



BEL AYR ELEMENTARY

DECEMBER 2020

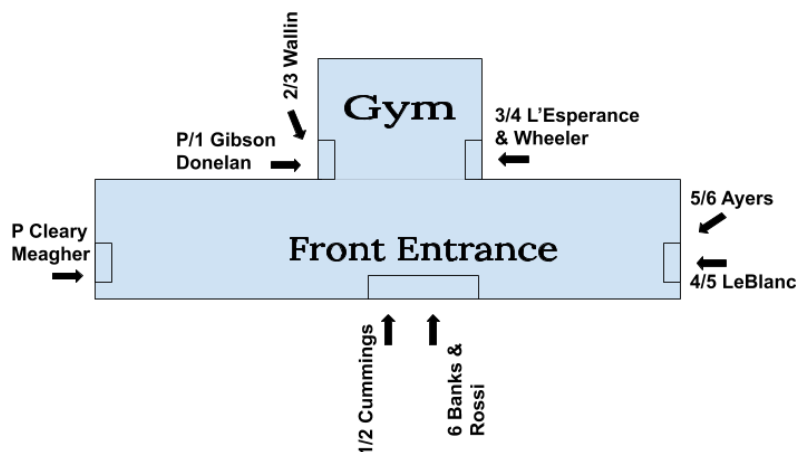
NEWSLETTER

Main office: 902-435-8353 Safe Arrival: 902-435-8417

DATES TO REMEMBER		BELL TIMES	
December 3 rd	No classes – morning PD/ afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences	First Bell	8:40 am
December 22 nd	Last day of classes before break	Recess	10:20 – 10:35 a.m.
January 4 th	First Day Back	Lunch Dismissal	11:50 a.m.
		Afternoon In Bell	12:50 p.m.
		Dismissal for all grades	2:50 p.m.

Change to school entrance for winter

Starting December 1st, we will be changing the way students enter the school. Due to the drop in temperature and anticipated precipitation, we will not be using the exterior doors to each classroom. Each class will enter the school from one of the five entrances connected to our hallways. There will be no more than two classes using each entrance. Teachers will meet their class and ensure students are lined up and spread out.



Report Cards

On Tuesday, December 1st report cards will be sent home. I want to take this opportunity to share with you that students are adjusting to a new “normal” after being away from school for five months. Even though we spent the month of September transitioning back to school with COVID practices, teachers have continued their hard work teaching your child and closing any gaps that may have been incurred while learning remotely and summer break. If you have any questions about your child’s report card, please reach out to your child’s teacher. I would like to assure you that we will continue to work and support your child so that they meet their full potential. In the meantime, please celebrate the strengths, recognize the challenges and work with the classroom teacher to support next steps. We will get to where we need to be, together!

Safe Arrival

If your child will not be attending school or will be late, we request that you call the school’s safe arrival line (902) 435-8417. A message may be left on the answering machine. If your child becomes ill during the day, we will call you or the person designated by you. For this reason, it is important that we have up-to-date telephone numbers on record.

School and Bus Cancellation

The Halifax Regional School Board takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board’s website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRSB website.

We are in the **Prince Andrew Family of Schools**. Please listen and or look for either the *Family* name or the individual name of the school in all announcements.

Mid-Day School Closure

In the event of **mid-day** closure due to deteriorating weather, you will be informed on local radio stations as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible. School staff will contact parents (or the person you have previously indicated) via the phone number recorded in PowerSchool. Please be sure to complete the Emergency Evacuation Plan– sent home in September if you haven't already done so. It is essential that we are able to reach you in the event of a school closure during the day. If your child is transported on a Stock Transportation school bus, those **busses will be departing from school two hours earlier than normal** on mid-day closure days. Therefore Stock busses will depart Bel Ayr at 12:50 in the case of a mid-day closure. Please note that due to changing weather conditions some busses may be delayed.

Please note that at the elementary level we need to contact parents before we dismiss students to walk or take the bus. If the classroom teacher is unable to reach a parent or designate of a particular child, that child will remain at school until contact is made.

Delayed Opening of Schools

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve a **2 hour delayed** opening may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the building is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours (for example, if they are usually picked up by Stock at 8:25 then they will be picked up 10:25.
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables
- Lunch times will not change
- Morning Excel will be cancelled and afternoon Excel program will operate as per usual
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change

BRRRRR It's Cold!

Every year we get questions about when children are permitted to go outside for recess or lunch. We like to get children outside in the fresh air whenever possible, but once it is below -10°C we carefully think about what is best. If the sun is shining with no wind we might go out for a while. Please be assured that children are not sent outside unsupervised. If we decide to go out on a cold day, teachers or lunch monitors go out with them and they will not be going out if it is too cold. Dress properly for the weather! Hats/mitts, snow pants/boots.

Nut Aware

We have students with severe, life threatening nut allergies. Please do not send in food with traces of nuts or peanuts.

School Photos

School photos can still be ordered. You can visit Photomaster Studios web site and order online at photomasterstudios.ca All orders will now be sent home by Canada Post instead of going to the school. Please note that Photomasters has all the school photos on file for the past 7 years. If you missed a year you can order past years online.