



# BLACKBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2222 S. Blackburn, Prince George, B.C. V2N 6C1

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### January 29, 2020

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have a busy upcoming couple of weeks at Blackburn Elementary. We are excited to be hosting Wheelchair Sports next week. We also have the Portable Planetarium visit on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. This event is always an amazing activity for students.

Monday was our Non-Instructional Day focused on Indigenous Ways of Knowing. We had tremendous participation and amazing speakers for this day of learning for staff.

Kindergarten registration opened online yesterday. Please see the information below.

I'd like to welcome Mrs. Rhiannon Sontag to our staff. She has agreed to take on the Library/Prep Coverage Monday thru Thursday position as well as the Friday Gr. 6/7 in Mrs. Reinheimer's class for the remainder of the year. Also, I'd like to thank Mrs. Jenna Fedyk, a TTOC who has kindly agreed to cover the vacant Gr. 6/7 position on all of her available days for the month of February. Mrs. Fedyk is an experienced Grade 6/7 teacher. The District is still searching diligently for a permanent replacement for this position.

We are all enjoying the fresh snow, longer daylight hours, and mild weather. January and February are a great time to focus both at school and at home on the learning agenda. If you notice your child is struggling in an area, please contact your child's teacher and get ideas on how you can provide extra support at home.

Yours truly,  
Sarah J. Petrisor

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan 31 – July in January – Special Spirit Wear Day
- Feb 3-5 – Teddy Grams on Sale
- Feb 7 – Portable Planetarium Visit
- Feb 10 – PAC meeting @ 6:00 pm/PAC Café to follow
- Feb 12 – Hip Hop Hoop Dance Performance
- Feb 17 – Family Day – School Closed
- Feb 24 – Primary CSL Writing Day
- Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 26 – Mar 1 – PAC Online Auction
- Feb 27 – BC Hydro visits Divs. 7-12
- March 9 – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- March 10 – CSL Sent Home
- March 16 – 27 – Spring Break

#### LITERACY ACTIVITY FOR PRESCHOOLERS

We are happy to announce that our Literacy Program will be returning next Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Do you have children ages 0-5 not yet in school? Join us on **Thursdays** in the library at 9:15 am for an opportunity to hear a story, sign out books and participate in early learning literacy activities. This is new at Blackburn this year and Mrs. Sontag would love to see toddlers and preschoolers in the library!



#### BLACKBURN SPIRIT WEAR

##### July in January!

January 31<sup>st</sup> is our special spirit day sponsored by Leadership. Bring your summer clothes to change into and pretend that we are enjoying the warm summer weather! Leadership will be running fun activities in the gym for grade K-3 during the lunch hour.

Fridays are School Spirit day at Blackburn. Students are encouraged to wear red or black clothing.

#### TEDDY GRAMS



Valentine's Day is coming!!! Leadership will once again be selling Teddy Grams. Teddy Grams are small stuffies that students can purchase for their friends at school and they will be delivered to classrooms on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Teddy Grams will go on sale Monday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> for Div. 1-7, Tuesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> for Div. 8-12 and if there are any Teddy Grams left over all students are welcome to purchase on Wednesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a two Teddy Gram limit for students on their first day of purchasing and the cost is \$2.00. On the final day of sales, Teddy Grams will be sold until all are gone. If you have any questions please feel free to phone Mrs. Jacobs at the school (250)963-7060.

#### PAC NEWS

PAC is currently accepting donations for their upcoming Online Auction running from February 26 – March 1. Thanks in advance for your donations!

The next PAC Meeting will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Followed by a re-scheduled special event "PAC CAFÉ". Our PAC is inviting parents to attend the meeting and stay for some refreshments afterwards. This is a really great opportunity to check out all that PAC does for our school and perhaps recruit some new members. This is also a great way to stay in touch with what's happening in your child's school.

#### ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**2020 –2021 Kindergarten Registration is now open-** Children whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 31, 2020 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2020.

Registration should be completed through the online form at <https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Parents/StudentReg/KindReg>. This site will link to all forms required for registration. Please deliver completed forms to our school with your child's birth certificate.

#### ONLINE STUDENT TRANSFERS

This application provides a way for parents to request registration for their student at a school other than their catchment school for the next school year. The online student transfer application process will be open from **9:00 am February 5, 2020** and close at **3:00 pm March 5, 2020**. The application link will be provided online shortly:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Parents/StudentReg/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

### **PINK SHIRT DAY**

Pink Shirt day is February 26th a day to focus on anti-bullying. This year the school will not be doing a bulk order of pink shirts. However, shirts are available at various retail stores around town as well as online.

### **NUT ALLERGY ALERT REMINDER**



Blackburn school must be nut aware as the nut issues in our school is a life threatening issue. Please:

- Send your child with nut free products for lunch and snacks.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after they eat.
- Remind your child not to share their food with others.

### **REPORTING ABSENCES**

Please notify us if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Blackburn has a Safe Start program and you will be called if your child is away without explanation. Please call the school at 250-963-7060 and leave a message on the school answering machine or by sending a note with a sibling.

### **SUPERVISION**

Students are **not supervised** on the playground before 7:55 a.m. or after 2:25 p.m. Students should not be dropped off before this time. Students should leave the school grounds after dismissal. Any bus students staying after 2:25 must have a note of permission from their parent, with the understanding that there is no supervision for their child after 2:25.

### **SCHOOL VISITS**

When visiting the school or dropping off items for your child, **please use the office entrance and check in at the office** when you arrive. If you are picking up your child at the end of the school day please wait outside the classroom door so that the teacher can organize the students for dismissal. Students are easily distracted and find it difficult to follow directions when parents are looking in on the class.

### **LOCKING SCHOOL DOORS**

School doors will be locked when school is in session. The door by the office (by the flagpole) will be the only door unlocked between 8:19 – 9:50 a.m. 10:05 – 11:45 a.m. and 12:25 – 2:11 p.m. The doors will be unlocked before school, during recess, during lunch and after school for student access. The doors have safety crash bars on the inside and can be opened from the inside even when locked.

As we all settle back into school routines after the break, it's a good time to remind everyone about our winter weather policies. Schools will continue to stay open during winter weather events, but on occasion bus service may have to be cancelled for the day if roads are considered too dangerous to travel due to snow or icy conditions. Announcements regarding bus delays or cancellations are made via local radio stations on the affected day. You can subscribe to **My School Bus Monitor** at [www.diversifiedbus.ca](http://www.diversifiedbus.ca) to receive notification of delays on your route. Thank you for ensuring children are dressed for the weather and for reminding them not to play on roadside snow piles. We ask that students are at their stops 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time, but they are not expected to wait more than 15 minutes beyond the regular pick up time. Safety is always our first priority.

Over the next number of months, Diversified will be installing video recording equipment on the bus fleet. This technology will serve as another tool to support the safety and well-being of everyone on board our buses. Bus drivers are especially thankful for students who ride safely by sitting in their seats, by keeping the volume of conversations at a low setting, and by showing respect for others as well as the bus and its equipment. In turn, we are thankful for our drivers who have the important responsibility in our district of safely transporting nearly 4000 students each day!