with youth, both in a school setting and in the community.

My wife, Patti, and I are the proud parents of three children; one out of school, one on their way out and one in grade 9; quite busy, but a fulfilling family life.

I am an advocate for all students. I look forward to working with this staff, who have a fantastic reputation, the students, parents, and community to foster a caring spirit of learners who will help me grow as much as I hope to help them. Best wishes to all for a positive 2017/18 school year.



### Enrollment and Staffing

The classes are now confirmed and we have approximately 290 students enrolled at Bernard. Our staff for this year include:

Mrs. Kanuho-Sam	Kindergarten
Mrs. Wouda	Kindergarten
New teacher to hire	Kindergarten
Miss Alton	Grade 1
Mrs. Gelineau	Grade 1
Mrs. Smith	Grade 2
Ms. Crampton	Grade 2
Ms. Trasolini	Grade 3
Ms. Vogt	Grade 3
Mrs. Kostrzewa	Grade 3/4
Ms. Marcinowski	Grade 4
Mr. Norton	Grade 4/5
Mr. Ball	Grade 5/6
Mr. Slykhuis	Grade 5/6
Ms. Jones	Grade 5/6
Mrs. Verleur	Early Success Teacher
Mrs. Ens	Teacher Librarian/Learning Assistance
Ms. Jackson	Learning Assistance/Resource Teacher
Mrs. Hampton	Aboriginal Support
Ms. Lowe	Aboriginal Support
Ms. Graham	Child and Youth Care Worker and Noon-hour Supervisor
Ms. Den Ouden	School Counsellor
To be determined	Speech and Language Pathologist
Mrs. McInally	Secretary
Ms. Moores	Education Assistant and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mrs. Hrusik	Education Assistant
Mrs. Wagner	Education Assistant
Mrs. Sommerville	Education Assistant and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mrs. Raine	Education Assistant
Mrs. Stevens	Education Assistant
Mrs. Vance	Education Assistant
Mrs. Kaur	Education Assistant
Ms. Alexander	Education Assistant
Mrs. Walters	Strong Start teacher and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mr. Payne	Custodian
Mr. Woelders	Custodian
Mr. Hanson	Vice-Principal
Mrs. Scott	Principal



### Meet the Teacher/Open House BBQ

This year, we will be having our annual "Open House BBQ" on Sept.21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring our BBQ again this year. This is not meant as a "how is my child doing in school" event ☺. The staff will be serving you, and the evening is meant as a community event where new families are welcomed, other families are catching up on summer memories, and students are showing their parents who their new teachers are for the year. This year's BBQ will be taking place from 5:00 - 7:00. More info will be coming home soon about this. We hope to see you there!



### Backpacks and School Supplies

We want to thank Murray Honda and our local Staples store for providing free backpacks and school supplies for our school again this year. We added "30" new backpacks and supplies to our collection. This is part of their commitment to the community in providing supplies for families who may need a little bit of extra support at this time of the year. Thank you so much for all that you do for our families!



### Library News

WANTED: READERS!!

Yee haw! It's almost book fair time!

Git yerself and yer kin to our annual book fair this October!

In case you haven't guessed, this year's Scholastic Book Fair theme is , " *Wild, Wild West*". We are scheduled to start our book fair on Tuesday, October 10. The book fair will be held for THREE days, Tuesday October 10, Wednesday October 11, and Thursday October 12. On Tuesday, the book fair will be open AFTER SCHOOL only from 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. On Wednesday it will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 and from 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 pm. On Thursday the book fair will be open 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and from early dismissal until 5:00 p.m. The book fair will end on Thursday and will be packed up Thursday evening. No book fair sales will happen on Friday.

Every year we have a Family Draw where one lucky student wins \$25 worth of books (not merchandise) for him/herself and \$25 worth of books for his/her teacher. **Students can enter the draw ONE time only and only when accompanied by a parent.** The winner will be drawn just before 5 pm on Thursday and Mrs. Ens will call the winner and set aside some books.

Please come by and say hi to Mrs. Ens and "saddle up " and read!



