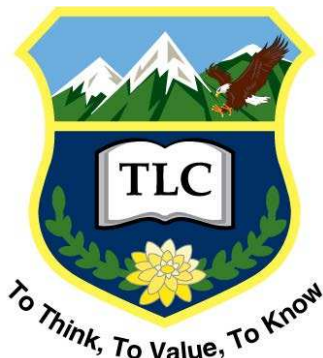


Brentwood School

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Newsletter | February/March 2017

Principal's Message.



I am very encouraged and always pleasantly surprised by the great learning and community spirit that lives at Brentwood School. Since the beginning of my time here, not a day has gone by without me experiencing something new and exciting about this great place. That same sentiment was shared by our Area 1 Director, Mr. Brant Parker, who recently visited our school. In a full morning visit, he took the opportunity to visit classrooms to see the 'learning in action' while questioning students and staff about their experiences as members of this community. His parting comments were – "What a special place this is. You can just feel the positive energy." I could not agree more. Bravo Brentwood – you are a true testament to a great school!

In an effort to keep this positive energy, great learning, and community spirit alive, I wish to draw your attention to the following items:

- Parents who are planning extended absences with their children beyond 15 school days will now be asked to meet in person with school administration and their child's teacher prior to departure. The premise will be to discuss your child's learning needs while committing to a learning plan (an additional form to be signed along with the previously form used). During this meeting, more detailed information will be reviewed and discussed to clarify important factors and possible implications of the absence.
- Choosing convenience over safety when picking up and dropping off students is an ongoing concern. As referenced in another section of this newsletter, parking in appropriate locations (hug and go on the south side for example) requires due diligence so no one gets into an accident, or worse, injured. That means using the areas 'safely' while 'obeying the traffic laws' that go hand in hand with safety (not making illegal u-turns in the middle of the street or walking through the parking lot instead of using the walk way). Please help keep our students, your children, out of harm's way!
- Congratulations to our school community for raising \$1544 with our 'wear something seasonal and forgo the uniform' campaign the last week of school before winter break. Our efforts were truly appreciated by the 'Inn from the Cold' organization that we supported. They indicated to us that the funds could not have come at a better time and would be put to great use to assist those in need during the holiday season. I hope that we can continue to support such worthy causes in the future – what better way to live one of the TLC program tenets – citizenship!
- Ongoing communication and connections about your child and their learning with his or her teacher is essential to overall success for children. Please be sure to review the information presented in your child's report card and all documentation explaining how achievement is assessed. Moreover, please make every effort to attend the upcoming session of conferences which will be student led/involved. This is a time when students get to 'strut their stuff' if you will and demonstrate their learning in meaningful ways. It is also a wonderful opportunity for parents to probe their child's learning in more depth. I know you won't want to miss it!

Important Dates

- February 2 – Treat Day
Purdy's Hearts \$1
- February 3 – No School
for Students
- February 9 – Gr. 4
Assembly at 6:30 pm
- February 14 – School
Council Mtg. 2 pm
- February 16 & 17 –
Teacher's Convention
- February 20 – Family
Day – No School
- February 24-Family Fun
Night 6:30-9:00PM
- March 16 – Gr. 5 T.B.
Riley Visit
- March 17 – Fun
Lunch/Casual Day
- March 22-
Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences PM
- March 23
Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences AM



Mr. Michayluk

Teacher's Convention

On February 16th and 17th, all Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District teachers will participate in our annual Calgary City Teachers' Convention. Attendance at this convention is both a professional and legal obligation for teachers. Teachers pay for this convention through dues levied by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Teachers' Convention provides an excellent means for professional development. Caretaking staff and support staff also attend conventions at this time so please make sure that you do not drop your children at school on these days.

As noted on our calendar, **children do not attend school on the February 16th and 17th, Teachers' Convention days. Please also remember that Monday, February 20th is Alberta Family Day and is a day when all schools are closed.**

In-line Skating was a Hit Once Again!



Once again this year, our students in Grade 1-3 have had a fantastic time learning to in-line skate. It is amazing the progress each student makes during their lessons. We are especially pleased that the instructor from Alien In-Line places such great importance on using the appropriate equipment and skating safely, while still having fun. This is a great activity that has the potential of providing a lifelong physical hobby for all of our students.

