

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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September, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

I would like to welcome all students and families to the 2009-2010 school year! As the principal of John Barsby Community School, I look forward to meeting all students and families. Please do not hesitate to stop into the office and introduce yourself.

The intent of this early September newsletter is to share important information with you so as to assist with your own fall planning.

Our Pyramid of Intervention will begin the first Wednesday and Thursday of October. All students will be expected to attend a 50 minute Learning Group session 2 times a week, Wednesday and Thursday a.m. Students will be assigned to a Learning Group according to their own academic needs. For any new grade 8 parents, this learning structure will be discussed at our Meet the Teacher night on September 24th at 7 p.m.

Again this year, all students who attend John Barsby will receive an agenda planner on Wednesday September 9th. This planner holds important information related to school procedures and policies. Please note that John Barsby has adopted a new late and attendance policy. This policy can be found on the second page in the student planner. Additionally, there is a calendar of school events which could be referred to by parents and students. Please review with your student and assist them to use this organizational tool. We believe that students will achieve academic success by keeping informed of their own school calendar, setting priorities, and planning for their successes and interests. Throughout the year, please continue to review this information with your student.

The following Administration/Counselling Team can assist you with questions related to your students programming and/or timetable:

Grades 8-12:

A-H Mr. Ferguson/Mrs. Boyle
I-R Mrs. Proctor/Ms. Black
S-Z Ms. Gray/Mrs. Sunde

Monthly newsletters will be sent home in the last week of each month. Please encourage your student to bring them to your attention.

Feel free to phone or drop into the school and see anyone of the administration team if you have any questions or concerns.

Robyn Gray

Principal

NEW STAFF AND RETURNING STAFF

Please welcome our new staff members to our school this year:

New Teachers: Ms. J. Nelson, Ms. K. Beck

Returning Teachers: Ms. C. Boyle, Ms. R. Kristiansen, Mrs. L. Richardson, Mrs. D. Wilford, Mr. B. Wei, Ms. M. Black, Mrs. A. Obersteiner

New Educational Assistants: Mr. T. Thorsell, Ms. G. Ihl, Ms. B. Bill.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 14	Grade 12 Assembly Blk A-1
September 16	Student Photos
September 24	Meet the Teacher Night 7:00 p.m.
September 28	Non-Instructional Day
September 29	Grade 9 Immunization 8:45 am Multi-Purpose Room
October 7	Interim Reports Day PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
October 8	Early Dismissal – 1:30 p.m. Parent/Teacher Meetings 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
October 12	Thanksgiving
October 19	Grade 12 Assembly-Block B-2
October 23	Non-Instructional Day
November 2-5	Grad Photos
November 4	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 26	Early Dismissal Parent/Teacher Report Card Meetings 3:00-4:30 p.m. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
December 18	Last Day of Classes Before Winter Vacation
January 4	School Re-Opens

TIMETABLE CHANGES

The staff at John Barsby has created a timetable that is based on the requests that students made last spring. Although the timetable accommodates most student requests it is extremely tight. We will not be able to accommodate many timetable changes.

Timetable changes will be considered by administrators under the following conditions and only if space allows for changes:

- 1) A student's timetable is missing a course and is incomplete
- 2) A student is scheduled for a course that they have failed the prerequisite for. (example: your son/daughter is in Math 10 and has failed Math 9)
- 3) A student is in grade 12 and doesn't have the courses required to graduate.
- 4) A student must bring a note signed by their parent/guardian that indicates an academic reason for making a course change.

Students must attend all of the classes they are assigned to until a change is approved. Announcements will be made regarding when students will have the opportunity to change timetables.

COMING SOON TO OUR SCHOOL - FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SNACKS!

I am pleased to let you know that our school is participating this year in the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program.

Students will receive a free snack twice a week for the school year. This snack is not meant to replace food normally consumed during breaks or at lunch. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Fruits and vegetables contain vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, antioxidants, and fibre that promote health and prevent disease. Studies show that Canadians in general are not eating enough fruits and vegetables. Eating one more fruit or vegetable a day can make a difference.

Students will be receiving snacks such as plums, pears, cucumbers, apples, tomatoes, carrots and kiwifruit.

Get the school year off to a good start with healthy good tasting fresh fruits and vegetables. For back to school lunches:

- ❖ Pick freshly harvested BC fruits like apples, pears, plums, grapes, and vegetables like carrot and celery sticks, cherry tomatoes, and colourful pepper slices
- ❖ Wash fruits and vegetables before packing in lunch bags
- ❖ Enjoy the great taste of local fruits and vegetables.

FLU SEASON

Health authorities have advised us to be prepared for a busy flu season that will include cases of H1N1. Please be assured that the School District is in constant communication with the Health Authority about the upcoming flu season. We are being advised that many cases of H1N1 have been confirmed in British Columbia and the vast majority of these patients have either recovered or are recovering.

Here are some practical ways you can help prevent the spread of infection:

- 1) Wash your hands frequently, especially before eating;
- 2) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- 3) Don't share the same cup or share utensils with other people;
- 4) Sneeze into a tissue instead of your hands and then throw the tissue away; and
- 5) Stay home from school if you are sick.

Your son/daughter has received 6 different handouts concerning the H1N1 flu virus that thoroughly explains the virus, precautions to take, spread of the virus, anxiety caused by the virus and other questions. Please take the time to review these worthwhile handouts.

For further information:

- 1) You can call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1 24 hours a day/seven days a week to speak to a nurse if you have more questions or are concerned about any illness/symptoms experienced by you or your child
- 2) For the latest facts on the H1N1 flu virus, including back-to-school information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/hlnl
- 3) Check the School District web-site for up-to-date information about the virus, <http://www.sd68.bc.ca/>