



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

Newsletter #1

September 6, 2019

Principal's Message

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

We have had an absolutely amazing start-up this past week at Byron Somerset!! As you know, our school is growing as we welcomed FOUR new classrooms this year. Presently, we have about 400 students on role! It is wonderful to see all of your beautiful children settled, smiling and happy, as I make my daily rounds throughout each class in our school. It truly fills my heart with pride and joy. What a truly special place we have here at Byron Somerset!

I also want to thank each of you for your trust, in placing your children into this year's classes. Sometimes, staff placement motives or decisions may not always appear clear for parents despite efforts of transparency and integrity. This is never an easy task and requires hours of time. Much discussion and thought goes into each student's placement as we only want the very best school experience for all our children/students. As a parent myself, who has had each of his daughters placed into the 'high' end of a 'split' or 'combined' grade on more than one occasion, (this is always the most common parent concern I receive), I understand the 'wonderings' that parents may have regarding these decisions. However, as a parent I always reminded myself that kids are resilient, that staff knew my daughters' best while at school and that kids learn, in any class placement. At the end of the day, my daughters always enjoyed their year and had opportunities for leadership with the younger grade they were placed with. Now when I hear their stories of high school, where they have none of their friends in their classes and I am unfamiliar with the majority of their teachers, I just sit back and smile, knowing that they have been prepared for this reality through their elementary school experiences and I trust that at the end of the day, they will be just fine . . .

☺

In addition to the 8 new staff members I welcomed in June, I would also like to formally welcome our most recent acquisition, Mr. Mark Anas, who was only hired about two and a half weeks ago! Great job to both Mr. Anas and Ms. Szanyi (ECE) for getting their classroom ready so quickly, for their students! Additionally, we welcome back our returning families and will soon meet and get to know our new families. We are looking forward to a great 2019-2020 school year!

As a reminder, please keep all dogs at home if you plan on dropping off or picking up your kids during the day. As well, please feel welcome to visit our school in accordance with our Safe Schools Policy. All school visitors are required to check in with the office for a guest pass prior to proceeding through our school hallways. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. Please ensure your school guest pass is visible when in the building – thank you so much for your cooperation – it is appreciated.

I wish all of our families the very best for this upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

J. Pratt, Principal



Bell Times for Grades FDK - 8

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Morning Entry : | 9:00 a.m. |
| Morning Recess: | 10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. |
| Lunch: | 11:45 am - 12:45 pm |
| Afternoon Entry: | 12:45 p.m. |
| Afternoon Recess: | 2:05 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. |
| Dismissal: | 3:30 p.m. |

Meet the Teacher

Thursday, September 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The Book Fair is coming! Once again this year, we will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library Learning Commons. The Book Fair is a great way to encourage literacy and is also a terrific fundraiser for the school. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new resources for the Learning Commons. The Fair will run from Tuesday, Sept 24 to Thursday, Sept 26 and will be open for sales during Meet the Teacher on the 26th!

**The Book Fair can't run without volunteers! Mr. Thomson needs volunteers to help during the day on Wednesday and Thursday, and during the evening on Thursday. No experience necessary and high school students looking for volunteer hours are also welcome. Please contact Mr. Thomson at r.thomson@tvdsb.ca for details.



Toonies For Terry

We will be having our school-wide TERRY FOX RUN on Thursday, September 26th. Please start saving your toonies now! All donations will go to the Terry Fox Foundation that funds cancer research. We are honoured to carry on the legacy of such an incredible Canadian hero! Thank you for your support!

School Cash on Line

ALL parents are asked to sign up for this electronic service if you have not yet done so. All field trips, hot lunch orders, planners, etc. will be paid through this electronic pathway. No cash/cheques are accepted. Please visit <https://tvdsb.schoolcashionline.com> to register.

Pizza Day Orders

This month's pizza day is **September 19th**. Orders must be done online if you wish your child to have pizza these days. **NO LATE ORDERS** will be accepted.

Planners

Each student from grades 1 to 8 has been given a student planner at a cost of \$5.00. Payment to be made online.

Safe Arrival and Attendance Procedures for Parents

If you wish to pick up your child early from school please send a **note** to your child's teacher giving the date and time you wish to pick him/her up. When you arrive at the school please go directly to the office to **sign out** your child and the office will call the classroom for him/her to meet you.

For parents bringing their children back to school after appointments etc., please come directly to the office so **your child can sign in**. He/she will have been marked absent and their attendance needs to be changed.

If you know your child is going to be absent, please inform the school by phone toll free (1-844-305-3756), web link (tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger.ca) or free smartphone app.



Safety Patrol

On September 12th, Constable Mickle will be training grade 6 students for Safety Patrol. We will begin the Safety Patrol program shortly afterwards.

Mrs. Durfy - Safety Patroller Supervisor

School Council News

Just the reminder for interested parents to please return completed Parent Council Nomination Forms that were sent home. Our first School Council Meeting is on September 23rd 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons.

Volunteer News

Welcome to our new and returning volunteers. Please ensure that the necessary police check documentation is on file. This policy will be enforced for the safety of all our students. This applies to volunteers going on field trips or helping out in the school. For volunteers with a police check already on file at Byron Somerset, you will need to fill out an "offence declaration form" which are available in the office. This needs to be completed each year in order to keep your original police check valid. **You can now apply for your police check on line at www.police.london.ca**. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Orange Shirt Day

On Monday, September 30, Byron Somerset will take part in Orange Shirt Day. Along with many schools across the Thames Valley School board, students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools. It is also a chance to focus on anti-racism and anti-bullying efforts as the school year kicks off.



Bus Cancellations & Delays

For information on bus cancellations and delays, please use the Student Transportation Service (STS) website at www.mybigyellowbus.ca. Using the student ID#, parents are able to log into the portal and access their student's transportation arrangements.

