



BYRON SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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<http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/byronsomerset.cfm>

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

Newsletter #1

October 2, 2020



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

It's been awhile since we have had a formal newsletter - how exciting!

Usually in my September Principal's message, I am recognizing our cross-country team, commenting on our Meet the Teacher/Family evening as well as sharing our most recent EQAO scores with you. The pandemic has of course affected all, or certainly many, of our normal and traditional back to school activities.

With that being said, I continue to be very proud of our students during our first few weeks of school! Additionally, I also want to personally thank you, our parents, for your continuous support and flexibility as we strive to ensure student safety and maintain productive and engaging learning environments for our students.

I hope that my message finds each of you well. Please take care of yourselves and your families and remember, in a world where you can be anything, be kind 😊

Award of Distinction

Last spring, our staff was thrilled to learn that our very own, Mr. Cluney was selected by a system committee as one of the TVDSB's Award of Distinction recipients!! We are so lucky to have Mr. Cluney as our custodian!! He takes great pride in his job and is always there to help a student or staff member in need. He loves the work he does for our school as well as the countless relationships he has developed with students, staff and parents alike. Congratulations once again on achieving this prestigious recognition. Well done Mr. Cluney!!

Halloween

This is always an exciting day for many of our students, however this year, due to Covid-19, there are still many unknowns, even at the Provincial level. Depending on government direction, we still don't really know how the 31st is going to look or be supported this year?? What we do know, is that Halloween is actually on a Saturday, so schools will not be faced with supporting the typical activities that usually go along with this day. Usually we tie in our monthly Gotcha / Student recognition assembly with this day, and our younger students have an opportunity to parade around our gym for all to see. Younger classes also usually have a 'party' of sorts, with bowls of cheezies, Doritos and whatever else students choose to bring in. Unfortunately, these 'typical' practices are just not able to occur this year.

I have directed staff to encourage **Orange and Black for ALL grade levels, including Kindergarten**, on Friday October 30th. I would ask that you please refrain from sending your little one in a costume, especially since Halloween is on a Saturday. Thank you for your anticipated support

Kiss n Ride

I would like to first THANK all parents who are using this drop off area SAFELY. Once again, the ONLY area you are permitted to drop your kids 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 kids off at the back end of the parking lot by the garbage dumpsters. I have NO STAFF SUPERVISION in this area; therefore, I cannot ensure student safety. Additionally, I have simply run out of available staff for yard duty, as staff have hard caps on the amount of yard supervision minutes they are permitted to do through their collective agreements.

I really must insist, that if you choose to enter our school parking lot to drop off your child(ren), that you follow the rules. These rules are there to protect your kids! The other day, I witnessed an impatient parent drop off their child in the wrong spot, putting their own child's safety at risk, and then swerve out of the traffic flow line, whereby almost hitting another unsuspecting vehicle. This is not OK!! C'mon folks - please follow the rules!

Additionally, please DO NOT park anywhere on the street directly in front of the school, on either side. We have several special needs vans, as well as three school busses moving in and out of this area, both in the morning and afternoon. We also have a student cross walk area in front of the school. Please help us out here. This area and our school parking lot will only get more dangerous when the snow arrives (hopefully not for a while!!)

As an aside, when my daughters were in elementary school, I intentionally went nowhere near their school parking lot, for many reasons - LOL

I drove in only once, when I had to pick my daughter up for an end of day appointment, and I quickly regretted my decision as the Eagle's infamous song, 'Hotel California' ran through my head - 'You can enter, but you can never leave!'. From that moment I was more than happy to park a hundred or so yards away, and get some steps in. 😊

Once again, thank you for all your support. Have a great weekend and a great October!!

Mr. Pratt

Student Accident Insurance

This year there will not be paper copies of the student accident insurance brochures delivered to the schools. Please visit <https://insuremykids.com/> if you wish to purchase.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear is back by popular demand! The store will be open from October 1st – 14th. Please indicate in the notes which child to send the items with. <https://www.sourceteamworks.com/search?q=Byron+Somerset>

Mrs. Brosnan



Terry Fox Run

We are looking forward to honoring TERRY FOX and recognizing the 40th Anniversary of his incredible Marathon of Hope.

Our cohort-friendly, socially-distanced school runs will be staggered and take place on Wednesday, October 7th with a rain date of Thursday,

October 8th.

Students are encouraged to show their support by wearing Red or Canada-inspired clothing.

Families wishing to make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society may use this link (no donations will be collected at school):

<https://www.terryfox.ca/ByronSomersetPSLondon>

Mrs. Singer

School Council

The Byron Somerset School Council has completed our school year election with 15 members for the 2020-2021 year.

The role of School Council is to review and address issues related to our children's education at the school, board and ministry of education level. We provide advice to the school principal and, where appropriate to the board. Council also generates and distributes funds to enable school projects that provide many extras, such as, Chromebooks, iPads, library books, supplies for teachers' classes, gym equipment.

School Council raises money in various ways but a large part of our funds have always come from our hot lunch program and snack days – over \$17,000 each year. We cannot count on that this year so we need your help. We will be bringing back the 'Make a Donation' fundraiser but can only accept online donations – no cash/cheques. We are currently planning other fun ways to raise money as this is a unique year with unique needs - we appreciate your generous support. Watch out for future emails about upcoming events, as well as, how to make a donation details.

Also, 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 sc-byronsomerset@tvpic.ca

Kindest regards,
School Council



"Save Your Pop Tabs"

This year's pop tab collection will help support Connor Green (*our 49th set of wheels!*), who is a very polite 13 year old Nairn boy. He has a very engaging personality and attends East Williams Memorial Public School in his home town. He is an avid reader who enjoys Harry Potter, Charlie Brown and the "I Funny" series and is a video gamer. Connor is also very interested in his family ancestry and would

love to take his parents to Ireland! Sports wise he participates in volt hockey with former recipients, swimming and also enjoys Trace 3 skiing. **So save your aluminum tabs and help Connor acquire his larger wheelchair!** Please drop your pop tabs off in the main office.