



Bert Ambrose Elementary School

(PRN, School District #60)

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STRIVING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR POTENTIAL FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

March 2, 2015

Fasten your seat belts ... we may only have 3 weeks of school this month but they are going to be extremely busy! Please remind your child that Spring Break does not start until March 21 so he/she needs to continue to put forth a consistent effort in the days leading up to our break.

Our weather continues to be unpredictable! Students need to be prepared to be outside in a variety of conditions. We try to send the children out for fresh air whenever possible. Our collection of lost and found items continues to grow. Please check the tables in front of the office area prior to Spring Break as we will be clearing out items during the break.

Parking Lot Issues

We continue to have a number of issues with our parking lot. There are some important guidelines to follow for the safety of our students and to reduce parking lot angst. Please **DO NOT** park along the roadway; this is not part of the parking lot-it is an actual road. Please **DO NOT** park in the area designated as School District #60 Parking. These spaces are for school staff and are not for parent drop-off (even if you feel you will only be a few minutes). Please **DO NOT** park in the area marked NO PARKING ANY TIME; this area is for emergency vehicles and deliveries. Additionally, please **DO** continue to be extremely careful and refrain from texting or talking on your cell phone.

Ready, Set, Learn

Ready, Set, Learn provides opportunities for parents to explore early learning ideas with their children. This year we are fortunate to have Mrs. Shannon Stewart facilitating our Ready, Set, Learn program. Topics that will be woven through the sessions include developing early math and literacy skills, developing fine and gross-motor skills, speech and language development, and social/emotional development. Our events for 3-5 year olds and their parents will be taking place in the school library on the following dates;

- Tuesday, April 14 – 1:30-2:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 21 – 1:30-2:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 28 – 1:30-2:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 5 – evening session to allow working parents the opportunity to join us
- Tuesday, May 12 – 1:30-2:30 pm

Please pre-register at the office or by phoning the school. You are welcome to sign up for the full series of sessions or just the ones that fit your schedule.

Science Fair

Our school Science Fair will take place on Friday, March 6 throughout the day. Parents and guests are invited to view the projects on Thursday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. The Science Fair will be closed to the public on Friday for judging and class visits. Thank you to Mrs. Ollenberger for organizing and hosting this event. The Regional Science Fair will be held in Dawson Creek on Wednesday, April 15. Students chosen to represent Bert Ambrose at this event will be announced by Monday, March 9.

Report Cards

Progress reports for students will be sent home on Friday, March 13. There are early dismissal days the following week on Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19 – students are dismissed one hour early these days (1:45 pm). Parents are encouraged to contact teachers if there are any questions about how your child is progressing.

Health and Happiness Student Conference

We will continue our tradition of hosting a student conference on the last day of school prior the Spring Break. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to explore a variety of sessions related to healthy living and wellness. Thank you to Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Tacey for organizing this event for our school community.

Basketball

We have 2 teams entered in the basketball tournaments at the end of this week. Thanks to Mrs. Kylo/Mrs. Millner and Ms. English/Mrs. Armstrong/Mrs. Peck for coaching our teams. The Grade 5/6 boys will play at NPSS on Thursday starting at 3:30 pm and the Grade 5/6 girls play on Friday. Good luck to all of our players; have fun and remember you are representing our school.

Cross-Country Skiing

Thank you to Mrs. Tacey, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Al Ritchie, and the other volunteer parents for all of your efforts with our after-school cross-country ski club. The weather has definitely produced some challenges ranging from frigid temperatures to icy conditions but we appreciate the opportunity for our students to get out and enjoy this activity. A special thank you to Mrs. Brown for all of her efforts related to obtaining a special grant to purchase additional equipment for the Whiskey Jack Nordic Ski Club which has graciously been loaned to our school for the season. Our students have also benefited from her coaching and there is a noticeable improvement in skill development.

Spring Break

Schools will be closed from Monday, March 23 through Monday, April 6 for Spring Break. Easter falls within the break this year so school does not begin until Tuesday, April 7.

Dogs

Please do not bring dogs to school when you are dropping off / picking up your child. The area by the front doors is already congested and even friendly, well-behaved animals have a tendency to get agitated. In addition, we have a number of children who are highly anxious around dogs and need to feel safe when entering/exiting our building. Thank you for respecting this request.

