



September 2018

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Newsletter #1 September 7th, 2018

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, Mrs. Sward. My name is Deneen Scott and this is my fourth year as principal of this amazing school ☺. This is my 31st 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!

Message from Mrs. Sward:

Hello Bernard students and families! My name is Kris Sward and I am excited to say I'm the new vice-principal at Bernard Elementary this year. I have over 13 years of experience in the district. I taught for 9 years at Cultus Lake Elementary and then 2 years at Unsworth Elementary, as well as various other schools in short term contracts. Last year I made the jump into administration and started the year at Fraser Valley Distance Ed before moving to Robertson Elementary part way through October. I now find myself at this great school and I am so happy to join such an amazing staff! I also bring with me a wealth of tech experience, having completed my Master's degree in online teaching and learning and being an ed tech facilitator in the district for three years. I'm excited to share my passions of math, technology and STEM with the students here at Bernard. I am also fortunate to teach most classes PE this year so I'm looking forward to getting to know all of our wonderful students really well. At home, I have a husband, two adult children and a dog name Indy <3 In my free time I enjoy reading, travelling, doing crafty things and organizing events and family get togethers. I am looking forward to a great year ahead here at Bernard.



Enrollment and Staffing

The classes are now confirmed and we have approximately 260 students enrolled at Bernard. Our staff for this year include:

Mrs. Kanuho-Sam	Kindergarten
Miss Thiessen/Mrs. Wouda	Kindergarten
Mrs. Cavanagh	Kindergarten/Grade 1
Miss Alton	Grade 1
Ms. Gelineau	Grade 1
Ms. Crampton	Grade 1/2
Mrs. Smith	Grade 2
Ms. Den Ouden	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Vogt	Grade 3
TBA	Grade 3/4
Mrs. Gross/Ms. Hooper	Grade 4
Mrs. Cooper	Grade 5
Ms. Jones	Grade 5
Mrs. Verleur	Early Success Teacher
Mrs. Ens	Teacher Librarian/Learning Assistance
Miss Snell	Learning Assistance/Resource Teacher
Mrs. Hampton	Aboriginal Support
Ms. Graham	Child and Youth Care Worker and Noon-hour Supervisor
Ms. Amos	School Counsellor
Mrs. Ropain	Speech and Language Pathologist
Mrs. McCarthy	Secretary
Ms. Moores	Education Assistant and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mrs. Hrusik	Education Assistant
Mrs. Sommerville	Education Assistant and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mrs. Stevens	Education Assistant
Mrs. Vance	Education Assistant
Mrs. Kaur	Education Assistant
Ms. Raine	Education Assistant
Mrs. Alexander	Education Assistant
Mrs. Teichgrab	Education Assistant
Ms. Johnson	Education Assistant
Mrs. Walters	Strong Start teacher and Noon-hour Supervisor
Mr. Payne	Custodian
Mrs. Sward	Vice-Principal
Mrs. Scott	Principal



Meet the Teacher/Open House BBQ

This year, we will be having our annual "Open House BBQ" on Sept. 20th. 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 teacher is for the year. This year's BBQ will be taking place from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.. 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 students again this year. We added "25" 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. "Murray Honda" and "Staples" team together with many local community sponsors to help make this happen. Here is a list of who we need to thank:

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Murray Honda | Valley Waste and Recycling, Inc. |
| Staples | Doug's Locksmith |
| The Chilliwack Progress | Alair Homes |
| Star 98.3 | Royal LePage |
| Marcom Signs and Graphics | Streetwise Traffic Controllers |
| Chances | KGR |
| Carstar | Rendezvous Restaurant |
| Master Painting and Renovations | Fix Auto |
| Chilliwack Fun in the Sun Tournament | Capella Dance Academy |
| Glamour Secrets | Mountain Pacific Mechanical |
| Select Real Estate | Allegiance I Security |
| Art of Driving School | Ascend Fitness |
| Elks | Jo's Italian Deli |
| Intuitive Rehab Services | Tom Thompson Autoglass Ltd. |
| Waal and Co. | Active Motion |
| Therapeutics | Canex Building Supplies |
| Above Grade Level In-Home Tutoring | Jim's Pizzeria |
| Certified Autosound and Security | Canadian Monitoring Services |



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. McCarthy for ordering our milk supply every week for us. Thank you to Ms. Sanders and Mrs. Moojelski for volunteering to hand out the milk to our students every week! The milk program will begin on **Wednesday, Sept. 12th**.

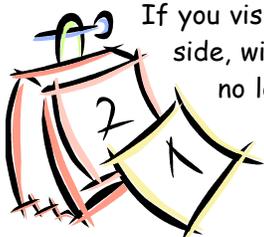
Afternoon Adventures

We have an amazing after-school program that runs on Tuesdays (Grades 2 and 3) and Thursdays (Grades 4 and 5). It is called "Afternoon Adventures"! This year, the volunteers will be working with students from Grades 2 - 5. Unfortunately, there are not enough volunteers to run a Grade 1 program. Afternoon Adventures' volunteers plan fun activities with our students (arts and crafts; science experiments; field trips; snack time; etc.) This program is meant to support some of our families who may not have the financial means or transportation in order to have their child participate in a community sport or activity. If you would like your child to participate in this program, the registration forms have to be in by Friday, September 14th. At that time, if we have more students than spots available, a committee will make the decision as to which children will be able to attend. ☺ There is room for 25 students in each program. You can find registration packages at our school office.

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.

Code of Conduct

Mrs. Sward is currently reviewing the school's "Code of Conduct". She is looking for parent volunteers who would like to be involved. Please contact Mrs. Sward at the school if you are interested. She 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 be 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. 11th in our school's library. The time of the meeting is 6:30. Babysitting will be provided. 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 you. 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 3rd 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. 12th from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.. If you cannot attend this session, there will be a second one on Friday, Sept. 14th 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 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.
- If you are dropping something off for your child, please just check-in at the office.
- If you are dropping your child off at school in the morning, we ask that you drop them off after 8:10 (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 because this is where 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 Grades 1 - 5 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 **Monday, Oct. 15th**. Retakes will be on Friday, Nov. 16th. 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. McCarthy 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 ☺!

Ideas for Families:**Attendance Matters at Bernard**

Why is this so important? Please read the following resource. Students who do not attend school regularly, or are consistently late, have been negatively impacted in many different ways. This is an important read. Thank you.

<http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/>

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. 11th PAC meeting at **6:30 p.m.** in the school's library
- Sept. 12th Volunteer Orientation 8:30 - 9:00
- Sept. 14th Volunteer Orientation 2:00 - 2:25 (repeat from the 12th)
- Sept. 14th Bus Evacuation Training
- Sept. 17th Terry Fox Assembly
- Sept. 20th Open House BBQ (5:00 - 7:00)
- Sept. 21st School Professional Day
- Sept. 27th Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 28th Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 28th Assembly - all parents are welcome to attend ☺
- Oct. 5th District Professional Day
- Oct. 8th Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct. 9th PAC meeting
- Oct. 15th Photo Day

