

Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Senior Elementary School September News 2019

902-876-3230 – phone
902-876-3240 – Safe Arrival
blt@hrce.ca

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2019 – 2020

Welcome

Our school staff has been working very hard leading up to the start of our new school year in anticipation of an incredible year. There are several new faces that have joined our school and team with an already fantastic group of returning staff to give BLT Sr. an awesome school staff for your child to work with. Above all we are particularly excited to welcome our amazing students back! This year is going to be amazing!

Bussing

Please be reminded to check for your child's bus stop information, which can be found at <https://hrce.mybusplanner.ca/>. (Please register your child if you have not yet done so.) Please be reminded that at this time of the year the pick-up and drop off times will be a bit slower until everyone gets into the swing of school. We also have two schools dismissing at the same time, which also contributes to students getting home a bit slower than anticipated (and a little bit of road construction too). Please be reminded that the HRCE Transportation Team can support your family with all of your busing needs; please contact them to get any busing situation figured out 902-431-4723 or transportation@hrce.ca.

Communication

Please know that it is our intent to offer, to students and their families, open, honest and frequent communication about the students and their learning. It is our expectation that the school and home are **in a partnership**, to enable each student to reach their fullest potential. If you have questions please take the time to contact your child's teacher and ask. Never let a question "simmer on a back burner." The school's goal is the same as each of our families...the very best for each of the students. **All communication must go through your child's teacher. Your child's teacher will address all matters. It is our goal to return messages within 48 hours although every attempt to respond sooner will be made.**

Internet Information (Curriculum & Policies)

Please be reminded that our school web site is our primary means of electronic information. It should be fully updated by the end of September and intended to be kept up to date. The school site and newsletters are very useful resources regarding our school <https://tjh.hrce.ca/>. We will continue to add content to our school web site through the year so please check back frequently. Also be reminded that all curriculum documents, school improvement plans, HRCE initiatives, policies and procedures can be found on the regional centre web site <http://www.hrce.ca> As well you may want to consult the N.S. Department of Education (EECD) web site for provincial initiatives, policies and procedures <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>

Indoor Footwear

All students are required to have second set of footwear at school for indoor use.

Parent Concern Process

Our school takes pride in being a caring and supportive place for our students and their families. The welfare of each student (academic, social, behavioural) is our foremost thought. From time to time, our school may have to undertake a difficult conversation with a parent(s) regarding their child. We do not take these conversations lightly. They are entered into as a means of conveying what we see at school, which in turn is intended to support the student.

As partners, **working together for the benefit of your child**, we are more than happy to answer any questions, which may arise. It is our goal to not let a question become a concern. With that said, all questions should start with your child's teacher. If for some reason your conversation with the teacher has not resolved the situation, a parent may contact the school vice principal, and thereafter the school principal. If the same situation is still not resolved, the parent may contact the principal's supervisor, Pauline Murray. As a last course of action, if the supervisor has not assisted in resolving the situation, the parent may enter into the Parent Concern Protocol, which involves senior administrative staff of the regional centre. We are all working, parents and school alike, exceptionally hard on behalf of the students and must enter all conversations with this in mind.

Safe Arrival

If your child will not be in school for the regular entry time of 8:25 am., due to illness or appointment, please call the school Safe Arrival number 902-876-3240, to let the school know where your child is. If a child is not in school, and we do not have previous communication as to an absence or appointment, we are required to call. We are looking for volunteers, if you can help please contact the school.

Pink Day

On Thursday, September 12 our school will proudly participate in the Stand Up Against Bullying initiative. On this day students are asked to wear anything pink as a symbol of their intolerance toward bullying.

Head Lice

Please check your child's head on a regular basis for head lice and nits. Nits are the eggs of head lice. They are very small, pearl-coloured, and teardrop shaped which attach themselves to the hair follicle. A nit will only come off the follicle if it is scratched off with a fingernail. It will not blow off like dried skin. Head lice are very apparent, as they are live crawling bugs, about the size of a pencil lead, which look like a crab. Lice and nits will happen in our school, and they can happen to anyone. If your child has nits or lice you must notify the school and your child must remain out of school until they have received at least one treatment. Your child must continue to have their head checked daily and any lice/nits removed. A second treatment is recommended 10 days after the first.

Nut Aware/Scent Free

Please be reminded that all schools in the HRCE are nut aware schools, meaning you are asked to not knowingly send any food which contains nuts of any sort. Our schools are also scent free due to environmental sensitivities.

*****Visitors to our school*****

All visitors entering our school are required to sign in at the Main Office, and notify the school administration of the nature of your business, such as picking up for a doctor's appointment, dropping off a lunch, picking up a sick child, etc. We will take care of deliveries for our families or calling your child to the office if you need a word. Due to student safety, we will not have our parents venturing to classrooms. If you need to speak with a teacher, our secretary will take your message and deliver it to the teacher. As well, ALL visitors must enter the building through the main doors at the front of the school, which are locked.

Forms

Over the next several days your child's class and our school will be sending home a variety of forms to help us with having the most current information. Please complete everything ASAP and have it returned to your child's teacher.

Telephone Messages

Please be reminded that teachers will not be able to return any telephone message until after the students have left, returning all messages within 48 hours. Also, our school is not able to give students last minute messages about any changes to their dismissal procedures for that day. Students are not use cellular telephones or even have them visible at our school. The students are always welcome to use the school's telephone with teacher's permission.

Student Dismissal Procedures

Please advise the school, in writing, of any changes to your child's normal dismissal procedures for any given day. If we have not been advised of a change we will be following normal dismissal procedures for your child. This includes individuals picking up your child other than parents.

