



BYRON SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Newsletter #3

December 1, 2020



Principal's Message

Wow! It looks like winter is here!! What a beautiful way to kick off December! It's hard to believe that we only have a few weeks remaining in 2020 – I'm sure we're all happy about that! Here I thought 2020 was going to be such a fun, positive year! Sigh . . . In any case, we are almost to the holidays!! Even though they will most certainly look and feel a bit different this year, it's always a special time to take pause and enjoy the time with those closest to us, even if we have already spent way more 'together time' than we normally would have! (I have teenage daughters LOL)

We will have a few changes at Somerset come the new year.

Mrs. Russell is retiring!!! I know – right!!? After a career of more than 35 years, Mrs. Russell has decided to hang up her shingle, so to speak. Kathy has served the educational, social, emotional and athletic needs of thousands of students in her career! If you have had the pleasure of knowing Kathy, you know how tireless she works for her students and for our school. She has been instrumental in the organization and leadership of countless activities and events, that typically occur at Somerset throughout the school year. She has given so much to our school and she will be greatly missed!! We wish Mrs. Russell all the best and know that she will quickly find any number of ongoing household projects to keep her busy. Enjoy this time with your husband Dave, your grown children and all the adventures that life will continue to provide you!!

Additionally, one of our spectacular Educational Assistants has also chosen to retire, this past Friday in fact! Mrs. Beausoleil has been a tremendous and special support to a significant number of our students over the past 4 years that she has been at Somerset. In her retirement, she is beginning a new professional chapter as a Community Outreach Coordinator at the Boys and Girls Club of London. So much for stopping to smell the roses! We know she will do an amazing job in this new role, as well as enjoy a bit more together time with her husband, Larry and her grown children. We wish you life's best Mrs. B!!

Taking over for Mrs. Russell, will be Mrs. van de Ven who is currently teaching our Grade 5/6 class part time. Mrs. van de Ven is thrilled to accept this full-time assignment and can't wait to meet her new class, although she will greatly miss her current class come the new year. I am currently in the

process of hiring for Mrs. van de Ven's replacement and will let the families of her current class know asap.

As we near the holidays, there is often opportunities for class celebrations, treats, pot-luck lunches etc. Unfortunately, due to continued Covid-19 restrictions, staff are unable to support the class wide shared treats, like they have done in the past. If you choose to send in such treats, they **MUST** be individually wrapped by the manufacturer.

- **OK items:** smarties in little boxes, skittles in little bags, drink boxes, treats/cookies wrapped in pre-packaged cellophane, twinkies, popsicles, freezies, things of the like . . .
- **NOT OK items:** ANY food item which is NOT individually wrapped by the manufacturer; Timbits, donuts, chips, popcorn, potluck lunches, hot chocolate . . .

Once again, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season with friends and loved ones. All the best in 2021!!!! It's gotta get better – right?!?

J. Pratt, Principal

School Council

The School Council is focused on raising funds for technology and classroom/schoolyard needs. New Forest of Reading books have been purchased and currently, we're raising funds to purchase eight iPads for the primary classes – the cost is close to \$6,000!

Check out all the ways you can help:

1. **Cash Donation:** Like any fundraiser, cash is gold. If you're interested, send a cheque (made out to Byron Somerset) with your child or drop at the main office, in a sealed envelope labelled '*Attention: Parent Donations*'.

2. **Flip Give:** If you shop online, or need gift cards, for places like Lulu Lemon, Starbucks, Indigo, Wayfair, Home Depot, Sportchek you could be earning cash back for Somerset – **with zero cost to you!** It's super simple, see how to participate below and then start your online shopping through our team page.

a. Use and share this link <https://www.flipgive.com/teams/253104-byron-somerset-ps> with family/friends to shop with (without joining the team).

Or join our team using our invite code **WGRL2T** through the website or get the app:

b. Download the FlipGive app

at <https://www.flipgive.com/app?joincode=PZGBJ2>

c. Join online [here](#)

Thank you for your support, and please don't hesitate to share your thoughts with us here, sc-byronsomerset@tvpic.ca.

Sincerely,

The Parent Council

Join [Somerset Facebook Group](#) for more updates.



Student Council

On Friday, December 18, Byron Somerset will be having a holiday clothing day. Students are encouraged to wear holiday themed clothing to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Some examples are Christmas sweaters, festive hats, red and green.

Immunization Clinic

The Middlesex London Health Unit will be back in the school on December 9th at 1:00 pm to immunize students in grade 7 and those in grade 8 who still have parental consent from last year. Letters were sent to families in the summer for those students who still require doses to be complete. If your student had doses at the doctor's office, make sure that the health unit is aware by sending in a note with the dates of the immunizations received with your student. The student can give the information to the nurse at the clinic. If you have any questions, please call the health unit at 519-663-5317 ext.2370. Thank you!



London Food Bank

Thank you so much to the Byron Somerset community for your generosity towards the London Food Bank. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by families in need, especially during these challenging times.

Mrs. Singer



Connect with Byron Somerset's Parent Community Facebook Page



A screenshot of a Facebook page for the Byron Somerset Public School Parent Community. The browser address bar shows the URL: https://www.facebook.com/ByronSomersetPublicSchoolParentCommunity/. The page header includes the Facebook logo, the page name 'Byron Somerset Public School Parent Community', and navigation links for Home, Like, and More. The main content area features a large photo of a school building at night. Below the photo is a navigation menu with options: Home, About, Photos, Likes, Videos, Events, and Posts. A red circle highlights the 'Liked' button in the interaction bar. To the right of the photo, there are buttons for 'Message', 'Save', and 'More'. Below the photo, there is a text box for writing a post, a 'Status / Video' button, and a post from the community with the text 'Our first Parent Council Meeting of the year is tomorrow night (Sat. 15th) in'. The right sidebar shows 'Community' search, a notification that 87 people like this post, and an option to invite friends to like the page.