

BAYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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PRINCIPAL
Mr. PAT LASKEY

VICE PRINCIPAL
MRS. AMY MCCLURE

The Bronco Bulletin- September 2021

Greetings: Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Bayside Middle School! Special greetings to our new students from near and afar. Our staff has worked hard to create a plan for the safe return to school and the first few days of school were devoted to presenting this plan to staff and students. This plan was created and approved by the District and follows the suggested guidelines established by Public Health. We currently have close to 600 students enrolled at Bayside and continue to grow! We are one of the largest middle schools in the Anglophone South School District and the Province of New Brunswick.

Newsletter Distribution: Please be aware that in order to be environmentally friendly and keeping in mind Covid-19, our monthly newsletters are not sent out en masse in paper form. All newsletters will be available on our school's website. A talk mail and email will be sent to notify families as to when they are posted.

Electronics Policy: Bayside students are not permitted to bring personal electronic devices to school. Research has shown that these devices (Cellphones, gaming systems, I-Pads, MP3 players, Smart watches, etc.) pose a major form of distraction in a school setting. Although we recognize Social Media can have good uses, there are many cases where it is pervasive and unhealthy. Students who have been assigned assistive technology will continue using this to support their learning.

STOMP: Bayside will continue with our Positive Behavior Intervention Strategy (PBIS) called STOMP. Students will be reminded of the expectations for everyone in classrooms and public spaces (this is more important than ever before!). Rather than dwelling on the negative behaviors of a few students, the vast majority of those who meet expectations will be rewarded. The program was an overwhelming success over the last six years and many of our students received rewards of some sort. Each of the letters in STOMP are components of this plan:

S= Success
T= Team Player
O= Own It
M= Motivated
P= Prepared

New Staff: We welcome the following staff members to Bayside: Ms. McLaughlin (Grade 6), Ms. Ricketts (Grade 6), Ms. Nickerson (Grade 6), Madame Lamprea (Grade 7), Ms. Graham (Grade 8), and Madame Kelly (Grade 8). We also welcome our new EAs: Ms. Whalen and Ms. Courtier

Attendance Matters: Being present and on time impacts positively on learning from Kindergarten to grade 12. Good attendance also helps to build habits that will last a lifetime and transfer to life beyond public education. There is a strong correlation between academic success and good attendance. However, we are asking parents to be diligent in their screening of their children prior to making the decision to send them to school. Information has been sent to you about the screening process. There will be occasions where it is in the best interest of your child, other students and staff to keep a symptomatic child home. For more information, check the Anglophone South website (www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca) and our school website www.bayside.nbed.nb.ca .

Student Fees and Yearbooks: Each year, the school collects a fee from families to support our positive learning environment and enrichment activities. The \$20.00 school fee pays for student IDs and helps supplement enrichment and field trip costs. Hopefully, we will be able to have a yearbook again this year. The cost of these books will be a separate charge of \$20.00. We offer a service called *Cashless Schools*. This is a convenient service that parents can use to pay for various school expenses. Please check out our website to register. We also accept cash and cheques.

Privacy Act- Your child was given a form to take home which outlines the *School's Privacy Act*. Please take the time to complete this and send it back to the school. 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.

Dropping Off and Picking up Students: Morning buses unload at the gym doors. If you are driving your child or if he/she walks, they are to use the door facing Courtenay Avenue until 8:20 am. We request students being driven are dropped off and parents turn right directly on to Courtenay Avenue. Students are not to arrive to school before 7:50 am, as supervision does not start until that time. Students will have to remain outside until 7:50am, if they arrive early. Walking students will follow the same procedure. Any student arriving after 8:20 am will use the front door and proceed directly to his/her homeroom. After school, buses will load in front of the school. If your child is being picked up, please make arrangements to meet him/her either on Courtenay Avenue or in the front parking area at the edge of Bayside Drive.

Meet the Teacher & PSSC Elections: Due the inability to guarantee physical distancing, our annual evening to meet our teaching staff has been cancelled for this school year. Those who wish to serve on the PSSC (Parent-School Support Committee) are asked to contact Mr. Laskey. We have 5 spots available.

Severe Food Allergies: Please be aware that we have students and staff in our school with severe allergies to nuts and nut products (peanuts, peanut butter, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, cashews, almonds, nut oils, etc.). Any minimal contact with these foods may cause a serious allergic reaction and unconsciousness within a matter of minutes. These allergies may even be life threatening. In this regard, Bayside will attempt to make the school as allergy safe as possible. Please do not send these foods items to school. This policy is in effect in all ASD-S schools.