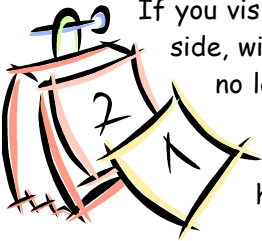
**Milk Program**

Yes, we are going to do the milk program again this year. The cost will remain the same. If your child would like to purchase milk for lunch, it will be for sale at the kitchen outside of the gym for 75 cents, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You can also buy a punch card for your child with 10 or 20 punches (at 75 cents each). Thank you to Mrs. McInally for ordering our milk supply every week for us. Thank you to Ms. Sanders for volunteering to hand out the milk to our students every week! The milk program will begin on Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Planners**

We are not selling student planners this year. We found that they were getting very expensive and we want to try to cut down the costs for our families.

**School Calendar**



If you visit our school website, we will be placing regular updates on the "calendar tab" on the left-hand side, with reminders of events happening in our school (<http://bernard.sd33.bc.ca>). Hopefully, you will no longer have to call the school to find out when certain events will be taking place. All you have to do is open the website on your cell phone, or any other electronic device! This means that you can plan ahead for things like Spring Break, Christmas Concerts, School photos, etc. We hope to have this up-and-running soon. Stay tuned!

**Code of Conduct**

Mr. Hanson is currently reviewing the school's "Code of Conduct". We are looking for parent volunteers who would like to be involved. Please contact Mr. Hanson at the school if you are interested. We will also be asking students and staff to help as well. Once completed, we will be emailing our new "Code of Conduct" to all of our families who have submitted their email addresses to us, or will supplying others with paper copies. Once received, please review the school's Code of Conduct with your child(ren). (<http://bernard.sd33.bc.ca>)

**First PAC Meeting**

Every parent at our school belongs to the PAC ☺! We would like to invite you to the first PAC meeting of the year. It will be on Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> in our school's library. The time of the meeting is 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there!



**Student Verification Forms (homework for parents)**

Your child will be bringing home a document that contains very important information that we need from our families (eg. emergency phone numbers, etc.). Please check everything over very closely. Yes, parents, you have homework too ☺! We need these forms returned to the school as soon as possible, signed by a parent. Please make sure that your email is current on the student verification form that is being sent home. We will be emailing you from time-to-time with some important reminders. If your email changes at some time during the year, please contact us at the office and we will update it. Thanks for your support.

## Volunteers

If you are planning to volunteer at Bernard for field trips, classroom support, etc., you are legally required to fill in a Criminal Record Form and return it to the RCMP office on Airport Road before you volunteer. It must have Bernard Elementary's name on the top of the form (eg. If you have filled one out for Girl Guides, this does not count towards volunteer work at Bernard). If you completed one for the school within the last 4 years, you don't need to do a new one. You can get copies of this form at our office. Also, if you volunteer to drive students from our school, every year you must also fill out a Driver's Insurance Form (and you must have \$1,000,000 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability) before the event occurs. You also need to attach a driver's abstract from ICBC to the driver's form. Before you volunteer, please attend an orientation session with Mrs. Scott. This year, a volunteer orientation will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.. If you cannot attend this session, there will be a second one on Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 2:25 p.m. If you are unable to attend either session, please contact Mrs. Scott directly at [deneen\\_scott@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:deneen_scott@sd33.bc.ca) or phone the school to set an appointment.



Thank you so much for your support.

## Booster Seats

A reminder that there are laws that have been in effect since July 1, 2008 for children requiring booster seats. All children **must use booster seats** until their 9th birthday unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall. If your child is attending a fieldtrip where parent drivers will be used, they must bring a booster seat in order to be able to attend.

## Bus Evacuation Drills



Every year, the school bus drivers and teaching staff conduct school bus emergency evacuation drills. One of the activities requires students to jump out of the back or side doors of the bus, with assistance, and onto a gym mat. Some of the intermediate students will be selected to act as helpers. If you have any concerns about your child participating in these drills, please contact the school as soon as possible. This activity is part of the District's ongoing bus safety program and your cooperation is appreciated.

## Bernard's Safe-School Initiatives

We're sure that many of you know about some changes to our school around student safety. We'd like to highlight what the changes were from the last few years and why we are implementing them 😊!

### **Highlights:**

- We are asking all visiting parents to please come and check in at the office. If you are volunteering in your child's classroom, we ask that you wear a volunteer badge indicating to students that you are a safe person in our school. (reason: We were witnessing many strangers walking through the halls of Bernard and we're concerned about student safety.)
- If you are dropping something off for your child, please just check-in at the office. (reason: So we know who is in the building.)

