



BYRON SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOL

175 Whisperwood Avenue, London, ON N6K 4C6
School Phone # (519) 452-8090 Fax (519) 452-809
<http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/byronsomerset.cfm>

Principal : C. Kissau
Superintendent : S. Builder
Secretary: B. Ovtsherenko
Trustees: J. Bennett , J. Skinner

Newsletter #2

November 1st, 2021

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

October proved to be a fast-paced month! The students have nicely settled into the routines of school and have a clear understanding of the curricular challenges which lie before them in the next few months of school. Students and staff continue to follow the Health Unit, Covid-19 Safety Protocols with vigilance. Our students appear happy with positive mental health! It is so nice to see them playing with their friends outside and laughing again!

November has arrived and once again we must face the challenge of dressing for the cold days that this month brings. An additional pair of gloves and socks in your child's backpack are always helpful as these pieces of clothing can become quite wet by afternoon recess.

Progress Reports will go home on November 5th. At this time, we would ask that you celebrate your child's successes and set goals for the remainder of the first term of the school year. As a result of Covid safety guidelines, the Thames Valley Board has not allocated a Professional Activity Day for Interviews between teachers and parents. If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please contact the classroom teacher to set up a time to review your child's report via phone call, email or video conference.

A huge thank you to our school community for your generous donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, after our Terry Fox Run, totaling \$1530.00. Amazing effort!

Also, the Byron United Church sent a formal thank you letter to our school, for the food that was collected and donated during our Thanksgiving Food Drive. On the Friday before Thanksgiving, the church helped 7 families have a better Thanksgiving and they will be able to continue to give out food donations to many more families in the coming weeks. Kudos to Ms. Singer who organized both these events for our school. A huge undertaking! Byron Somerset definitely is a giving community!

Here's What's Happening on School Council 2021-2022

SCHOOL COUNCIL



We hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall! The School Council is focused on raising funds for the ongoing technology, literacy, arts, phys ed and classroom needs. This year, we are focused on supporting the need for primary grades for additional textiles given the increase in students, a musical option for the junior grades as Mr. Lee is unable to run the recorder program (due to covid rules) as well as the continued support of the grade 8 awards.

We want to thank all the families that have participated in our school fundraisers so far! From adopt a school pizza nights to popcorn sales and pumpkin contests we've raised \$1056 and counting! Still looking for ways to help fundraise? – Mark your calendars for the next Byron Pizza night on **Wednesday December 1st**.

Don't forget to follow the [Byron Somerset Facebook page](#) for updates and reminders. And as always, please feel free to reach out to the School Council at any time at scbyronsomerset@tvpic.ca
Kindest regards,
School Council

Team Jersey Day!

Hey there Somerset Stars. It is time to show loyalty to your favourite sports team. On **Tuesday, November 30**, we will have "Favourite Team Jersey Day", so dig out your favourite hockey, soccer, baseball, basketball, football, or any other jersey and show your spirit.



Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic

Grade 7 students will receive 2 doses of Hepatitis B and Gardasil-9 vaccine and one dose of Menactra at the school on Wednesday, November 17th at 1:00 p.m. Any grade 8 that has missed this vaccination are also eligible to receive it on this day. Consent forms have already been already sent home. Please read over all the information with your child. Please ensure the signed consent has been returned to the classroom teacher before the date of the first clinic. If you have any questions regarding the school vaccination program, please contact the Middlesex London Health Unit at 519-663-5217.



Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day activities will occur on Thursday, November 11th. Once again, this year individual homeroom teachers will be leading their class in various Remembrance Day activities and reflections which have been shared centrally with all schools. Each class will also be making a wreath as in the past years and placing it in a visible location within the school. This display of Remembrance will remain in place for all students to see in the days following our school wide recognition. If your child is a member of the guides, scouts or cubs, please have them wear their uniforms to school this day.



At approximately 10:50 a.m., I will share some school wide words of Remembrance over the P.A followed by a recording of the Last Post, two minutes of silence, the Reveley and the playing of O'Canada. The importance of this day remains significant in all our lives. This year will be no different, even though we recognize it in a slightly modified manner, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cross Country Running Club

During the lunch hour this fall many students have been participating in the Cross Country Running Club. Members have been running around the school and city property. Thus far, the Club have accumulated over 500km in just 6 runs. If the weather cooperates, we will continue for a few more weeks to hopefully reach 1000km before it gets too cold to run. Thank-you to all the runners from Grade 3-8, the coaches and teachers are proud of your efforts.



