

## **BALDONNEL ELEMENTARY**

<http://www.baldonnel.prn.bc.ca/>

Tuesday, August 27th, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,



We would like to welcome all of you to Baldonnel School for the 2013/14 school year. It is always wonderful to see so many smiling, happy faces arriving at school in September. The staff is excited to get things started and we are looking forward to another great year!

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have a question regarding school start-up that is not answered with the information provided in this newsletter.

**Attendance:** *If you receive this letter and your children are not coming back to Baldonnel Elementary School, please contact the office as soon as possible to let us know so that we can make plans for classroom divisions. If you are aware of new families in our attendance area, please let them know we will be open for new registrations beginning on August 26th at 1pm as well as from 9am-2pm on August 27<sup>th</sup> through to August 30<sup>th</sup>.*

Maintaining consistent attendance is critical for success in school. Teachers plan very interactive lessons and in class learning activities that cannot be made up with worksheets or take home assignments. We ask that you be cognizant of the time your child misses. We want to provide the optimal learning environment and opportunities for your children. Thank you for your continued support.

**First Day of School:** Will be an early dismissal day. Students will be dismissed three hours early on that day (10:47 a.m.). Students will go to their last year's classroom on this first day to meet with their friends and their former teachers. All new students will go to the office. We will have a brief assembly shortly after 9am. The buses should leave according to schedule shortly after 11:00 a.m. We hope to have class lists finalized by 4:30 p.m., so that the students will attend their new division on September 4th. However, should our divisions and class lists not be set by then, students will return to their last year's class once again. Class lists cannot be posted outside of the school due to privacy issues. Therefore, students will need to check inside the school on the lists posted on the bulletin boards in front of the canteen.

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarten will begin on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Miller will be contacting parents to set up home visits prior to kindergarten starting. We are looking forward to the enthusiasm and bright eyes of our new kindergarten class.

**School PAC:** We would like to extend a huge thank-you to our PAC as well as those folks who were able to come out over the summer to help re-lay the matting in our new playground. As you can see from the picture above, it looks great! The first PAC meeting of the year has not been scheduled yet but as soon as it is we will let you know. In the meantime, we would like to encourage new parents to come out and join our PAC this year. There are a number of vacant PAC executive positions that need to be filled. As well, we are looking for a parent volunteer to lead our Fall Carnival Committee. Please contact the school if you are interested in this role.

**School Supplies:** The school has purchased school supplies for primary and intermediate students. We hope that this convenience will eliminate some back to school shopping trips and line-ups. Anything your child brings from home should be labeled with your child's name on it. This will help us identify items that end up in the lost and found. I have attached the fee schedule with the September calendar for your convenience. We would appreciate it if all fees could be paid by the end of September. Please note that all outstanding library charges for lost books will be added to school fees.

**Criminal Record Checks:** Please remember that ALL volunteers require a criminal records check. We encourage all potential coaches and classroom volunteers to complete this process as soon as possible. The criminal records check form can be picked up from the office at your earliest convenience. Mrs. McDermott can assist with any questions you may have regarding this process.

**Newsletters:** The school will be sending home the majority of our newsletters through email but there will be times when letters will be posted on our school website or distributed to classrooms. If you have not signed up for email newsletters yet, please contact our office as soon as possible. We are hoping that email newsletters will eliminate some of the costs for printing and paper and will be more environmentally friendly.

**The School District #60 Local School Calendar for 2013/2014/Bell Schedule:** This will be posted on our school website.

The bell schedule is as follows:

8:00 a.m.	Morning supervision begins
8:50 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:55 a.m.	Classes begin
10:30 a.m.	Recess
10:45 a.m.	Recess ends
12:00 noon	Lunch begins
12:40 p.m.	Warning Bell - lunch ends
12:45 p.m.	Afternoon classes begin
2:47 p.m.	School ends
3:30 p.m.	After school supervision ends

**Fees:** The School District approved our fees for the 2013-2014. We have ordered enough school supplies for all students and families that pre-ordered these at the end of last school year. Students that will not be purchasing their supplies from the school, please send along the cultural, busing, agenda and wireless fees. Please see the table below for a break down of fees for this school year.

Grade Level	Supplies	Cultural Fee	Busing Fee	Agenda
Kindergarten	\$45	\$10.00	\$10.00	N/A
Grade 1-3	\$40	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$7.00(grade 3 in $\frac{3}{4}$ only)
Grade 4-6	\$40	\$10.00	\$10.00	Grade 4-6-\$7.00
Wireless Writing Rental Charge for Grade 6	As per board direction (\$67.00)			
Other	Sports - \$10 per team you play on to	Class Trips - may require a		

	cover busing and ref costs.	small busing fee.		
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**Coaching:** Soccer and X-Country Running will begin quite early in September. If you are wishing to assist with coaching, please let the office know. Please remember that all community coaches need a criminal records check. We will need additional coaches this year in order to run a full set of extra-curricular sports teams. We encourage and welcome all support from our parent community.

**Footwear:** Students are reminded to bring inside shoes to school as soon as possible. We would prefer non-marking soles, as it is easier to keep the school clean. Please make sure when you are visiting our school that your outside shoes are not left on the mats. The footwear left on the carpets is an obstacle for many of our students. Thank you for making our school so shiny and bright for our return in September.

**Canteen:** As usual, our school canteen will not be up and running until the end of September. We will also be looking at setting up the hot lunches again as soon as possible. We could use volunteer time in sorting orders and lunches. If you are interested, please call and leave your name at the office. This year we will offer the fruits and vegetables program at our school for snack time after recess. This will provide the students with an opportunity to try fruits and vegetables that they may not have been exposed to. Please watch upcoming newsletters for updates and information about this program.

**Recycling:** We will continue to recycle bottles and cans at the school. These funds go directly to our students in a variety of ways like purchasing new equipment for them to play with or by taking all classes on special field trips. Bottle recycling could not be possible without the community support and the coordination by Mrs. Taylor. Unfortunately, Mrs. Taylor will not be with us for the first half of the school year so we will do our best to keep this program flourishing in the meantime. Please contact the office if you are interested in helping with our recycling program.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer and have a restful and safe September long weekend. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Regards,

Mr. Andrew James  
Principal  
Baldonnel Elementary School

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