- If you are dropping your child off at school in the morning, we ask that you drop them off after 8:10 in the morning (supervision begins at that time), unless they are attending the breakfast program at 8:00 ☺. If you'd like to wait with your child for the morning bell, you are welcome to do so, but please give your hugs and goodbyes to them outside as their teachers come to pick them up to begin their day. If you have something important you'd like to let the teacher know about your child for the day, you are welcome to send them an email the day before, call the office, or let them know when they come to pick up their students in the line-up. We are asking that parents not walk your child into the school if you are here on time. (reason: We are trying to teach students to become independent learners...eg. hanging up their own backpacks, and getting organized for the day, even in Kindergarten ☺. The kids always do an amazing job with this.)
- We are asking that students not use the front doors unless they are late for school, or if a parent is picking a child up early, or if they are in need of a bike lock, etc. (reason: our front office is so busy that, at times, it is difficult to monitor people coming in and out of the front doors. We want to have a clear area where we can monitor it a little closer.)
- If you have to pick up your child early from school, please make sure to sign them out at the office. (reason: for safety reasons.)
- We are also asking parents to meet their children after school outside of the door that they enter in the mornings, so the children are entering and exiting from the same door. (reason: The back of the school is a much safer place for students to exit our building because of the traffic concerns at the front of our school. We are working with the students to have a designated meeting spot to meet their parents. If parents are in parking spots, or walking to meet their children, we are asking parents to meet them at the back of the school. If parents are in the drop-off zone (double-parking behind parked vehicles), students are to walk around to the front of the school, and walk safely on the sidewalk areas to meet those parents. Remember, "drop-off zone" means that those parents are to stay in their vehicles. Suggestion: Many of our parents park on the many side streets of our community and walk to meet their children. ☺

Thank you so much for your support in keeping our kids safe, and helping them to become independent learners.

### **Student Photos**

Individual student photos will be taken on [Wednesday, Sept. 20th](#). Retakes will be on Wednesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Classroom pictures will be taken later in the year. Bring your smiles ☺!



### **Do you have a child at home who is sick, or has an appointment?**

If your child has to stay home or has an appointment, please phone the school as soon as possible. (604-795-7840) We worry about children when they don't show up for school, especially if we haven't heard anything. Mrs. McNally has to make about 20 - 30 phone calls every morning because we haven't heard from a parent. Thank you for your support with this ☺!

### **Student Accident Insurance**

As you may already know, student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities are **not covered** by our School Board or Schools Protection Program (SPP). Therefore, we recognize the benefits of Student Accident Insurance, especially for students who are participating in school athletic programs and may be at risk of dental injuries requiring costly repairs.

Information is available on the district website [here](#). Parents are encouraged to apply online at [kidsplus.ca/apply](http://kidsplus.ca/apply)

or by phone, toll-free at 1-800-556-7411. For complete plan details, please visit [kidsplus.ca](http://kidsplus.ca).



### Ideas for Families

Last year, I found this great article to read about children coming back to school. I would like to share it again. It helps us to understand how to handle those "butterflies", especially if they are feeling a little anxious about being back at school, or having a new teacher, or, for our new students, a whole new school setting. Enjoy!

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/back-school.html#>

### Parking Lot and Schoolground Safety

Our school's parking lot continues to be a bit of a safety concern. Please make sure that you **are not** leaving your vehicle while parked in the school driveway. ***If you double-park behind another parent, and they need to leave their parking spot, we need you in your vehicle so that you can move out of their way.*** Also, if you are in a parking spot, waiting for your child, please get out of your vehicle and take your child by the hand to walk back to your vehicle. It is really difficult for parents to see little ones behind them when they are pulling out of parking spots. If you and your child ride bikes to school, please walk your bikes until you are off of the school grounds. We don't want anyone getting hurt 😊. Please talk to your children about staying safe around the bus and remind them that this is not a play area. Thank you.

### Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school's library
- Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Orientation 8:30 - 9:00
- Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Orientation 2:00 - 2:25 (repeat from the 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Terry Fox Assembly
- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> Student Individual Photos
- Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Open House BBQ (5:00 - 7:00)
- Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> District Professional Day (no school)
- Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly - all parents are welcome to attend 😊
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal (11:30 - no buses)

