

Baldonnel Broncos



PAC Updates

**Next PAC Meeting is Wed.
December 7 at 1:30 pm**

The next PAC hot lunch will be Tuesday Dec. 6th. Please make sure to get your orders in by Friday, Dec. 2nd.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Poinsettia and Purdy's fundraisers.

Here are some of the items/activities that PAC has sponsored this year:

- 2 iPads for the Wireless Writing Program.
- Residency with Mr. Rik Leaf (see page 5).
- \$500 towards the Reflex Math Program for Grade 3-6 students.
- Hot chocolate for the upcoming Skating Day on Dec. 16th.

THANK YOU!!

A HUGE thank you to Donna Greenway of Investia Financial Services Inc., Clarington Investments, and our PAC for their sponsorship allowing Baldonnel School to purchase the Reflex Math program to support and extend learning in Mrs. Johnson's, Mr. Johnson's, and Mr. Gray's classrooms. We were also able to purchase 4 Spheros that are being used by our Intermediate students to introduce coding which is part of the new Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies curriculum.



Remembrance Day Assembly



Thank you to Mr. Gray's and Mr. Johnson's classes for their contributions to our Remembrance Day Assembly on Nov. 10th. Thank you to Madison, Hayden, Vada, and Tori (pictured below) for leading the assembly and to our RCMP liaison, Constable Dale, for joining us. It was wonderful to see so many parents and other family members in attendance.



Pre-order a pink shirt for \$8 at the office by January 13th.

On February 22nd boys and girls from Baldonnell School and other schools all across Canada will be wearing pink to help bring awareness to the National Anti-Bullying Campaign, also known as Pink Shirt Day.

Available sizes:

Youth (XS,S,M,L,XL)

Adult (S,M,L,XL,2XL, 3XL)

RECOGNITION ASSEMBLIES

Below are the recipients of our bi-weekly Monday Recognition Assemblies ... many classrooms are now setting goals/expectations for the two-week period so students have a clear understanding of the criteria for receiving a certificate. This is such an amazing way to start a Monday morning! Parents are always welcome to join us for these assemblies.

Recognition
Assembly –
October 17th.



Recognition Assembly –
November 1st.

*Mr. Gray was awarded a special pin from the District acknowledging 10 years of service with the School District.

Recognition
Assembly –
November 28th.



ROOTS OF EMPATHY CONTINUES AT BALDONNEL SCHOOL!

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown a significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. This Canadian program was developed in 1996 by Mary Gordon and is highly recognized throughout Canada and many other countries.

We will be running two programs at Baldonnell again this year. Mrs. O'Neil and Baby Olivia (pictured below) will be participating in the program in Mrs. Miller's Kindergarten Class. Deanna and Baby Kelal are joining Mr. Gray's Grade 5/6 class (pictured below – bottom right).



Students learn about measurement and comparison in the Roots of Empathy Family Visit. Who is bigger – Baby Olivia or Baby Rose the doll?

Grade 5/6 students welcome Baby Kael at the start of each Roots of Empathy lesson by singing the “Hello Song”.

*If you have a child in Mr. Gray's class, ask him/her to share this song with you!



School Sports

VOLLEYBALL

Our volleyball season has now finished – a special thank you to Mr. Johnson for coaching our Girls “A” team, Mr. Wuthrich for coaching the Boys “B” team, and Mrs. Turriff for running serving practices at lunch time. A special congratulations to the Boys “B” Team for finishing first in league play and second in the District tournament.

BASKETBALL – COACHES NEEDED!

Basketball will begin in January and we are in need of coaches to allow all of our Grade 4-6 players to participate. The school staff has been amazing at taking on additional extra-curricular activities this year but please recognize we have a small staff and need parental help to be able to provide all of the activities for our students. Please contact the office if you could help out with coaching basketball in the New Year. Thank you!

Mr. Rik Leaf visits Baldonnell School

Thanks to the generous donation from PAC – Baldonnell students and teachers were able to spend four days working with Mr. Rik Leaf. During this residency, students participated in song-writing and performance activities. The week culminated with an assembly and the creation of a video. See links below to access it.

