* Lightning News*

 **Barnhill Memorial School**

 **Welcome to the 2017 -2018 School Year!**

 **We want to take the opportunity to extend a special welcome to all of you who are new to the community, and of course a special welcome to all of our returning families. We have many things to look forward to this year as we explore new learning opportunities and reconnect with each other. Thank you from the Educational Team at Barnhill Memorial School.**

 **The Theme for the Month of September is:**

 **“Daring to be our BEST!”**

* Barnhill Memorial School encourages others to ***Dare to be your Best,***by looking for the good in people and searching for the positives in situations.
* Individual Quality Characteristics identified might be strengths, happiness, caring, kindness and respect.

 Believe It! See It! Celebrate It!

~ At Barnhill Memorial School, we have monthly CELEBRATE Assemblies in which we celebrate our students and their achievements. These assemblies will be on the last Thursday of every month.

~ Students are usually more successful when know what to expect and get involved. At Barnhill Memorial you can expect the following:

* New teachers and classmates
* New things to adjust to – such as lockers, changing classes, and schedules
* More activities to choose from – such as sports teams, like soccer, basketball, volleyball, flag football, cross country etc. You also have the opportunity to get involved in clubs such as Student Council, G.S.A.,Chess, peer helpers, choir, yearbook etc.
* More freedom and independence
* Greater responsibility
* Higher academic expectations
* More social events – such as dances
* Changes in your self – as a middle level student, you are getting older and you will change socially, emotionally and physically.

 Middle School is certainly a new and exciting adventure.

~ We look forward to partnering with you as we provide the best learning opportunities for your child. Please be in regular contact with your child’s homeroom teacher and take every opportunity to become involved in your child’s school through volunteering. During our Open House on Thursday, September 7th our Parent School Support Committee will be making a presentation. The Barnhill School staff is already busy organizing many events and activities for our students. We are looking forward to the new school year with anticipation.

What is a PSSC?

PSSC stands for Parent School Support Committee and is a committee of people whose task it is to work towards the improvement of their school. Parents of students in the school make up the largest group of people in the PSSC. The principal and a teacher representative also sit as members, and there may also be community members on the committee.

As a parent, you have an opportunity to be part of both present and future of your child’s school by allowing your name to stand for the PSSC elections at your child’s school. As a member of the PSSC you would serve for a three year term and would be involved in a variety of discussions and decisions related to such things as education issues, the school improvement plan, and reviewing the school performance report, to name just a few. All parents who are not employees of the school but have children at the school are eligible to participate.

If you would like any further information, please contact the school at 658-5393 or Ms. Ferguson at 658-5971.

Staff Changes

Our Barnhill School Team has a few changes for the 2017 - 2018 school year. We welcome back Mrs. Dale Stevenson as our Administrative Assistant. We also want to welcome back as a grade 6 teachers, Madame Lindsey Carleton and Mrs. Melissa Dumas will be in the gym teaching Phys.Ed. We have a few new additions as well; Madame Laura Taylor in grade 6, Mr. Justin Gautreau in grade 7, Mr. Cody Hamilton in grade 8, Mr. Josh Forward who will be teaching both grade 6 and 7. Also Ms. Bethanie McShane who will have a grade 7 homeroom and will also be teaching Art two days a week. We have a new Educational Assistant joining us this year, Ms. Ellen Craig.

 Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, September 5th – The first day of school for our grade 6 students. This is a transitional day just for our grade 6 students. This day provides the students with a day to become familiarized with their classes and the school culture. A student fee of $30.00 is requested to help cover the cost of special presentations and assemblies, co- and extracurricular trips as well as some art, music, computer and technology supplies for special projects. The day on Tuesday will start with a welcome assembly in our gymnasium and then all students will go with their homeroom teachers to become orientated with the school.

Wednesday, September 6th- All students will attend school for the 2017 -2018 school year. For our grade 7 and 8 students, class lists will be posted in the hallways. They will go to their homeroom classes and later in the day we will have “welcome” assemblies for these students.

