

BLT Sr. Elementary School

24 James Street, Timberlea, NS

902-876-3230

tjh@hrce.ca

Principal: **Craig Myra** Administrative Assistant: **Jillian Butler/Amber Collins-Grimmer** Vice Principal: **Tracey Quinn**



Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school and wish everyone a happy New Year! I am excited to come to BLT Sr. as your new Principal to continue the work of supporting all of our students every day.

With winter in full swing now, I'd like to remind you to make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather every day as the students spend time outside during the morning and at lunchtime.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at 902-876-3230.



ALLERGIES

We have a number of students at BLT Sr. who are allergic to specific foods, especially nuts. Because all students will be eating together in their classrooms, we ask that you do not bring in items that contain nuts.



BLT Sr. continues to be a **Nut Aware School** – similar to many other elementary schools in the HRCE. Please send recess snacks and lunches that contain **only nut free products**.

Strongly scented products cause many children and adults to experience breathing problems, dizziness and/or headaches. Our school is a **Scent Aware School**. Please refrain from wearing strongly scented products when visiting the school.



January/February
2024

Dates to Remember:

January 2—First Day Back for Students!

February 5 – PTC (6pm) and SAC (7pm) Meetings

February 13—Lockdown Drill

February 19— Heritage Day—NO School

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

As the new Principal I want to hear what you think about BLT Sr.! Please click on the following link to fill out this short survey to support our work in school improvement!

<https://forms.gle/eGFh1FFWNNXRG8QB8>

How do we determine if it is too cold for students to go outside at recess and lunch?

Each day, just before lunch and recess we check the temperature through the Weather Network App. If the temperature, with a wind chill, is -15C (or colder), we will consider keeping students inside during that recess or lunch period. Remember, always make sure your children are dressed for the weather!!



Hello BLT Sr. Parents and Guardians,

The School Advisory Council for BLT Sr. is getting ready to restart its formal meetings for 2024. The BLT Sr. School Advisory Council (SAC) is a legally recognized body composed of the Principal and representatives of teachers and support staff, parents, and community members who work together in an advisory capacity to increase the quality of education being provided at our school. The purpose of the SAC is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging all partners in an ongoing process of problem solving and shared decision making.

All SAC meetings are open to the public and we encourage any interested teachers or support staff, parents, or community member to attend our meetings. Each month, the SAC meeting date will be sent home in the school calendar. **Our next meeting is in person at the school on February 5th at 7pm.** We are looking for additional committee members so if you are thinking about getting involved come to the meeting on February 5th to experience a meeting and determine if you are interested in becoming a full time member. The overall commitment for members is 6 meetings a year.

Form with checkboxes and text: Parent/Teacher Coalition (PTC) Meeting Monday, February 5th at 6pm. The PTC is made up of a group of Parents, Guardians and School Representatives that organize various activities and fundraising events throughout the year, to build community and help purchase resources for the school. We are always looking for people to participate. Whether you have suggestions to help our school community, can lend a hand at special events, or just want to listen, we would love to see you. Our next meeting for this school year is February 5th at 6:00pm.

School Closures/Bus Cancellations :

Decisions on school closures are posted on the Halifax Regional Center of Education website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at hrce_ns, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.

In case of a school closure during the day, you can help us to ensure that your child is dismissed safely by making sure that we have up-to-date contact information.

News About School Closures/Delays in School Opening

HRCE has implemented some guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather. Please read below. If you have any questions please contact the school.

- Guidelines for Early School Closure— If forecast has inclement weather coming later in the day, there may be a 6:00am announcement of a lunch time closure. The decision may also be deferred until 11:00am, where the school will be notified via email.
- Guidelines for Cancellation of Bus—School Still Open— Decision made by 6:00am if the buses are not running due to the weather/road conditions—Impacted Schools will be identified and announced.
- Guidelines for Delayed Opening of Schools— Delayed openings will be considered when a storm has concluded but snow clearing may take additional time. Schools will be opened 2 Hours after there regular time. Bus pick up times will be 2 Hours after there regular time. Dismissal time will not change.

We are having a Lockdown Drill in February!

As you are likely aware, our school practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, but we wish to increase your knowledge of our procedures.

It is important to understand that school staff will implement a lockdown and call police if/and when there is any reason to believe that imminent danger to students and staff may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school directly or your child, or to come directly to the school. You are asked not to do any of these, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined in this letter.

Roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles. Parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not proceed to the school. Instead, you may go to your schools' designated Parent location, BLT Jr. Building (Primary Location) or St. Andrew's Church, 2553 St. Margaret's Bay Road (Secondary Location), to receive information which will be provided by police and school representatives. This location is selected as being far enough from the school to maximize your safety and that of others. Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. Please note that, for safety reasons, some situations may require that some information be withheld until the situation is resolved. (In lockdown situations you may also contact the Regional Centre by calling 902-464-2000.) After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, your child's school may also implement a precautionary "Hold & Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighborhood that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this situation all doors to the school are locked and monitored to ensure no one enters or exits the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do NOT proceed to the school unless asked to do so by school board staff.

We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have and we welcome any questions you have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school. BLT Sr. will be having a lock-down drill next month, February 13th in the morning, so we can practice this procedure just as we do with evacuation drills. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school at 902-876-3230.