Intermediate Girls Volleyball

This year the grade 7 and 8 girls have the opportunity to participate in intramural volleyball training and games. The girls meet at 7:45am and will be continuing through November and December. The group of girls include: Ruby, Natalie, Grace, Jordyn, Lyla, Genevieve, Keira, Lou, Maddie, Tobi, Ava, Luciana, Ava, Ella, Connie, Nicoletta, Emily, Laura, Keeley, Kashf, Ava, Candace and Ayay. They have all been working hard. Keep up the good work!



Boys Volleyball

The Somerset Boys Volleyball Team is back in action! The boys have been practicing hard since the middle of October. On Thursday, October 28th, they played their first match against another school in nearly two years and pulled off a decisive victory over Wortley Road in the first set. The boys are showing a lot of enthusiasm and are keen to learn and play. Games will continue throughout November, followed by playoffs in early December. Spectators are not permitted at this time. Team members: Anderson W., Tyson A., Connor L., Abdallah A., Jason S., Brody S., Matt Z., Riese C., Lucas K., Aiden H., Cooper S., Khaleel P., Harrison H., Mason D., Maksim T., Holden B., Hudson N. Coaches: Mr. Thomson, Aidan Howlett.



Parking

Thank you to all of our parents for the care they take in dropping off or picking up their children daily. As a reminder, the area at the front of the school is a 'kiss and ride' zone and not a parking area. We are having cars park at the curve in the parking lot, preventing our mini buses access to dropping off our students. Please drop your children off at the 'kiss and ride' and we will ensure their safety in getting to class. The ONLY area you are permitted to drop your children off, is up at the front of the school, in between the green frogs, by the flagpole. Parents of primary aged students, please DO NOT drop your children off at the back end of the parking lot by the garbage dumpsters. We have no staff supervision in this area; therefore, we cannot ensure student safety.



Dropping off items at School

We continue to follow Board protocol with regard to Covid, so thanks for your continued used of the "door bell" at the front doors and for sending your children in without you. We do need to limit the number of visitors into our building. We also would like to ask that you refrain from dropping off items during the school day. Please ensure the night before that your child has all the essential items he/she needs for the next day at school. The school 'door bell' is not to be used for everyday drop off of student items. This makes an extremely busy day for Ms. O. Thank you!

United Way

A huge thank you to our Byron Somerset community for your very generous donations to the United Way. Because of "Hat Day for United Way", we were able to raise \$601.55 for a wonderful cause! The students (and staff!) had a fun day modeling their finest headwear and we learned about being charitable. Thank you, Star families! A huge thank you to Ms. Peterson who organized and lead this fundraiser. Amazing job Byron Somerset!



United Way
London & Middlesex

Winter Hat & Mitten Drive

As the colder weather approaches, Byron Somerset will be holding a winter hat and mitten drive during the week of November 22nd to the November 26th. We will accept new winter hats and mittens for women and children during that week. All donations will be dropped off at Anova, a shelter for women and children here in London. Please donate if you can and show your generous Somerset spirit.

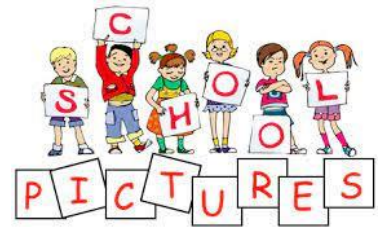


Portables

Our two portables are almost ready for occupancy! The electrical, cement work, and IT have completed their work, wooden stairs have been built and our custodial staff are now cleaning and waxing the floors. We will be able to plan the moves from classrooms very shortly. Ms. Kiekens and Ms. Armeniakos will be moving to the portables once we have the “all clear”. After they’re moved in, we will schedule the moves from the Learning Commons and lunchroom (Grade ½ Noddle and Grade 2/3 Crukley) to rooms 168 and 175. We look forward to having students and staff settled and comfortable in their new “homes” for the rest of the school year.

Student Photographs

We appreciate your patience as families have been waiting for our process to support student photographs this year. Learning from the last two years, we are implementing a staggered approach to student photographs prioritizing our graduates. Our **Grade 8 Graduation photos been booked for Thursday, December 2nd in the morning**. Once this is completed, we will provide an update for ALL student photos to be completed. We appreciate you waiting until such time as we proceed to this stage.



