Lightning News for April 6th – 9th.

Barnhill does their Best! Better Every Single Time.

The theme for the month of April is “citizenship.”

“Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong.” ~ Charles Handy ~

It is only a four-day week this week, we certainly hope everyone enjoyed the Easter weekend.

Do not forget that we have hot lunch this Friday with cheese pizza, please pre-order on cashless schools for two slices for $5.00.

**This Wednesday, April 7th is World Health Day –** We all need to review the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. This is a great day for students to get out of their seats and get their blood pumping, or just take the time to be mindful.

The following are some ideas for the day (and every day). – Go for a hike, get moving while staying a safe distance apart, breathe in some fresh air or practice mindful meditation, World Health is about promoting mental health as well as physical health. COVID -19 has certainly uprooted some normal everyday routines, to help combat some of the anxiety try to sit quietly and think of some of the positives in your life. Work on healthy eating, like cars, our bodies need good fuel to keep us going and to be at our best. At school we follow Policy 711 and provide healthy breakfast items and snacks. We encourage students to create a balanced healthy lunch of their own. The World Health Organization wants to remind all of us that our health is our wealth.

**The month of April is National Poetry Month** – we want to celebrate poetry activities by having a poetry competition. All competitors are to create a poem and submit it to Mrs. Carleton. The poem can be any style; Haiku, Free Verse, Sonnet, Rhymed Verse etc.… the poems will be judged by a panel of judges and the winner will be announced by April 28th which is “Poetry Reading Day.” The winner will win a $50.00 gift card to Indigo. Good luck and all the best to all our creative poetry writers!

**This month is also National Mathematical Education Month** – we will be offering all our students a variety of fun math activities throughout the month.

**April is Autism Awareness Month –** During Foundations we will be reviewing the five common myths and facts about children diagnosed with autism.

**Athletics –** We have decided that all sports activities will be cancelled for the remainder of this school year. This decision was not made lightly and was made in conjunction with other middle schools within the Saint John area. We know this decision is disappointing, however we trust this is the best course of action given the priority of keeping our students and the school community safe during this pandemic. We feel if we continue to exercise due diligence, in the fall of 2021 we will have more freedom and be able to incorporate athletics and extra-curricular activities into our school program. We would appreciate your cooperation and support. Thank you.

**Heritage Fair –** We want to take the opportunity to congratulate the following students, they will be representing Barnhill Memorial School in the Regional Virtual Heritage Fair on May 28, 2021.

Iris Metcalfe – grade 8 “Come from Away.”

Penny Halford & Eden Perry – grade 7 “Harbour Passage.”

Ryan Hillier – grade 7 “Boler.”

Charlotte Colpitts – grade 7 “Margaret Atwood.”

~ Thank you to all the students who participated in our school Heritage Fair and to Madame Ashton for organizing this enrichment opportunity for our students. Great job to everyone.

**On the Horizon –**

On Tuesday, April 13th Sgt. Chris Piccott will be at our school to present to the winners of Legion #69 Literary & Poster Contest. We have 15 winners in total at Barnhill Memorial School. The winners will receive their prizes individually and this event will be videotaped and posted to our website. Congratulations.

C**onferences -** Parent/guardian/teacher and student conferences for this term will be on Tuesday, April 13th from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 14th in the morning from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. There was a letter of explanation in with the report card that was issued on March 31st. There is NO school for students on Wednesday, April 14th. In the afternoon, all staff will be participating in a professional learning program on outdoor instruction.

**Student Vote –** The students will be taking part in a school wide mock municipal election to correspond with the actual election in May. The students will be learning about rights and responsibilities of being good citizens. The responsibilities of the municipal government and their role within the city. Mr. Jason Smith will be taking the lead on this project and arranging for candidates of mayor, council at large and ward 1 councilors to submit short introduction videos for the students to view. The students result of the vote will be compared with the actual results of the election.

* **More events to be celebrated in April:**

April 14th – 20th: Library week - learn how to better research resources at your local Library.

April 19th: Humour Day.

April 22nd: Earth Day.

April 28th: Poetry Reading Day.

April 30th: National Honesty Day.

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