After School - Release of Responsibility

Please be aware students are being asked to leave the school property immediately after school as supervision is only in place until 3:05 pm. Many students inform us that parents have given them permission to stay at school and play until 4:00 pm or later. While we appreciate the encouragement for children to be outside, we need to ask for your help in having your child "report in" at home before returning to the school to play.

Next Year

With our school building almost filled to capacity, we have started looking at initial planning for next year. If you already know your child will not be attending Bert Ambrose next year, please let Mr. Ritchie, Mrs. Shuster, or Mrs. Selin know. If you have a Kindergarten student to register, or know someone who does, please register as soon as possible. Our school remains closed to new variances; this means registration is only open to students living within the Bert Ambrose enrollment area. If you have any questions about this, please contact Mr. Ritchie at the school.

PreSchool Health Roundup

This is a FREE kid friendly event for ages 3-4 on Wednesday, March 11 at the Totem Mall from 10:00 am-5:30 pm. Some activities include dental and vision checks, hearing information, face painting and story time, hand washing demonstrations, resources and community information, a developmental questionnaire, and PRIZES GALORE. For more information call 250-785-5701 or check out familyfriendlycommunity.ca

PAC Update

- ❖ We would like to thank all parents for their continued support for our fundraising. At the last meeting, we discussed which fundraisers we will do for the remainder of the 2014/2015 school year and what the money will be going towards. The **Purdy's Easter fundraiser** will be wrapping up soon. Please remember to submit your orders (paper form or on-line) as soon as possible. The next fundraiser is a new one to our school. **Happy Hippo Bath Baskets** will be happening in April; a perfect gift for Mother's Day in May. We will be wrapping up the year with a **First Aid Kit fundraiser**, a perfect Father's Day gift in June. More information will be coming home. Our fundraising dollars will be going towards a new outdoor basketball court, new/more swing sets and new lighting & sound equipment. We are looking into the cost of each of these goals.
- ❖ Our jungle themed carnival will take place on April 10th. A huge thank-you to all who have volunteered to help. We are still looking for a few more volunteers. Please send back your sign up sheet or leave your name at the office if you are able to help out.
- ❖ Our next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 pm in the library. EVERYONE is welcome to attend and babysitting is provided.

Please see next page for a list of Important Dates.

Important Dates

March 2	Non-Instructional Day
March 4	Hot Lunch – Wendys
March 5	Parent and Guest Viewing for Science Fair (6:30-8:00 pm)
March 5	Boys Basketball Tournament at NPSS starting at 3:30 pm
March 6	Science Fair
March 6	Girls Basketball Tournament at NPSS starting at 3:30 pm
March 11	Hot Lunch – Dominos Pizza
March 13	Term Two Report Cards come home
March 18	Hot Lunch – Quiznos
March 18	Early Dismissal (1:45 pm)
March 19	Early Dismissal (1:45 pm)
March 20	Health and Happiness Student Conference
March 20	Last day of school before Spring Break

HAPPY EASTER

April 7	First day of school after Spring Break
April 8	Hot Lunch – Saigon Noodles
April 14	First session of Ready, Set, Learn
April 15	Hot Lunch – Wendys
April 16	Regional Science Fair in Dawson Creek for students selected to represent our school.
April 17	Cultural Event –Grupo America
April 22	Hot Lunch – Dominos Pizza
April 29	Hot Lunch – Quiznos
April 30	Badminton Tournament

Spring Break at the Library—All registration starts March 3

Library and Beyond: Free day camp

March 30 & April 1 10:00am-4:00pm

Grades 1-7

This free day camp will offer two fun-filled days of sports, arts, action and adventure!
Meet new friends and have fun!

Hunger Games: Run, hide, survive!

March 30, 7:00-9:30pm

Age 12-18

From the Cultural Centre and the Library comes a live-action version of the Hunger Games! When we lock the Cultural Centre doors at 7:00, everyone left inside must try to survive...only one will be left standing!

Minecraft: Survival Party

March 31 7:00-8:39 pm

Grade 1-7

Bring your best Minecraft skills! Get ready for games, challenges, making cool stuff to take home, prizes and more!

Super Kids Party

March 31, 10:30-11:30am

Age 2-6

Calling all super-boys and mighty-girls! Bam! Boom! Crafts! Stories! Games! Treats!