



<http://best.sd73.bc.ca>

SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome back to a new school year Bert Edwards families! It is a pleasure to once again be your school principal. I want to welcome the new staff members that have joined our school this year and a warm welcome to the new families joining us! A special welcome to Mr. Wiebe, our new Vice Principal. A big thank you to our custodial team who have done a wonderful job in preparing our school campus. I would also like to recognize all of the extra time that staff members have dedicated to preparing classrooms, designing learning plans and organizing our office. These past few weeks have been very busy on campus as our staff have worked diligently to prepare for the return of our students. Thank you to our entire team for their dedication. I wish everyone a rewarding and enjoyable school year full of engaging learning experiences and many memories! Please watch for my weekly email which will be sent each Friday. Mrs. Edstrom

School Mission Statement

To develop curious, dynamic problem-solvers within a personalized learning environment utilizing Inquiry-based learning, through the lens of Science, supported by Technology.

School Goals for 2023 – 2024

1. Students will develop stronger literacy skills: reading in primary and written expression in intermediate.
2. Students will feel pride and connection in belonging to a science and technology school.

BEST STAFF 2023-2024

Ms. C. Farber Kindergarten
 Mrs. A. Bowden Kindergarten
 Mrs. B. Denison Grade 1
 Ms. M. Adams Grade 1
 Ms. L. Duquette Grade 2
 Ms. T. Weber Grade 2
 Mrs. J. Ernst Grade 3
 Ms. G. Campbell Grade 3/4
 Mr. J. Hummel Grade 4/5
 Ms. S. Lovell Grade 4/5
 Mrs. A. Unsworth Grade 5/6
 Mr. M. Wood Grade 6
 Mrs. K. Edstrom Principal
 Mr. C. Wiebe Vice-Principal
 Ms. D. Ladouceur Administrative Assistant
 Ms. G. Benz LART
 Mr. W. Deptuck McQueen Lake Resource Teacher
 Mrs L. Phillips Fine Arts Prep
 Ms K. Kipp Teacher Librarian
 Ms. D. Rice Library Asst
 Ms. A. BartelCEA
 Mrs.S. EgdellCEA
 Mrs. H. UppenbornCEA
 Mrs. A. NikulaCEA

Ms.Storvold.....Grade6 (Thursdays)
 Mr. B. Johnson AM Custodian
 Mrs. N. Dhillon PM Custodian

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:25 am	Doors open
8:34 am	Classes begin
10:20 – 10:35am	Recess
12:35 – 1:05pm	All students outside
1:05 - 1:30pm	Eating time
1:30pm	Classes resume
2:40 pm	Dismissal

SAFE ARRIVAL

SafeArrival is an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let us know about your child's absence. You are asked to report your child's absence in advance. Please find instructions in your forms package.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

With the safety of our children and staff in mind, we undertake the practice of both Fire and Lockdown Drills throughout the school year. Dates to be determined. If you or your child feel any anxiety or concern with the drills, and we can help in any way, please contact us at the school. We undertake these drills to make sure students are aware of safety procedures in the event of an emergency.

RECESS / LUNCH

- We encourage parents to send a nutritious snack with their children for recess.
- All students are expected to go outside at recess and lunch. Exceptions will be made during inclement weather.
- Students will not be able to leave the school grounds during recess and lunch break.

PARKING / DROP OFF

Our student drop off area on York Avenue is meant for parents to pull in to the zone and drop students off. *It is not a short term parking area.* Bus zones are NO PARKING at any time. Parking is available in many areas around the school and your help with road safety will assist us in providing a safe place for students to walk and ride to school. Parents are reminded that the staff parking lot is off limits to parent vehicles from 8:15 – 8:45am and 2:15 – 3pm. Please respect this policy and help us to keep children SAFE at our school.

Students will lineup outside at their designated place. Classroom teachers will pickup the class and drop them off at the designated place outside. We request that all parents/caregivers meet students at the designated location each day.