YouTube

<https://youtu.be/ljhOwlePWWI>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/tribeophone/>





*Parent volunteers are needed at school to assist with a variety of tasks including changing out the daily Home Reading books (Kindergarten through Grade 3), listening to students read, assisting with Field Trips, helping PAC with the monthly Hot Lunch Program, etc. If you could spare even an hour a week, please check with your child's teacher to see how you can contribute to your child's learning experience at Baldonnell School. Thank you.

*If you have a special talent you would like to share with the school, please let us know. Drama, music, gymnastics, a unique career, special travels ... and the list goes on!

*Please remember a current Criminal Record Check is required – see Mrs. McDermott for more information on how to complete this online.

Dressing for the Weather.

Winter has returned to the North! Please make sure your child has appropriate outside clothing as students will be outside in the morning before school, at recess, and during the lunch hour whenever possible. We use -20 C as a guideline for determining whether students will be inside or outside but also take into consideration the wind chill factor.



Lock Down Drill



Schools are required to hold at least two Lock Down drills each year. Our RCMP liaison officers, Constable Bough and Constable Dale visited the school and talked to each classroom about the importance of the Lock Down drill. We will be holding our first drill of this school year prior to the Christmas Break.

Parents/guardians will be informed of the date/time this is occurring. Our goal is to reduce the anxiety students may feel about the drill and have it become as familiar as the Fire Drills that occur six times each school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office and talk to Ms. Wright.



Important Dates:

Friday, December 2nd

Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition at Robert Ogilvie for qualifying students.

Wednesday, December 7th

1:30 pm – PAC Meeting

Monday, December 12th

Morning – Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Gray's class to the Field House.

Tuesday, December 13th

PAC Hot Lunch

Thursday, December 15th

School-wide attendance at The Nutcracker performed by NDTs.

Thursday, December 15th

6:00 – 8:00 pm - Traditional Family Christmas Evening at the Chambers' Farm. Sleigh rides, bonfire, hot chocolate, and carolling. (See page 8)

Friday, December 16th

Skating in Taylor – 1:00-2:15 pm

Last Day of School prior to the holidays

Tuesday, January 3rd

School Re-Opens

Remember to use the link on our school website for our "Calendar of Events"! Mrs. McDermott will be keeping this calendar as up-to-date as possible!

Reminders/Information/Thank You's

- Thank you for attending the Parent-Teacher Interviews held on Nov. 23-24-25. If you were not able to attend during this time and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the office and Mrs. McDermott can assist with scheduling a time.
- School Fees are now overdue – please make arrangements to pay these as soon as possible
- Sports Fees are \$10 per student per activity to assist with league and tournament fees, refereeing costs, and bus transportation. The sports fee needs to be paid prior to the start of each season.
- Recycled Book Sale – this will occur in the New Year. If you have any gently used books that you would like to donate, please bring these to Mrs. Pope in the library.
- Extra help for our Skating Day on Friday, December 16th would be greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity for dads to come out and share their skate tying expertise! Please make sure your child has a helmet and mitts!
- A special thank you to everyone who contributes to our school – we appreciate our hard-working PAC, our classroom parent volunteers, our coaches, and those of your working behind the scenes to make Baldonnell School a great place for students!
- And lastly, we need to acknowledge our Grade 5-6 students for taking on leadership roles within the school. Thank you to the office helpers and the assembly set-up crew. Your help is greatly appreciated!

An Old-Fashioned Family Christmas Evening at the Chambers' Farm

**Thursday, Dec. 15th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**



A special thank you to Chambers' Farm for sponsoring this special evening for our school!

Activities include:

- **Sleigh Rides**
- **Light Show**
- **Christmas Carols**
- **Feed Bags available for purchase to feed the animals**
- **Bonfire**
- **Hot Chocolate**

Please bring a donation for the local Food Bank

Please note, in case of inclement weather, we have a back-up plan for activities to be held at the school. Parents will be informed by email if this plan has to be implemented.