

 *Lightning News for September 18th – 22nd.*

*~ Our first PSSC meeting for the school year is Monday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! This meeting will conclude by 7:30 p.m. We will meet everyone in the front lobby and then proceed to our meeting room.*

 *The theme for the month of September is* Daring to be our Best.

 “Dare to seek knowledge.” *~ Lailah Gifty Akita ~*

We will have our first CELEBRATE assembly of the year on Thursday, September 28th , at 2:00 p.m.

Prior to the Celebrate assembly on the 28th, we will have our Terry Fox Walk. We ask that all students bring in a toonie for Terry and give it to their homeroom teacher to support cancer research. All students and staff will be going for a walk from 1:00 p.m. until 1:35 p.m. Parents and guardians are certainly welcome to come with us on our walk in support of Terry Fox. Thank you.

BOLT: Barnhill Memorial School will continue with our Positive Behavior Intervention Strategy (PBIS) called BOLT. This behavior expectation is designed to teach students in understanding appropriate behavior within the school day. Students will be reminded of the expectations for everyone – in classrooms and public spaces. Each of the letters in BOLT are components of this plan:

**B**e Respectful

**O**wn your Learning

**L**ive Safely

**T**ake Responsibility

Rather than dwelling on the negative behaviors of a few students, the vast majority of those who meet expectations will be rewarded. Students are identified by their teachers and given a Bolt Ballot, at all of our CELEBRATE assemblies we draw Bolt Ballots from each of the grade level boxes and students are awarded with a prize of recognition.

~ Lock and Lockers – all students have been assigned a locker by their homeroom teacher. It is the expectation that students use their lockers and their locks for their belongings. We do not want items to get lost or stolen. All grade 6 students and students new to the building received a lock when they paid their $30.00 student fee. All other students would have a Barnhill lock in their possession, if they do not, they do need to replace it, and the cost is $6.00. We as a staff strongly encourage all student to use their lock and keep their items safe.

~ Privacy Act – Your child was given a form to take home which outlines the *School’s Privacy Act.* Please ensure you take the time to complete this form and send it back to the homeroom teacher. There are many events where your child’s name or picture may appear on the school website, yearbook, social media, etc. By completing this form, it will give or deny permission to use pictures and names for school purposes. Please contact the school if you need more information.

~ New Middle School Report Cards: You have been provided with information about the new report cards being issued in November, March and June. These reports will be much more detailed and informative than the ones that have been issued in the past. Please become familiar with the new system of assessment and do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you require more information.

~ School Calendar – This Wednesday, September 20th is our first half day teacher professional learning. The students will be dismissed at **11:30 a.m.** This will be our first half day, so some growing pains with this process can be expected, your feedback is crucial. Any questions please let us know and thanks for your support and patience during this start up.

The Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Development has initiated changes for our teacher professional learning. The following Wednesdays will see 11:30 a.m. dismissal: September 20th, October 25th, December 6th, January 17th, and April 25th.

~ Athletics and Activities: For our students we have many opportunities for them to get involved and stay involved with their school.

On Monday, September 18th we have our first Soccer game of the season here on our very own field. The girls will be competing against Forest Hills School. Thank you to Mr. Curry and Mr. Edgecombe. The soccer fee for the season is $25.00, cheques can be made payable to Barnhill Memorial School.

 If as a student athlete you have not filled out a Pursuit of Excellence form, please get one from Mr. Edgecombe. The first Pursuit of Excellence form for the year needs to be signed by your parent and /or guardian, if you are involved in multiple sports or activities; the Pursuit of Excellence form will be updated by the coach or activity advisor with the date and the students’ initials.

The first Cross Country meet will be on Tuesday, September 19th, this will take place at Wolastoq Park.

The final try-out for the boys Soccer team will be on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. after the Cross Country meet. Thank you Mr. Gautreau. The first game for the boys will be on Thursday at Samuel-de-Champlain.

 If you are interested in being a volunteer/community coach, please speak to Mr. Edgecombe. You may call the school at 658-5393 or email chris.edgecombe@nbed.nb.ca

The Saint John Youth Hockey League is looking for a Community Coach for this season. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Richard at jenn.richard@hotmail.com

~ Student Representative Council (SRC) has gotten off to a great start with organizing the first dance. Madame Arbeau and Mr. Hamilton have been meeting with our SRC team and organizing events for the school. The next event will be the CELEBRATE assembly and a “Spirit Week”.

~ Barnhill Best Buddies – Best Buddies Canada operates in schools across Canada to create one-to one friendships, based upon mutual interests between student volunteers and children with different abilities. Barnhill Memorial is an inclusive school and we have formed our Best Buddies group. Ms. Galbraith and Ms. Fawcett will meet with students to share activities, to help promote an inclusive environment, create awareness and have fun!

G.S.A. – with Mrs. Sloat, Mr. Hamilton and Madame Murphy will start this week. Please listen to the morning announcements.

Café Francais – a cultural club will be offered starting in October, please listen to announcements and contact Madame Lise for more details.

~ Please return your envelopes for pictures by Tuesday, September 19th whether you are ordering the pictures or having retakes. Retakes will be on – Friday, September 29th.

Wednesday, September 27th is Immunization day for our grade 7 students.

Over the next couple of weeks we will practicing some of our Emergency Response plans, such as Fire Drills, Lock Down processes and Evacuation procedures. We completed a Fire Drill last Thursday and the students behaved in an excellent manner.

Communication with Staff: Although staff members attempt to be accommodating and as accessible as possible, there are times when we are not available to speak to you immediately (especially first thing in the morning). To avoid disappointment, we ask that you book an appointment by calling the school at 658-5393 or emailing the person you wish to contact. We appreciate the cooperation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Jill Ferguson, 658-5971 or email jill.ferguson@nbed.nb.ca

“Dare to be more than ordinary…Dare to be extraordinary.” ~ Imania Margria