Thursday, September 7th - Our Open House starts at 5:30 p.m. in our gymnasium with a presentation from P.S.S.C. It will be an opportunity for parents to meet with their children’s teachers. The evening will end with Parents and Pastries with everyone enjoying a pastry provided by our Student Council Representatives and PSSC. We will also have some Barnhill swag for sale in the lobby. Check out our new student lounge; The Lightning Lounge.

The week of September 11th – Both Soccer and Cross Country try-outs will begin this week. This is for all Barnhill students.

Tuesday, September 12th – **Picture Day** – Retakes will be on - Friday, September 29th.

Thursday, September 14th – We will have our “Welcome Back” dance from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The cost will be $5.00 at the door. Students can sign in guests from other schools by coming to the office and filling out the sign –in sheet with either Ms. Nelson or Ms. Ferguson.

Our school dances are always an excellent opportunity for parents/ guardians to come in and volunteer – either in the canteen, at the front door or chaperoning the dance.

Wednesday, September 20th – is our first P.L. afternoon for the school year. Students will be dismissed at noon.

Wednesday, September 27th – is our Immunization Day. Forms will be sent home with students.

Our hot lunch program will not be starting until the first of October. Until that time students are to bring bagged lunches. Many of our students have severe allergies to peanuts, peanut butter, nuts and shellfish. In order to ensure the safety of all of our students we ask that you not send any food to school that may contain peanuts, nuts or shellfish. It is the duty of the school and district to ensure the safest environment to our students, so we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in advance. A great resource for parents wanting to help children eat more fruits and vegetables is <http://www.fruitsandveggies.ca/en>

New to our school this year - we will have canteen in our Lightning Lounge in which we will sell healthy snack items for $1.00 each.

 Let’s Communicate

We work very hard at Barnhill Memorial Middle School to communicate on a regular basis with parents. All home room teachers will be calling the homes of their students and connecting with families this week. Another method of communication is **School Connects**. Please ensure that we have an up to date email and phone number. We will be sending home a student data form with your child. If you could please take the opportunity to sign the form and make any changes necessary in the grey boxes, please return to the school by September 25th. Thank you.

Calling and visiting the school. The phone number for the school office is 658-5393. Teachers are always willing to talk with you regarding any concerns you may have about your child’s education. The best time to contact teachers is after instructional hours at 3:00 p.m. It is almost impossible for teachers to leave their classrooms unattended during the school day. Please also be observant of the fact that schools are very busy places and if you wish to meet with a teacher or an administrator, please call and make an appointment. We are always very happy to meet with parents, just dropping in may lead to disappointment if the individual is not available. Also, when visiting the school you are reminded to report to the office and sign in with the Administrative Assistant. **No adults will be permitted to interrupt classroom instruction by visiting teachers or dropping off their children at the classroom door after 8:20 when the bell rings for the instructional day. This is to protect the valuable instructional time for all students.**

If you must take your child out from school during instructional hours, please sign your child out in the office. Our Administrative Assistant will call your child down to the office.

Thank you in advance for your help with less interruptions during the school day.

Please always check out our website for any updates and calendar events <http://barnhill.nbed.nb.ca>

Attendance Matters

On behalf of our Superintendent Zoe Watson, the District Education Council and our Parent School Support Committee, I would like to remind you that during the 2015-2016 school year, the Anglophone south School District launched the *Attendance Matters* initiative, focusing on the importance of your child being present and on time for school every day. This is an initiative we continue to support. Being present and on time impacts positively on learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Good attendance helps to build habits that will last a lifetime and transfer to life beyond public education.

We recognize that as parents/guardians you hold the greatest influence with your children. Continue to support the *Attendance Matters* initiative by making sure that your son/daughter is present and on time every day.

For more information, check the Anglophone South website (www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca).

Thank you.

We are very excited about the 2017-2018 school year, with our grade six students starting on Tuesday, September 5th and our grade 7/8 students returning on Wednesday, September 6th.

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

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

“The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.” ~ Helen Keller ~