Lightning News for February 16th – 19th.

Barnhill does their Best! Better Every Single Time.

The theme for the month of February is “caring.”

“There is no better place to create a caring community than in our schools…the heart of the future.” ~ Patricia Gandara ~

**We hope you enjoyed your long weekend and had a nice and relaxing Family Day holiday.**

It is a short week this week, with only four instructional days.

Please take the opportunity to read our Operational Plan with a few changes that have been made for the Orange Phase, dated February 10th.

The *I Care Kits* are really coming together, however, we continue to need your help with donations…the kits will include personal items such as combs, toothbrushes, soaps, deodorants, mittens, socks etc. All the class bubbles will be collecting the donated items in their classroom throughout the month of February. At the end of February, just before the March break – we will put these kits together with the donated items and deliver them to the local shelters in the Saint John area. We appreciate and thank you for your generous donations for this caring initiative throughout the month of February.

The month of February is “Suicide Awareness” month. The Canadian Mental Health Association is leading a campaign to bring awareness about mental health promotion and suicide prevention. The key message is “You Are Not Alone.” There is help available to support the journey towards a healthier and more meaningful life.

Black History month is celebrated every year in February: it is a fantastic opportunity to teach students about world history, social studies, and modern politics. In our school we plan to champion Black culture: past, present, and future. We will be encouraging our students to learn more about the significance of Black history/culture in our Foundations class and Social Studies class.

Happy Chinese New Year!! This is a festival that is celebrated by over 20% of the world’s population. It is the most important holiday in China. 2021 is the year of the OX. Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year as the dates of the celebration also follow the phases of the moon. The significance of the Chinese New Year is to usher out the old year and bring forth luck and prosperity of the new year.

Our grade 8 students received their applications for high school on February 4th. Applications need to be returned to the homeroom class bubble teachers by **February 17th at noon.** District personnel will notify students by mail, no later than April 30, to their home address as to their grade 9 placement and /or placement on a wait list. We need to remind students of the importance of meeting academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations for the remainder of the year.

Every Friday we have hot lunch available for our students. Pizza is sold on Cashless School for $5.00 for two slices. However, do not despair, students may purchase pizza for $2.50 a slice on Friday, however, it is first come first serve.

Breakfast – we do have some nut free, healthy, individually wrapped breakfast items and snacks available in the office to anyone who would like one. Students may come to the office at breaks or lunch to receive a healthy food item.

There are only 9 school days left in this month for our PBIS initiative, the Oscar Award. We are encouraging all students to make every effort to keep the environment clean in their class bubble. It will be a tough choice to see who the winners will be at the end of the month.

**On the Horizon:**

**Pink Shirt Day:** Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 24th. The pink shirts are on sale in the office, please note they are going fast. The shirts are only $5.00 each, it will be first come first “serve.” There are different sizes, both students and staff may purchase their pink shirt at break or lunch in the office. Please see the attached poster of the Spirit Week events that SRC has organized for the week of February 22nd to 26th in order to celebrate the “caring” month of February. Please note that all loonie donations for pajama day and hat day will be going to the local shelters with our *I Care Kits.*

**March Break:** Is from March 1st to 5th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 658-5971 or [jill.ferguson@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:jill.ferguson@nbed.nb.ca)

Thank you.

Ms. Jill Ferguson