Curriculum Night

Our curriculum information evening will take place on Thursday, September 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm, starting in the gym. Students and parents will have the opportunity to visit any classroom to find out about the program happening in that room during this school year. This is not a parent-teacher interview evening. On the way out it will be our pleasure to offer a frozen treat to those interested.

Allergies/Medical Concerns

If your child has a life threatening allergy or medical concern, please notify the school immediately.

Volunteers

Our school is always excited to welcome our community into the school as a volunteer. Please contact your child's teacher to see about any opportunities they may have to help. These could include work preparation or reading with students. All volunteers must have a current criminal records check, child abuse registry check, and a brief orientation regarding volunteering expectations for our school. Please keep in mind that our valued volunteers are in our classes and school to benefit a broad number of students.

School Cancellation

For the latest information about a school cancellation please consult the local radio stations such as CBC Radio or C100. The HRCE web site and signing up for the HRCE text alerts are also great options. Also if the buses are cancelled in the morning they will also be cancelled for the afternoon, similarly for school.

Mountain Maple Drive Area

It has been brought to the school's attention that traffic congestion and, all working together to benefit the students and school, in the Mountain Maple Drive area, at the back of the school, is quite challenging. We would ask all of our families to please be careful as possible for the sake of all people in that area. I would like to point out two other aspects in that area: 1) there should be no stopping or parking in the areas marked as such, the RCMP have advised the school that tickets may happen as part of their back to school patrol program and regular patrol. Secondly, in the winter it will undoubtedly get worse. Please plan now as where to park so you are not in the congestion but can travel safely. Our community focus always needs to be the safety and well-being of the students and each other.

Terry Fox Walk

Our annual Terry Fox Walk will be taking place on Friday, September 20 at 1:45. For the occasion, we would ask students to donate any loose change, which might be available. Families are quite welcome to join us.

Temperature

Students will be outside before school, recess and lunch in temperatures as cold as -20C. The Environment Canada Weather Office (Airport) will be our source for temperatures. From time to time, temperature depending, EC Weather Offices in Lunenburg and Shearwater may be consulted to create a fuller picture. With students coming to school appropriately dressed for outdoor conditions, -20C is not a problem. There is no medical or scientific evidence to suggest harm comes to reasonably dressed people who are outside in -20C temperatures for the amount of time which would be a recess or lunch. Almost all schools in HRCE have students outside in cold weather without ever having an issue. In fact the schools remained healthier through the cold and flu season than other schools who keep their students in when it is -5 or -10C, and we improved student achievement! It is amazing what physical activity and sunshine can do for health and achievement during the winter.

Homework/Home Reading

Please remember that every student in our school should be involved with a book on a nightly basis. It could range from being read to, to reading on their own, and everything in between. Depending on the grade a student is in, will dictate their type of homework and the expectations for when it needs to be finished. As a rough guide a student in grade 3 might have reading and possibly a math or writing activity lasting about 30 minutes for everything. A student in grade 5 might have work lasting about 50 minutes. Your child's teacher can provide information on homework guidelines and expectations. Homework is meant to be, in part, a life skill and wholly beneficial to student achievement, it is not meant to be hours of torture. Your child's homework is also meant to be an independent activity, please stay in contact with your child's teacher if the homework is proving to be otherwise.

Electronic Devices/Cards/Toys at School

It is wholly suggested that electronic devices/cards/toys not come to school. This is suggested for a few reasons: 1) it promotes a greater opportunity for social interaction and gaining friendships, 2) it means the item cannot be damaged, lost or stolen, 3) there is no confusion around borrowing and trading. As previously mentioned, if a student has a cell phone, for emergency after school communication, the school should never know that a student actually has one. It should be kept in a backpack and used for its intended purpose only.

Lockdown Drills

As per HRCE policy our school will be practicing lockdown and hold & secure drills. Our teachers will go to great lengths to ensure the students are comfortable and realize we are only practicing, just as we do for fire drills. Our first drill will take place during the week of September 23.

Nova Scotia Health Authority-Community Health Teams

Please consult www.communityhealthteams.ca for workshops being held on everything from sleep to nutrition to anxiety to stress reduction to parenting classes.

HRCE Lighthouse Boys Choir

Lighthouse Boys Choir will be having auditions on Monday, September 9, 2019 at Five Bridges Junior High in room 145 between 6:00 - 7:30 pm. If you are a boy in grades 3 - 9 and are interested in singing in this choir, please email their director, Katrina Mills Pecknold, at choir@gnsps.ca for more information and an audition time.

Office Hours

The hours in which our school will have personnel in our office area is 8:00-12:00 and 12:15-3:00.

Breakfast Program

We are very excited to have our breakfast program starting very soon. It will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school starts. This program is open to all students. If you are interested in volunteering for this program please contact the school and we will help you through the process.

Lunch Monitors

Our school is often in need of substitute lunch monitors. If you would like to help, and get paid, please contact the school to find out more.

Educational Program Assistants

The HRCE is often in need of substitute educational program assistants. If you are interested in this paid position please contact the school and we can provide support.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day (September 30th) is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools.

School Schedule

8:05	Earliest possible drop off
8:25	Entry
8:30	O'Canada played, a student is now considered late
10:00-10:15	Recess
12:00-12:50	Lunch
2:30	Dismissal for 3-5 students

Important Dates

September 12	Curriculum Night
September 12	Provincial Anti-bullying day (please wear pink)
September 18/19	Bus evacuation event
September 19	School photos (Re-takes Oct. 17)
September 20	Terry Fox Walk at 1:45 pm
September 27	Professional development day-no classes for students
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 14	Thanksgiving, no school
October 25	Provincial PD day, no classes for students