



BEL AYR ELEMENTARY

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

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

DATES TO REMEMBER		BELL TIMES	
January 27 th February 1 st -26 th February 15 th	Virtual SAC Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Primary Registration Edward Francis Arab Day - no classes	First Bell Recess Lunch Dismissal Afternoon In Bell Dismissal for all Grades P-6	8:40 am 10:20 – 10:35 a.m. 11:50 a.m. 12:50 p.m. 2:50 p.m.
March 15 th -19 th March 24 th	March Break Assessment & Evaluation Day – no classes		

Thank You!

Thank you so much to all families for your understanding with following the Covid protocols. We know that it can cause great inconvenience for some families to keep symptomatic students home, or to pick them up from school. Following the protocols helps to keep us all safe, and we are truly thankful for the kind cooperation and support from everyone. We are proud of our Bel Ayr students for following the many protocols (wearing their masks, hand sanitizing, etc.). Thank you families for preparing your children for these changes each day.

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

We have noticed some families not adhering to the traffic safety rules. Please remember to exercise caution when dropping off and picking up children at school. There are many vehicles using Bell Street throughout the school day and it can become quite congested. In the morning and after school it may take some time to drop off or pick up students. **Please be patient** and keep the following in mind:

- Please do not drive onto the school grounds or parking lots during school hours.
- Familiarize yourself with and respect the restricted parking/stopping areas along Bell Street.
- Make sure when dropping off children always have children exit on the passenger side of your vehicle.
- Please do not park or stop beside other cars as this adds to the congestion and impacts the flow of traffic. We do not want cars backing up while trying to exit the Cul-de-sac on Bell Street.
- Remember, there is plenty of on street parking just around the corner on Swanton Dr. and Garnett St.

Sharing Items from Home

Although we appreciate your thoughtfulness, we must insist that parents refrain from sending treats, cards (i.e. Birthday invitations, Valentine cards) and other items to share at school. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we look to ensure we stay healthy during the COVID era.

School and Bus Cancellation

The Halifax Regional Center for Education 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 Centre'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 HRCE 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 school bus, those **busses will be departing from school two hours earlier than normal** on mid-day closure days. Therefore 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 bus 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

Pre-Primary and Primary Registration

It is very important to have any students who will be starting school in September 2021 to register between February 1st and February 26th. At the time of registration for pre-primary and primary students new to school, parents/guardians must present the following:

- child's birth certificate
- proof of address
- health card
- Completed registration form, which can be found online at bla.hrce.ca or will be provided by the school upon request.

Pre-Primary - Students must have reached their fourth birthday on or before December 31st, 2021 to register.

Primary - Students must have reached their fifth birthday on or before December 31st, 2021 to register.

Also, parents who reside separately must choose which of their neighbourhood schools their children will attend.

For families who wish their children to attend a school outside their community an Out-of-Area request form must be secured from the neighbourhood school. Out-of-Area requests will be accepted by schools starting at 8:00 a.m. on April 1st. There is an option of submitting the Out of Area request via an online process available on the HRCE website starting 8:00 am on April 1st and will remain available for ten days. These applications will be processed by June 25th.

Once a student's Out of Area request form has been approved re-application is not required for subsequent years.

Shannon Park Frech Immersion

Please check the Shannon Park website at: spk.hrce.ca in February for Early French Immersion information.

Grade 7 Registration

All our grade 6 students are assumed to continue to Eric Graves Junior High for Grade 7. However, if you know that your child will not be attending Eric Graves please let us know as soon as possible by calling the office at 902-435-8353 or by e-mail nmacleod@hrce.ca

Our Grade 6's may consider Late French Immersion. This program is available at Ellenvale, Caledonia and Astral Drive Junior High Schools. In order to participate in this program parents will need to submit an Out-of-Area request to that school starting at 8:00 a.m. on April 1st.

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. Please talk with your child about the importance of coming to school with hats, mitts and boots ready for outdoor play.

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.

Lockdown Drill in February

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for *Bel Ayr Elementary* and the Halifax Regional Center for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Once again our school will be practicing a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.