NEWSLETTERS ~ In an effort to save costs and paper, our monthly school newsletter will be emailed to student primary contacts and also available on our website at <http://best.sd73.bc.ca>. Printed copies will also be posted at our bulletin board outside the office.



Our Lunch Program begins on Monday, September 18th. A permission form / menu is attached with a due date of no later than noon Wednesday, September 13th. Lunch costs are \$5 per student meal. If you require financial support with the cost of lunches, please contact the school office.

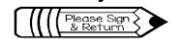
TERRY FOX RUN

Our school Terry Fox Run/Walk is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22nd. As always, we will participate in a short warm up and then our primary students will be running around the school grounds, while our intermediate students will be running along the Rivers Trail to Westmount and back. We will be spearheading our fundraising efforts with "A Toonie for Terry," but any donation for the Terry Fox Foundation would be greatly appreciated. Together, we can help keep Terry's dream alive and win the battle against cancer! Thanks in advance for your support!



FORMS

The following forms are attached. Please review each form, sign and return to the school office at your earliest convenience.



- Outside Media Consent
- Access to Internet-Based Resources
- Personal Information Consent
- Technology Use form
- Walking Field Trip form (within 2km of school)
- Meals form – due Wednesday September 13th
- **Verification forms - Please make any necessary changes and return the form with updated information and signed by a parent.**

NUT/PEANUT and EGG AWARE

We have students with life-threatening nut and egg allergies at BEST. The following safety guidelines are to be followed by all classes:

We ask parents of students at our school to consider not sending peanuts, peanut butter, or any other nut and egg products to school. There are snacks available that are marked "peanut free".

1. Please talk to your classroom teacher about sending cakes, cupcakes or cookies for class parties that contain nuts/eggs.
2. We have a no-share policy for snacks and lunches.



Financial Matters...

The District is pleased to announce that the unused funds from the Provincial Student and Family Affordability Fund received last year is available for the 2023-2024 school year. The use of these funds will be prioritized to help students and families with the increased cost of living by providing financial assistance for the cost of school supplies, course fees, academy fees and enhancement fees if needed. Please indicate your consent to use these funds by selecting the checkbox in School Cash when paying online. Instructions on using School Cash are included in the forms package.

Fees information will be sent home later this month.

Any families in need of weekly food subsidy (Starfish Program) please advise the school office. If you received this last year, we will require confirmation to continue this year. Food bags are sent home at the end of each week.

RECORD CHECKS

Volunteering at schools with children is a great way to spend quality time with your child, while at the same time enriching the lives of our students. Our provincial government has a new and improved process for requesting RECORD CHECKS with your BC SERVICES CARD. Please contact the office – if and when you are thinking of volunteering – for information regarding this process.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Becoming a member of our BEST PAC could well be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Our PAC members work tirelessly – in partnership with our staff – to make Bert Edwards Science and Technology School a fantastic place to learn. We meet once a month, and typically members take on some responsibility around the school: Organizing Pizza Days, Bottle Drives, Christmas raffles, Science Fairs. All money raised during these events goes right back into the school to provide opportunities for our students. Please contact Mrs. Edstrom at our office if you are interested! Please come out to our first meeting on Wednesday, September 20th at 6pm in the school library.



Meet and Greet

All classes will be inviting parents to visit classrooms on the morning of September 21st. Students can bring parents inside to meet staff and tour the classroom from 8:34am – 9:00am.

Art Starts

Please note that this year we will be hosting a series of Arts performances. There is a cost for students to attend these performances. Fees for this cultural experience will be included in the fees sheet. This year we are pleased to host: Professor Wow, Green Thumb Theatre and Steve Harmer's Celebrate Character.

Sports

We look forward to the year ahead in which students can partake in various sports teams and activities. Soon the cross country running school league will commence (students in Grades 3-6 can participate). More information will be provided. We also look forward to volleyball, basketball and track and field throughout the year. Students in grades 4-6 can participate in these sports.