

School Improvement Service

From Jan. 29 – 31, Barnhill Memorial will be taking part in the Department of Education's School Improvement Service. On those three days and a day the following week, external reviewers from the Department of Education and our own district will be visiting Barnhill to observe, engage in dialogue with our staff, a cross-section of students and parents, and look at 151 indicators for school success.

The *Vision*: New Brunswick school communities, districts, and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development share a common understanding of practices leading to school effectiveness and those are in place in every school.

The *Mission*: To provide resources, data, and assistance to educators to support schools in becoming inclusive environments where the diverse needs of 21st century learners are met.

Badminton

Congratulations to the badminton team at the District Tournament held in December. The top finishing teams included:

Grade 6 Boys Singles – Conor Clark 2nd place

Grade 6 Boys Doubles – Will Delaney & Luke Khitab 1st place

Grade 6 Mixed Doubles – Ryan Oram & Jessie Armstrong 2nd place

Grade 8 girls Singles – Katelynn Nice 1st place

Many thanks to Mrs. L. Pattison, Mr. C. Edgecombe and Mr. F. Stuart for your work with the team.

Twitter Follow us at @BarnhillMiddle for the most up to date news,

Communication with Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield

During the week January 14th-18th when the Space Station is aligned with Saint John, our grade six students will communicate with Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield in the International Space Station. Ten St. Rose students and ten Barnhill Memorial students will ask questions of Mr. Hadfield during an assembly at St. Rose. This is a provincially televised event with all communication through NASA. Thank You to St. Rose for inviting us to participate in this event.



Students listening to instructions at the practice session. .

Character Counts

The character trait we will be focusing on in the month of January is **responsibility**. We use the colour **green** to represent this trait. To visualize **responsibility**, think about being **responsible** for a garden or finances or as in solid and reliable like an oak tree. When you are **responsible**, you

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Plan ahead
- Persevere: keep on trying!
- Always do your best
- Use self-control
- Are self-disciplined
- Think before you act — consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Set a good example for others

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather and the concern of school closures, an appropriate announcement will be relayed to the local radio stations, the district website, twitter (@ASD_South) and the District Information Phone Line 1-855-535-7669 (SNOW) by 6:30am.

Free Public Skating

Did you know that the Peter Murray Arena offers **free public skating** every day from 3:00- 4:00. Gather up your friends, skates and helmets and head on down for some great physical activity. Go to <http://www.saintjohn.ca/site/media/SaintJohn/Public%20Skating%20Schedule%202012-2013%281%29.pdf> for other skating times.

Math Olympics

On Thursday, Dec. 20 we had Math Olympics and it was so much fun. It is when you go to five stations with a group of kids. You have a booklet of questions for each station and it has different math problems. I found it got harder when we moved from station to station, but team work makes it easier. I found Math Olympics helped us practice more and get stronger with math. You get better grades if you practice math. Math Olympics was a good way to compete with people in different grades and show that you are good at math, have fun and make new friends.

Submitted by Devon Doyle

Professional Learning

Barnhill's Professional Learning Committee has decided to make *Differentiated Instruction* a focus for the year as we strive to serve all learners. *Simply stated, differentiated instruction allows each student to learn at the depth, complexity, and pace that is most beneficial to him/her. Differentiating curriculum and instruction is a rich and effective approach to use when providing for the needs of all students, including those with special education needs such as students with learning disabilities, gifted and talented students, and English language learners.* On Monday, Kimberley Mackay from the NBTA presented a full day session to our staff. Teachers and Educational Assistants were engaged throughout the day as Ms. Mackay walked us through various differentiated scenarios.

School Improvement Plan

Our *Mathematics Goal Statement* on our SIP is to focus on effective Mathematics instruction in all classrooms to achieve targets set for provincial assessments. In order to achieve this goal, we have set two priorities:

1. To improve student achievement in Mathematics with an objective of 80% of the students achieving the standard on the provincial Math 8 Assessment in 2014.
2. To provide enrichment activities to gifted students with an objective that 30% of students will achieve Strong Achievement on the provincial Math 8 assessment in June 2014.

Our Math team has been working hard at delivering a differentiated program to our students. The purchase of several types of math manipulatives last year is assisting visual and kinesthetic learners. A group of enriched students at all grade levels are meeting weekly to prepare for several math competitions to be held in the spring.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 17	Communication with Chris Hadfield
Jan. 22	Second Quebec trip payment
Jan. 29 – 31	School Review

Voice Mail

In consultation with our PSSC, Barnhill has been discontinued voice mail as of Dec. 31, 2012. We will be sending out information via email, school website, Twitter and monthly newsletter (posted on our website). In case you missed the form on the home report, please fill out the following information and return with your child to make sure you receive our emails.

Child's name: _____

Your name: _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive hard copy of newsletter