Policy 711: Policy 711 is the provincial policy regarding healthy eating habits at school. This policy will apply to what is served in the cafeteria. Our cafeteria service, Chartwell's, will begin operations on September 20th. They will be taking orders on-line or students can pre-order upon arrival at school. Vending machines services will resume this year. Healthy snacks and drinks are available.

Scent and Latex Free School: We are asking families to be sensitive to students and staff who are affected by strong scents and latex allergies. Students are not to wear cologne, perfume, hair products, etc. which emit a strong scent. These scents can also trigger a severe allergic reaction. Use of these products by students will result in disciplinary action. Also, the residue from latex can lead to severe reactions.

Closed Campus: Please remember that our school is a closed campus at lunch. Students are not permitted to go to stores and fast food establishments at lunchtime unless they are signed out and accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Communication with Staff: Although staff members attempt to be as accommodating and accessible as possible, there are times when administrators and teachers may not be available to speak to you immediately (especially first thing in the morning). We ask that you book an appointment by calling the school at 658-5331 or by e-mailing the person you wish to contact. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Auditorium Seat Sponsorship: Limited seats are still available for sponsorship. Please consider making a donation of \$100.00 which will see a plaque placed on a seat with your chosen message. Please contact Pat Laskey at patrick.laskey@nbed.nb.ca for more information.

Picture Day: Harvey Studios was here on September 10th for Picture Day. Proofs were sent home and envelopes are to be returned by September 20th. Harvey Studios will return on October 19th to do retakes (as requested by parents) and to take photos of those who missed the first opportunity.

Physical Education-Please ensure students have indoor shoes (must lace up, have heel cup and good traction and absorption) for class. Students need to change out of the clothes they are wearing into appropriate shorts and t-shirts. Students should bring their water bottles to PE class as we only have one water bottle filling station in the gym. Bottled water will also be sold only during PE class for \$1.00 and flavored water for \$1.50.

Athletics- Bayside has excelled in athletics year after year but with Covid-19, we lost 1.5 years of development. Currently, Public Health has allowed schools to resume sports. We offer cross-country, soccer, badminton, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track and field, and flag football for all students.

September- October Sports

-Varsity Boys Soccer and Varsity Girls Soccer-Teams are made up of students in Grades 6-8 with roughly 18-21 players per team. Tryouts have begun.

-Cross-Country- This is a sport that allows everyone to be on the team, as we can have as many runners who sign up. There are six teams (Grade 6, 7, 8 Girls and Grade 6, 7, 8 Boys) as students compete in their grade and gender. They will practice at school, and there are only three meets (September 21st at Wolostog Park (Reversing Falls), September 29th at the Forest Hills Invitational, and the Saint John Regional Championship at Forest Hills. T-shirts are \$12.00, which runners get to keep at the end of the season.

-Cheerleading- Tryouts are Friday, September 24th and Friday, October 1st in the gym from 3:00- 5:30 pm. All students are welcome to try out. Parents are asked to pick up their children at 5:30 pm sharp outside the gym door. Unfortunately, we can not allow spectators during indoor events as per Public Health directive.

Coaches Needed- We always welcome the expertise of our community. If you are interested in coaching, please email Mr. Shephard (Andrew.shephard@nbed.nb.ca). We currently need assistance with the boys soccer team.

Indoor Shoes and Equipment Donations- If you have new or gently used indoor shoes or equipment (soccer cleats, shin pads, good badminton rackets, volleyball kneepads, cheerleading shoes, flag football cleats, etc., please send to Mr. Shephard so items can be issued to deserving students.

September 30th – The Federal Government has declared Thursday, September 30th, as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. On this day, Canadians are invited to remember the survivors and those who perished in Residential Schools. Although federal and municipal employees may be off work that day, the Province of New Brunswick have declared schools will be open. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts to show their solidarity.

Final Thoughts: - I'm sure it goes without saying, please keep in mind that we are under the direction of NB Public Health because we continue to be in a pandemic situation. Schools will remain open as long as we all follow the very strict guidelines they have developed. In schools, wearing of masks is deemed mandatory and non-negotiable. Guidelines for physical distancing and washing/sanitizing hands have been explained. The screening process to be done at home is expected of all families. If we all work together, we will have success!