



BORDEN SCHOOL
Achieving Success Together

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Dear Borden School Families,

It feels like winter has arrived early, although I've heard that we can hope for another stretch of warm weather before the end of October. Borden Bruins of all ages have not been deterred by the weather, though, as our students and cohorts display that they are *Learning Everywhere Together!*

In this update I will share information on the following topics: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Halloween, Lockers, Masks & Cohorts, Purdy's Fundraiser, and Picture Day.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

In our first October letter I wrote that families would have the option to receive a phone call or an invitation to a Google Meet on November 17th, 18th, or 19th for their conferences with school teachers. This is still true but with an added challenge. Borden School has a small number of phonelines that can be in use at one time due to logistical limitations. So, phone calls are still an option, but it is possible that they will be made from personal cell phones and may appear as either "Unknown Caller" or as an Ontario number. As a school, our first preference would be a Google Meet. I understand that this is not a viable option for all families, and we will work alongside our families to make this process achievable and comfortable for all!

Information regarding booking times/dates will be going out in early November. Please be on the lookout for that. As always, if the dates/times do not work for your family, please contact Mrs. Lukan or Mr. Morris. Our whole staff is committed to being flexible to make things work for all families.

Halloween:

Halloween is approaching fast! I wanted to provide a quick update on what will be happening at school and our expectations this year.

Students that are interested in wearing a costume at school are welcome to do so on Friday, October 30th. I ask that students wear a costume that does not require complex or time-consuming processes to put on or remove. I also request that students plan to not use the washroom as part of their costume preparation.

As for the costumes, as a school we ask that no weapons (or large implements) come to school. Also, students that have a costume with a mask will still be asked to wear their cloth mask beneath it when physical distancing is not possible (for students in Grades 4-12).

As far as activities at the school, all activities will be within individual cohorts this year – there will be no parade or any whole-school activities. If you have specific questions about cohort activities, please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to find out the plan.

Lockers:

Students in Grades 9-12 will be assigned lockers in the coming days. These lockers will be spread out to maintain physical distancing. As a school, there will be specific times where students will be permitted to go to lockers (we need to ensure that the main hallway remains uncongested throughout the day as it is the only pathway to washrooms and water fountains). For this reason, students in Grades 9-12 will be instructed to use lockers for weather related belongings only (jackets, footwear, mitts, toque, etc.). All academic supplies and materials will still be expected to stay in Portable A. Minimizing the flow of traffic in the main hallway will still be our primary target. Thank you in advance for having a conversation with your child(ren) in Grades 9-12 on this topic.

Masks and Cohorts:

Our Borden Bruin students are doing well adjusting to life at school amid many new changes and processes. We have noticed in the last few weeks that some students are relaxing their personal mask use and interacting more often with other cohorts. We are addressing this as it happens and continuing to have conversations with students as they are required.

Families of Borden School students have been incredibly supportive and thoughtful through the return to school in 2020. I ask that families continue to have conversations on the importance of mask-wearing and cohort integrity at school. I see so much good happening within the walls of Borden School everyday and I am eager to see that good work carry forward.

Purdy's Fundraiser:

We have distributed information regarding a Purdy's fundraiser. The deadline for orders is Thursday, November 19th. All proceeds are going towards a cart and additional Chromebooks for student use. We are very grateful for your support in this initiative.

Picture Day:

The Borden School picture day is scheduled for November 13th. Only individual photos will be taken. LifeTouch has provided their plan for a safe process complete with disinfectant routines to ensure that all students are safe throughout this event.

Please reach out the school if you have questions.

Volunteers:

Borden School would like to thank the following individuals for their huge support in providing masks for students at Borden School:

Gloria Derbowka, Beth Usselman, Mary Thiessen, Kathy Wiebe, Dorothy Fouhy, Penny Fairbrother, Pam Pidwerbesky, Penny Dyck, Elaine Gunsch, Audra Loessin, Krissy Derbowka, Robyn Dietrich, and Nancy Denis.

Borden School is grateful and very lucky to be supported by such a generous community!

Important Dates:

October 22nd – Hold and Secure Drill #2

October 23rd – Driver' Ed from 12:30-1:20

October 26th – Prep Day (No School)

October 28th – Driver' Ed from 12:30-1:20

October 29th – Driver's Ed from 12:30-1:20

October 30th – Cohort Halloween activities

November 3rd – Driver' Ed from 12:30-1:20

November 5th & 6th – Grade 9-12 Q1 final exams

November 9-11 – Remembrance Day Break (No School)

November 17-19 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 23 – No School (Day in Lieu of Parent/Teacher Conferences)

December 18 – Last day of school before the 2 week Holiday break

Conclusion:

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have questions or would like to speak about anything at Borden School, please reach out to me. I can be reached by email at brody.morris@spiritsd.ca, a phone call to the school at (306) 997-2090, or you can call or text my cell phone which is (306) 371-2888. Your gracious support and kindness are always appreciated!

Brody Morris – Borden School Principal