

Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Senior Elementary School October News 2020

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

September Start Up

Our school year is off to a fantastic start! We greatly appreciate the support of our community as we all work toward the same goal; your child's academic, and social/behavioural success. **Please remember that we are dealing with new and different times, not everything will be the same nor can it be. Patience, flexibility, support and understanding are how we ask all of our families to approach this year.** Completing all homework, completing all home reading, getting lots of physical activity, eating as healthy as possible, and lots of sleep will help student success immensely. Please remember to stay in touch with your child's teacher about their progress, and **ALL** communication starts with your child's teacher.

Life Threatening Allergies

Please be reminded that we have members of our school who have a life-threatening allergy to tree nuts/peanuts. When planning snacks and lunches please be mindful of the welfare of these students.

Safe Arrival

Please remember to call the school's Safe Arrival line (902-876-3240), before 8:30 am, if you know your child will be late or absent from school.

Substitute Lunch Monitor

Our school is often in need of substitute lunch monitors. If you are interested in becoming a paid substitute lunch monitor and working with our students please contact the school at 902-876-3230, we will walk you through making it happen.

Walking Students

Please be reminded that walking students, or those being dropped off, should arrive each day as close to 8:30 as possible. Due to our Public Health restrictions, our pick up and drop off points are the gate at the back of the school and the orange barriers at the front of the school.

Electronic Information

Please remember that by going to our school's web page you can find out anything you will need to know about our school and your child's education. You can also sign up for our HRCE or BLT Sr. Twitter information or the HRCE text alerts. You can sign up for Text Alerts from HRCE by going to <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/subscribe-notifications>

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.

Outdoor Expectations

With the cooler weather arriving soon, I wanted to remind all that our students should be dressing to be warm when they arrive at school. They can always take off a jacket if it ends up being warm later on that day.

As well when we do have snow come our way I wanted to remind all of our expectations for student conduct:

- 1) Behaviour - the snow is not to be kicked up, or kicked at anyone. The snow is not to be thrown at anyone. No student should be “snowed in.” That is buried in the snow, with consent or not. The students should enjoy the snow and their classmates but never at anyone else’s expense. Students get one warning about throwing snow. A second time may lead to a suspension. We are not in a position to be careless with another student’s health and well-being.
- 2) Clothing – all students are expected to have clothing appropriate to the weather. This means all students should have hats, gloves/mitts, coat, boots, and snow pants. If any family needs assistance please let your child’s teacher know, we are more than willing to help where possible.
- 3) Temperature – students will be outside before school, recess and lunch in temperatures as cold as -20C. The Environment Canada Weather Office will be our primary source for temperatures. With students coming to school appropriately dressed for outdoor conditions, -20C is not a problem. Please keep in mind that students will be outdoors for about 20 minutes during their longest period of time. We are anticipating that being outside will help us remain healthier during the cold, flu and COVID seasons.

Breakfast Program

Our staff are finalizing plans to offer breakfast for those who are interested. As with many other aspects of school life, this will look very different from previous years. We will be starting very modestly, and if possible, building from there, with our first day being October 6th. Thank you to the Tibbetts Family for a very kind and generous donation to this program. Thank you to the staff who are volunteering their time to provide this service.

Fantastic Moments Monthly Awards

It is our pleasure to visit classes to present our monthly awards in recognition of the great things students do. We will also continue awarding our weekly prizes of Golden Bucket, Sneaker, Treble Clef and Beret.

Homework/Home Reading

Please remember that every student in our school should be involved with reading on a nightly basis. It could range from being read to, to reading on their own. Depending on a student’s grade will dictate the type of homework and expectations for when it needs to be finished. As a rough guide a student in grade 3 might have reading and possibly a short math or writing activity lasting about 30 minutes for everything. A student in grade 5 might have reading and other work lasting about 50 minutes. Your child’s teacher can provide information on homework guidelines and expectations. Homework is meant to, in part, be 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.

School Picture & Re-takes

Please be reminded that School Pictures will be Oct. 7. Re-takes will be during the morning of October 19.

October is Mi’kmaq History Month

Throughout the month we will be pausing to take notice of many aspects related to the Mi’kmaq culture. More information can be found at <http://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

October is ADHD Awareness Month

More information can be found on the centre For ADHD Awareness, Canada's web site
<https://caddac.ca/adhd/awareness-advocacy/adhd-awareness-month/>

Provincial Student Privacy Policy

In the event someone from the school may ever need to have a conversation with you about an issue between your child and another, we are bound by the Provincial Student Privacy Policy, during that conversation. This means that we are not permitted to mention the other student by name or discuss consequences for another child. We would ask that you respectfully trust that the school will be working to ensure the situation and students are supported so that nothing further would transpire between the parties involved.

Cafeteria

We, along with many other schools, continue to work with our food service provider for a resolution to the challenges now posed within the Public Health requirements. As more information becomes available we will gladly share it but as of right now the cafeteria remains closed.

Changes To Our Return To School Plan

-bus students now utilize the Main Doors, for exiting, at the end of the day

-library books can be borrowed by students but must remain at school in their desk

-a plan for safely using the coat hooks and hallway area for student items has been developed

-students will be allowed to have a second set of footwear now left at school, if you wish.

-students will be allowed to keep their daily items at school such as pencil case, duotangs, scribblers, busy bags, etc. Please keep all of the extras, not yet in use from the supply list, remain at home until required. If a family wishes for their child to still bring their items back and forth each day you are welcome to do so.

-when indoors students are allowed to work with classmates and mingle in pairs or very small groups (indoor recess or lunch) provided they sanitize and wear a mask. **This does not include the eating time of lunch, which will still be at their desk.**

-in the coming weeks the classrooms teachers will be communicating to you about their home reading program

*****Please keep in mind that should our province start to see a rise in cases we will return to the original restrictions*****

Important Dates

October 1	Treaty Day * the start of Mi'kmaq History Month
October 1	ADHD Awareness Month
October 7	School pictures
October 12	Thanksgiving Day-no school
October 19	School Picture re-take day

If you have any questions about COVID and symptoms please contact 811 immediately.