



# ***Bert Ambrose Elementary School***

*(PRN, School District #60)*

*9616 115<sup>th</sup> AVE*

*Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 2Y1*

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***STRIVING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR POTENTIAL FOR A BETTER TOMORROW***

**Our Vision:** Bert Ambrose will focus on success, self-respect, and the appreciation of others in a safe, secure environment, providing opportunities for everyone.

**Our Mission:** Striving together to achieve our potential for a better tomorrow.

## **School Goals:**

1. Social Responsibility – solving problems in peaceful ways.
2. Literacy – Improve student reading ability and comprehension.
3. Critical Thinking – improve critical thinking skills of all our students

## **Motto: GATOR**

- Growing
- Achieving
- Together
- Opportunities for all
- being Respectful, Responsible and Resourceful

September 4, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back – I am very excited about my opportunity to be principal of Bert Ambrose School and am looking forward to working with everyone. I am anticipating a great year; our startup is very busy, but we are off to a good start. A copy of the newsletters will be attached to the school webpage for future reference.

## **Staffing**

We have some staff changes for this year:

Mrs. Forster is joining us from Robert Ogilvie and will be teaching Grade 2-3. Mrs. Lee is also joining us from Robert Ogilvie and will be teaching Grade 5. Mrs. Finkensiep will be doing prep coverage at our school. Mrs. Giesbrecht is joining us from Duncan Cran as an EA this year. I hope you will join me in making them feel welcome in our school.

## **Class lists**

Staff met and created class lists yesterday. The classes were created considering academic and social factors as well as parent requests where they could be accommodated with the goal of creating a successful year for everyone. Future changes will only be considered for sound educational reasons and all requests must be submitted in writing.

## **Kindergarten**

Our kindergarten classes will start September 9 with a gradual entry plan to learn the new routines as follows:

September 9-11 – Students attend 8:45 – 11:45 – learning routines and snack time/recess behaviours/expectations

September 12-13 – Students attend 8:45 – 1:00 pm – routines and lunch time behaviours/expectations

Kindergarten teachers will be contacting parents to discuss these schedules further.

## **Morning procedures**

The first bell rings at 8:45 – this allows transition time into the classes. Classroom instruction begins at 8:55 and this early morning instruction is critical to set the tone for the day and start the day in style. Students who arrive after this time need to report to the office to check in. If your child will be absent or late please phone the school. Knowing that your child or children are away really helps with the “kid check”, because each morning we will do a phone check for students who are absent and have not phoned in. If parents or guests are visiting the school, please check in at the office; for safety reasons we need to know who is in the building at all times. Please ensure that we have up to date contact information and emergency contact information for you and your family.

**Arrivals and Departures** – Please use the parking lot for dropping off and picking up your children. We have put out the pylons to create an entry and exit lane for this purpose. Please do not stop or park in front of the school or on the south side of 114 Avenue as this congestion creates an unsafe situation on the road. Staff parking is in front of the primary classes; please do NOT park in these spaces. Together we can prevent any accidents – thank you for your help with this.

**Bell Schedule**

8:30 – Playground supervision begins  
8:45 – Warning bell  
8:55 – Classes begin  
10:30 – Recess begins  
10:45 – Recess ends  
12:00 – Students go outside  
12:20 – Students who stay at school eat lunch in classes  
12:40 – Warning bell  
12:44 – Classes begin  
2:45 – Classes end  
3:05 – Playground supervision ends

**School Supplies**

Kindergarten: \$15.00; Primary: \$35.00; Intermediate: \$25.00. Supplies are available on the first day of school. Children in classes using agendas are asked to include \$10.00. Please make cheques payable to Bert Ambrose Elementary School. Please try to take care of these fees by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Open House**

We have scheduled an Open House for Sept. 10 from 6-7 pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet your children’s teacher(s). We look forward to seeing you there. There will be PAC meeting to follow at 7pm. This will be an important meeting as we will need to have new officers elected.

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Class lists are posted
Sept. 9	K classes start part time
Sept. 10	Open House 6-7 pm
Sept. 10	PAC meeting at 7 pm
Sept. 19	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 20	Non-Instructional Day – no school for students
Sept. 23-27	Rik Leaf – Artist in Residence
Sept. 30	School photos – smile!

Sincerely,

Dave Ritchie  
Principal

Laurie Shuster  
Vice-Principal