



BYRON SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Newsletter #6

April 1, 2021



Principal's Message

Happy Spring!! I trust this communication continues to find you all healthy and well. We continue to 'pivot' as required and remain vigilant with our protocols and PPE. Let's hope we begin to see the end of this nonsense, sooner rather than later!

We love seeing and teaching your students everyday! They are truly the one thing that keeps us all going. Like many of you, we are all exhausted but forge ahead with positivity and hope each day. I remain very proud of our staff's efforts in these extraordinary times. Equally, I remain thankful to all of you, our parents, for your continued support, cooperation and understanding. These are not easy times, but we are grateful for the kindness, understanding and appreciation you show us every day, for the work we are doing.

As we enter into the spring season, I am sure that some parents are already starting to think about next year and wondering which teacher your child may 'get'. As was the case this year, classroom organizations will remain in flux until September, depending on our current state of Covid realities. As always, I ask for your trust as our staff create preliminary classes. I do not take requests. There are far too many unknowns, especially in recent times, to 'promise' a class placement with a certain teacher, or a certain friend. I do believe however, that every child should be placed in a setting where they have the best opportunity for success and a positive academic year. At student promotion time, our school team will discuss **each** student with the sending teacher, the possible receiving teachers, our Learning Support Teacher(s) and school administration, to ensure the best placement decision is made for that student. K1K2 (FDK) students will typically remain with their teacher for two consecutive years. K1K2 staff will also decide, with my input as necessary where any new K1 students will be placed. Once again, typically new K1 students with older siblings, would likely experience the same teacher placements as their siblings. However, please keep in mind that this procedure is not 'carved in stone' due to possible staffing changes and other unforeseen circumstances.

As I have explained in previous April 'Principal's messages', many factors are considered in determining the make up of each class. Our school personnel will go to great length in discussion and thought to determine the best possible class placement for your child(ren). The following factors are considered: learning style of the child, teaching style, social and emotional considerations, behavioural and/or academic needs, number of boys and girls, Ministry of Education 'hard cap' class size requirements and unique parent requests (i.e. Keeping 'twins' separate or together and students with special needs). We as a school team always strive to ensure that every child is placed in a class with at least one friend. Additionally, the likelihood of 'combined' or 'split' classes is the reality in today's educational world. However, I can assure you with absolute confidence that separate curriculum is

taught where appropriate and assessment expectations are tailored appropriately to the grade level of each student. We will, however, strive to avoid having students in a combined or split grade 2 years in a row whenever possible. With that being said, it is very likely that your child will experience a combined or split classroom at least once if not multiple times in their elementary school career.

As principal, it is my responsibility to organize the school so that it is educationally effective and balanced. It is my hope that every child's needs' will be addressed and the best possible placement will be made by following the above criteria consistently and fairly. Once again, I am unable to consider individual parent requests for class placements. With over 440 students projected to be in attendance come the fall, our staff, with my approval and input as necessary, will place each student appropriately. However, if there are unique, extenuating circumstances that our school team may not be aware of regarding your child(ren), please contact our school office or speak directly with your child's current teacher.

Additionally, I am unable to predict fall re-organizations. As you are most likely aware, Somerset is a growing school community and despite best laid plans, no one has a crystal ball to determine how many registrations may or may not show up during the last week of August or on the first day of school. Sometimes, depending on unanticipated enrolment numbers, the Board of Education will request that schools reorganize students in September due to class closures or additional class openings. Given the unpredictable nature of these circumstances, we will not know if class/school reorganizations will be required until mid-September. It is our hope however, that our many hours of student placement work this Spring, will proceed uninterrupted come the Fall.

Thank you for your trust and understanding as we strive to place your child appropriately.

Enjoy a wonderful April, including our re-scheduled Spring break!!

Kindest regards,
J. Pratt, Principal



Thank you to all the families who participated or shared our Byron Pizza Adopt-A-School fundraiser. According to Byron Pizza we are breaking records! See our results below. The funds raised will go towards technology and school yard needs, such as, ipads for primary classes and new gym equipment.

- December 2020, 102 orders = \$510
- January 2021, 75 orders = \$375
- February 2021, 55 orders = \$275

Due to popular demand, we've scheduled two more Byron Pizza nights! See the upcoming dates and mark your calendars!

- Wednesday, April 21st
- Wednesday, June 2nd

Kindest Regards,
Parent Council