



# *Bert Ambrose Elementary School*

*(PRN, School District #60)*

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

September 25, 2014

In just the first few days it is very evident that staff, students and parents are excited to be back. We are all glad to be getting back to our school routines, and looking forward to a great year. All our newsletters are posted on the school website at [www.ambrose.prn.bc.ca](http://www.ambrose.prn.bc.ca) and are emailed to all parents who have shared their address and asked to be added to the list. If you would like to be included in the weekly updates and newsletters, please send an email to [dritchie@prn.bc.ca](mailto:dritchie@prn.bc.ca) and I will add you to the list.

## **Staffing**

Our staffing changes this year are as follows:

- Welcome back to Mrs. Fraser and Mr. Burkinshaw
- Welcome to Ms. Boden who will be sharing the class with Mrs. Fraser
- Mrs. Caplette will be back teaching grade 2 until Ms. Yorke's return
- Welcome to Mrs. Finter, sharing the class with Mrs. Tacey who will be working with the college teacher training program one day per week
- Welcome to Mrs. Selin who is our new secretary – she is very busy right now but would love to have you stop in to say hi.
- Welcome to Mrs. Merwin joining Bert Ambrose as an Educational Assistant
- Welcome Mrs. Abramiuc who is our new custodian

## **Allergies**

Due to some students with life threatening allergies we are developing a new school wide policy. Mr. Ritchie will be collecting information and then the policy will be shared with students and parents. If your child is in this situation, please contact Mr. Ritchie if you have not been contacted already – we don't want to leave anyone out. This will be discussed at the PAC meeting as well. Until this policy is in place, please do not send any peanut butter or nut products in your child's lunch.

## **Class Lists**

The teachers are the driving force behind student placements in classes with Mr. Ritchie and Mrs. Shuster making final decisions where needed. Staff take many factors into consideration in trying to find the best balance for each class. Things such as academic strengths and needs, social interactions, gender balance, student numbers, special needs and teacher load are all part of the big picture that is considered in creating the class lists. This is not easy and teachers work very hard to create the best balance they can. This is not a perfect process and inevitably there will be some concerns. One of the best lessons we can teach our children and students is to support them in becoming resilient learners who are able to deal with disappointments and struggles and to learn to make new friends in their new classrooms this year. Changes to classes at this point will only be made for sound educational reasons and any requests should be made in writing to the office.

## **Morning Routine**

The warning bell rings at 8:45 and our classes begin at 8:55. Supervision on the playground begins at 8:30 and students should not be at school before this time. It is very important that students are on time and ready to learn when classes start. Arriving late disrupts everyone's learning in the class. If your child arrives after the second bell, please have them check in at the office. Our supervision also occurs after school until 3:00 pm. If you know your child will be away, please call the school to verify this. This will reduce the number of calls home that need to be made for our "kid check" program that ensures that everyone has made it to school safely. If your child needs to leave for appointments during the day, please have them check out at the office so we can know who is in the building at all times. Please make sure that your contact information is up to date at all times (please complete and return the attached forms as soon as possible).

## **School Supplies and Fees**

We offer school supplies for our students with the following costs:

Kindergarten - \$15 supplies + \$10 Cultural Fee = \$25

Primary - \$30 supplies + \$15 Cultural Fee = \$45 (+\$10 Agenda fee if the teacher is using an agenda)

Intermediate - \$40 supplies + \$10 Agenda + \$15 Cultural Fee = \$65

Payment can be made to Mrs. Selin at the office.

## **Inside/Outside**

We believe that students need fresh air and exercise in order to be able to focus on their school work. We will be outside during all kinds of weather and students need to be prepared for this. We ask that students have outside shoes that are removed when entering and that they are dressed for the often changing weather. If you are concerned that your child will get wet and be uncomfortable, please send a change of clothes as it is not practical for students to be phoning home to request a change. We would like to encourage students walking to school. If your schedule does not allow time

for this we ask that when dropping off children in the morning and picking up after school, please do not stop in the roadway. If you are coming into the school with your child, please use the parking lot to allow for continued traffic flow and safe passage for pedestrians.

### **Bert Ambrose Loves Volunteers**

We welcome parent involvement at the school and encourage you to be as involved as your schedule will allow. There are many opportunities to be a part of your child's class or in the school as a whole. Please remember that ALL volunteers require a current criminal record check to be completed. Forms for this can be obtained at the office. Here are some specific areas that you could choose:

- a. Breakfast program. We have been very fortunate to have generous donations which provide our healthy breakfast program. This is offered to any students who are hungry and need a little food boost to start their day. If you can help with this program please contact Mrs. Shuster.
- b. Recycling – our leadership students do a great job of collecting and sorting our recycling. Please contact Mrs. Barr if you are able to help with the delivery of our recycling to the depot.
- c. Sports teams – the district sports committee will meet on Thursday and we would love to have coaches to offer our students the chance to represent our school in some fun competition. If you are interested in coaching please contact Mr. Ritchie. Seasons for sports and timing will be known after the committee meeting and will be shared on the school website.
- d. PAC – come out and share your thoughts on how things are going and be part of the planning of many great events. The first PAC meeting will take place after the Open House at 7 pm on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Yearbooks, T-shirts and Hoodies**

The yearbooks have arrived and have been distributed – thanks Mrs. Greer for all your hard work. It is anticipated that there will be some extras available for purchase for \$30. Please contact Mrs. Greer if you would like to have one of these wonderful memory books. If you missed out on the t-shirt and hoodie orders in the spring it's not too late. You can order your own at Imagine That – they have the logos and can make will create a shirt for you.

### **Upcoming Events:**

1. Terry Fox Run – we will be holding our run this Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm. Donations can be made to the cancer society in front of the office. Students will receive a sticker to allow them to fill in who they are running for. We have a school spirit challenge going – if the students raise \$2000 by next Friday we will hold a “Backwards” dress up day to have some fun and celebrate.

2. Scrap Arts music will be performing on Monday morning at 9 am. They will show us some unique ways to reuse and recycle some common materials – a great kick off to our school recycling program.
3. Open House – we would love to say hi and get to know everyone a little better and will host an open house from 6-7pm on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!
4. PAC meeting – following the Open House at 7 pm on Tuesday. We welcome all parents who wish to be involved in a great school year.
5. Band program – the program will start next week. The program has been very popular this year with a waiting list. Our students will have classes at Duncan Cran on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:45-1:45. Squeak and Squawk night where students get a chance to rent their instruments will take place Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 4:30 – 8 pm in the Bert Bowes Band Room.
6. School photos will take place on October 6<sup>th</sup> – bring your best smiles.
7. Rik Leaf will be at Bert Ambrose during the week of Oct 6-10. The schedule for class visits is to be determined.
8. Faustwork Mask Theatre will perform Nov. 6 at 9:30
9. Hot Lunch program will start in October. Thank you to Mrs. McDonald for coordinating this program for the school. Forms will be sent home next week and our first hot lunch will be Wed. Oct. 8. Parent volunteers will be required to help this program run smoothly. Kindergarten students will NOT participate in the program until November when routines and lunch expectations are in place.