Requests from Teachers

Teachers would like to remind you to write a note in the daily agenda or to leave them a telephone message if you will be picking your child up prior to the end of the school day. Teachers are then more able to ensure that important messages are written in the agenda ahead of time and that homework resources are ready to go when you arrive. Teachers are generally unable to interrupt their teaching to stop and get those things ready for your child. Teachers also would like to remind you that when you leave a telephone message on their voice mail, you should

not expect an immediate response. Each teacher's priority is to be actively involved with the students throughout the day. Teachers also often have supervision responsibilities before school, at recess and may hold meetings or offer clubs at lunch time. Teachers will attempt to return calls within 24 hours. If you have a message of an urgent nature, please call the main office and the secretaries will contact the teacher. You may also want to send a note in your child's agenda book, which teachers check daily.



Our staff parking lots are certainly the most dangerous area of the school especially around the start and end of the day. Despite posted signs, reminders from staff and frequent reminders in the newsletters, parents continue to place their own needs ahead of the polite direction to **NOT USE THE PARKING LOTS FOR STUDENT DROP OFF and PICK UP.**

Parents who park in the staff parking lots and bring their children into the school cause parking issues for teachers who pay to park in these lots.

We know that many parents drive their children to school, especially on cold days, but we strongly urge you to stop using this area in ways that it was never designed. If needed, please park on the street, **NOT** in the crosswalk, bus stop, or designated bus zones. Walking your children to the school is strongly encouraged.

We will be reinforcing these safety practices in our daily announcements and will ask our students to ensure that parents are always choosing **SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE!**

Thank you for joining us to keep all of our students and staff safe.



Student/Staff/Building Security

Just a reminder that there is **NO REGULAR supervision of students outside before 8:53**. We do not provide supervision for students dropped off early and cannot accommodate parents arriving early with their children except for occasional and extreme situations.

There is **NO** supervision after school for students being picked up, inside or outside. With so many students riding the bus, supervision is provided for this, but does not extend to parent pick ups. Please ensure that if you are picking up a child, that a note has been included in their agenda.

Students and parents are reminded that they are required to remain in the foyer of the school, until they have checked in with the office or have made prior arrangements to meet with a teacher.

Before school clubs provide supervision only for the students involved and parents must make arrangements for siblings to arrive at school at the regular time.

For the safety and security of everyone using the building we require that all visitors check in at the office upon arrival. When volunteering, a volunteer identification tag must be worn.



Planning for 2017-2018

We continue to receive applications for our TLC program with the deadline of February 14th at noon fast approaching. Our system projections for next year predict 700+ students attending Brentwood.

- If you have children who will be leaving Brentwood School at the end of this school year we need to know **(notice coming home)** in the school office as this will help us determine how many students we can accommodate for next year.
- We will be arranging for our grade 5 students to visit Thomas B. Riley School on March 16th. It will be an excellent opportunity for students to

get an inside look into the world of middle/junior high school.

- If your child will be attending another school you will need to make arrangements to visit their school or open house individually.



STUDENT INVOLVED CONFERENCES ARE RETURNING

We will be using the Student Involved Conference format again this year.

As we move into the month of March, our teachers and students are once again preparing to share information with parents about the learning that has taken place during the past term. Students are able to communicate their learning in a variety of ways. Student involvement in the assessment process does not replace the assessment that teachers do, but rather enhances it. ***Involving students in communicating about their learning improves student learning for the following reasons:***

- 1) When students communicate with others about their learning, they learn about what they know, what they need to learn, and what kind of support may be available to them.
- 2) Research clearly shows that when students are involved in the assessment process and learn to express what they have learned and what they still need to work on, achievement improves.
- 3) When students show evidence of learning to an audience (i.e. their parents), they receive feedback and recognition from themselves and others.
- 4) The process of selecting what evidence of learning to show, who to show it to and what kind of feedback to ask for from their audience, gives students an opportunity to construct their understanding and to help others make meaning of their learning.
- 5) Research shows that when parents are involved in talking about learning with their children, the children achieve more. The more parents are involved, the higher the student achievement levels.