Immunization Clinics

The Middlesex London Health Unit will be offering clinics on the following dates:

Grade 7 Students—Two doses of Hepatitis B and Gardasil-9 Vaccine and one dose of Menactra vaccine.
(October 30, 2019)

(and any Grade 8 students absent last year and have a consent on file)

April 22, 2020 – Hep B #2 and Gardasil-9 #2

(and any Grade 8 students absent on previous clinic dates and have signed consent on file)

Information packages will be sent home with all eligible students prior to the first clinic. Please read over all the information carefully with your child. Signed consents are to be sent back to the school 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 519-663-5317 ext. 2330.

Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical / Health Conditions in Schools / IPOCS

To ensure children with **potentially life-threatening medical conditions** remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests Parents/Guardians update the necessary medical information on the Parent Portal so that an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school's administration.

****Parents who have received electronic notifications of outstanding forms received by the school, please submit these electronically as soon as possible.**

Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening may include:

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis
3. Epilepsy
4. Type 1 Diabetes
5. Any other potentially life-threatening condition that could result in a medical incident* (discuss with your school administrator)

Parents/Guardians can provide important information about their child's life-threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the following tab: **Student Medical Information**. Once an Individual Plan of Care is submitted, the school administrator will then review the information. Parents/Guardians may be contacted for further information, if required.

Parents/Guardians who cannot access the Parent Portal on the Internet should contact the school office. Please note that Parents/Guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of the student's prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. **It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student's safety at school.**

**A medical incident is a circumstance that requires an immediate response and monitoring, since the incident may progress to an emergency requiring contact with Emergency Medical Services – 911.*

Protecting Students with Allergies

The number of life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) is increasing. On January 1, 2006 **Sabrina's Law** came into effect to help protect students from these allergies, the most common being nuts and insect stings. Its goal is education and prevention. The law has implications for stakeholders of Ontario's publically funded boards. It is the parents' responsibility to provide the school with medical information, an emergency plan and an up-to-date supply of epi-pens or prescribed medication. We have students with nut allergies at Byron Somerset. Please refrain from sending items in your children's lunches that are made from nuts. **Ryan's Law** was recently passed by the Ontario Legislature in support of the well-being of students with asthma in our schools. With your permission, your child will be allowed to carry their asthma medication.

Parking Lot and Traffic Safety

In the interest of student safety, parents who pick up or drop off their children are reminded to obey signs in the parking lot and in front of the school. This means refraining from parking in handicap parking spaces, blocking the Fire Route, and obeying the no stopping signs located at the far end of the parking lot near the Day Care entrance. Likewise, on Whisperwood Avenue, parents are to refrain from parking or dropping students off in the bus loading zone. If parents drop off students, they should be careful to do so that the student exits the vehicle on the sidewalk side of Whisperwood. Students are to use the crosswalks at all times. Extra vigilance is needed by drivers and pedestrians at all times but especially in winter months with snowy and slippery conditions.

Footwear - Indoor & Outdoor

Seeing that your child has a pair of indoor shoes at school is appreciated. Running shoes as the indoor shoes are the safest for physical education classes. Reserving one pair of shoes for indoor use keeps them free of mud and grit. Not only does it help keep our school clean, it helps keep our school safer. A clean floor is less slippery and thus safer, particularly in the gym, where students will be running. Whether physical education classes or recess, outside play often involves running, jumping, and skipping. Again, running shoes are best, unless the weather calls for boots. Additionally, exposed jewellery of any kind can not be worn during Physical Education classes and all students will be required to remove such items (e.g. earrings, necklaces, rings, watches, etc.) OPHEA 2019

School-level Communication to the Public

The Thames Valley District School Board supports individuals of all abilities. If you require any information provided by the school in an accessible format, please contact the school for assistance.



Cross Country Running Team

This year's Cross country season is about to begin. Students who are in Grade 3 to 8 are invited to come out and run after school. We will practice Monday to Thursday until 4:00 pm. Students are to be picked by an adult after practices and all meets. Students are to have proper running shoes (no cleats) shorts and t-shirts, inhalers, epi-pens and water bottles.

Thanks,
Mrs. Fleming, Miss Desrochers, Mr. Dawson, Mrs. Russell



Senior Soccer Team

Tryouts for the Somerset Co-Ed Soccer Team have begun. Students in grade 7 and 8 have the opportunity to participate in a one day West Region Soccer Tournament at the BMO Centre. For the second year, the format will be 9 x 9 indoors. The tournament is to take place Wednesday, September 25th from approximately 11am to 5pm. Hopefully, we will have a great tournament and bring home some hardware. Go STARS!!!

Mrs. Fleming

September 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|------------------|-----------|
| 1  | 2 | 3 Day 1 Classes Begin | 4 Day 2 | 5 Day 3 | 6 Day 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Day 5 | 10 Day 6 | 11 Day 7 | 12 Day 8 | 13 Day 9 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Day 10 | 17 Day 1 | 18 Day 2 | 19 Day 3  | 20 Day 4 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Day 5 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm | 24 Day 6 | 25 Day 7 West Regional Soccer Tournament 11:00-5:00 pm BMO Centre | 26 Day 8 Canada Day Spirit Day Terry Fox Run Meet the Teacher 5:00-7:00 pm | 27 PA DAY | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Day 9 Orange Shirt Day  | October Events: 2 nd – Photo Day – 9:00 am 3 rd – Pizza Day 10 th – Pizza Day 14 th – Thanksgiving 24 th – Fun Fair – 5:00-8:00 pm 25 th – PA Day 30 th – Gr 7 Vaccine Clinics – Menactra/HepB/Gardasil | | | | |