Culture Corner

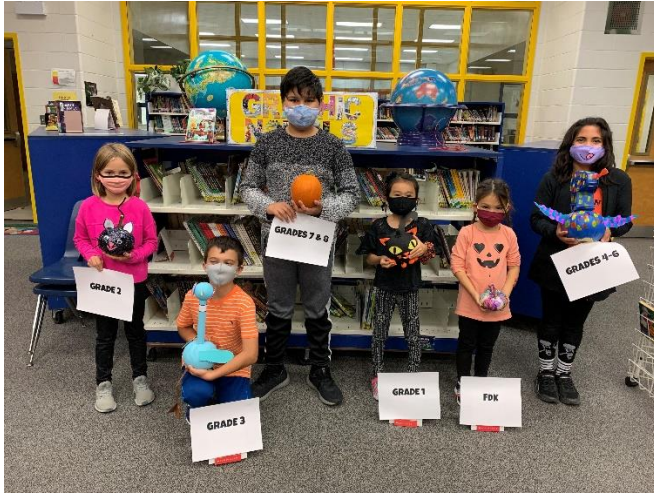
Happy Diwali!

Diwali is the five-day festival of lights celebrated by Hindus around the world. The 3rd day is the main celebration which will take place on Thursday, November 4th this year. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness. Celebrations may include displaying festive lights, fireworks, special food, and family gatherings. We wish all families celebrating a very happy Diwali!



Mini Pumpkin Contest

A huge thank you to all the students that participated in the mini pumpkin contest last Friday. It was a huge success! We had some wonderful, creative pumpkins that were displayed in our library. Winners were selected in Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Junior and Intermediate. Tim Hortons and McDonalds gift cards were provided. Below is a picture of their creations along with some other amazing pumpkins! Congratulations to everyone!



Be Safe, Be Seen

Darkness is coming earlier, but don't let that keep you inside. Keep yourself safe and keep yourself seen. It is important when you are outside that drivers are able to see you.

1. Wear brightly coloured clothing (yellow and white are best) or reflective gear such as armbands, especially before dawn and after dark.
2. Be active as much as possible during daylight hours.
3. Make sure you have required lights and reflectors on your bike.
4. Use bike lanes when available.
5. Educate yourself about the road rules.
6. Wear the correct helmet for your sport and make sure it fits properly.



For more information visit: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/cycling/youngcyclists.html>

Home Connections in Mathematics

November 2021 'Fact Fluency'

“Children should learn their number facts. However, they would benefit from learning their facts by using an increasingly sophisticated sense of strategies rather than by jumping directly to memorization.”

(Lawson, 2016)

Knowing Your Facts: Just One of the “Basics”

What do you think of when you hear, “getting back to the basics” in mathematics? Well, the basics can mean anything from counting, to computation, to problem solving. But *basic facts* refers to the set of single digit number facts for addition and multiplication, and their related subtraction and division facts. For example, $7 + 8$, $15 - 7$, 5×6 , $30 \div 6$, are all basic facts.

One of the fundamental skills that children need to have in mathematics is to master their basic facts. *Mastering math facts* involves understanding and recalling math facts using a variety of strategies.

How Should Children Master Math Facts?

Most children will learn math facts gradually over a number of years. During this time, they should be encouraged to use what they already know to help them solve for facts they don't know *yet*. For example, to solve for 6×8 , they may use the known fact $5 \times 8 = 40$ and add one more group of 8 to get 48. Over time, this reasoning will help children master facts and eventually become more fluent.

The goal is not *memorization* of facts, but *automaticity* which is the quick and effortless recall of math facts.

Asking your child to memorize without opportunities to reason and visualize is not an effective way to commit facts to memory.

Games to Master Math Facts

Games are fun to play over and over again, and therefore are an excellent way to provide repeated practise for students to learn their facts. When your child is not able to immediately recall a fact, encourage them to use what they do know to help them solve it rather than simply telling them the answer.

TRY THESE GAMES:

Go Fish for 10!

You need: 2 players
Queen = 0 Ace = 1



One deck of cards (Aces, Queens and 2 to 10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hgbL08XkDg>

Lay the deck of cards face down on the table. Each player selects three cards from the deck. The goal is to make pairs that add to 10. The first player looks for a pair in their hand, and if they find a pair, they lay that down for a point and pick up two more cards from the pile. If they don't find a pair, they ask their partner for what they need to make a ten pair. If the partner has the card, they pass it over. If they don't