- 6) When students communicate their learning using a variety of work samples, they go beyond what grades, numbers and scores alone can show; they are able to show what they know, how they came to know it, and what next steps to learning are.

Teachers will provide an agenda which outlines what each child will be sharing with you and the format that will be used for their sharing, either ahead of or on the evening of student involved conferences. Teachers plan to:

- Prepare with your child what and how they share their learning with you.
- Create an outline of activities and focus questions to guide your visit which should include the 4 core curriculum areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies and may also select one other area of study to share.
- Explain the role that you will play in this conference in actively listening to your child, asking them questions and providing them with feedback.

Your child plans to:

- Review their work, prepare for their conference and will be disappointed if you are not able to attend!

Student Led/Involved Conferences will be on Wednesday March 22nd PM and Thursday March 23rd AM and booked by using the CBE Online Conference Booking Tool.

These initial conferences will have 4 students (Grade 1-5) and 3 students (Kindergarten) and their parents sharing a 30 minute block at which time students will share their work and go through a number of activities to demonstrate their abilities in several curricular areas. The teacher will be available to chat informally with you during this time.

Brentwood Goes Green!

Our upcoming grade 4 assembly (Feb. 9) will kick-off our extensive Environmental Stewardship program. Under the leadership of grade 3s and 4s and the 'green team,' Brentwood will be

focusing on recycling all waste into 4 main categories – *recyclables, refundables, organics, and landfill*. We will share more information as program gets up to full speed! Go Green Team GO!

Spring Break

The first day of spring break for students is Friday, March 24, 2017 and we will welcome our students back on Monday, April 3, 2017. Please note that the school will be closed during this holiday so it is important that students take home everything they may need at home over the break. We sincerely hope that our families take this opportunity to spend some extra time together and hopefully get outside and enjoy some spring weather.



Dressing for Cold Weather

The weather in Calgary is constantly changing and students need to be dressed for the weather. When the weather is cold, we have noticed that students are not appropriately dressed when coming to school.



During the next couple of months, students need to be prepared for poor weather and dressed accordingly - **boots, a warm jacket and snow pants, a hat and mittens**. This is especially important, as buses may be delayed or break down when the weather is bad. It is better to be overdressed than underdressed and cold.

Absent/Bussing Line

To report an absence or late call (403) 777-6130 option 1 and please leave your child's name, room #, teacher's name, reason and length of absence. Thank you for calling in such a timely fashion as this makes the accounting of absent/late children much quicker and therefore ensures the safety of our children.



If you have a bussing question be sure to speak slowly and clearly, and leave a phone number so your call can be returned. The more information and the clearer the message, the easier it is for us to understand and respond. If you feel it would be helpful please repeat your message or spell your child's name.

Registration for Area 1 Traditional Learning Centre Programs

Registration for the Area 1 TLC programs at Brentwood and T. B. Riley Schools began on January 10th and will be ongoing until noon, February 14th. If you have a younger sibling of a child currently attending who will be joining us next fall, please make sure you come in and complete the required paper work as soon as possible. You will receive a confirmation email by February 28 if your child has been accepted into the Kindergarten TLC program at Brentwood School. Our office staff is also happy to send home a registration package with your older child if you call them and request one.

Our grade 5 students will be automatically assigned to the TLC program at Thomas B. Riley School unless you contact us to let us know that your child will be attending their community school or other program.

No School Days for 2017-2018

Please note these dates are also in the student planners.

February 16-17	Teachers Convention – no classes for students
February 20	Alberta Family Day – No School
March 23	Non Instructional Day- no classes for students
March 24	Non Instructional Day
March 27-April 3	Spring Break
April 14	Good Friday-No School
April 17	System Professional Day – no classes for students
May 19	System Professional Day – no classes for students
May 22	Victoria Day-No School
June 30	Non Instructional Day- no classes for students

Swimming

Swimming will begin for our first 8 groups on April 4th. The forms will be sent home in early March and should be returned prior to Spring Break. (The other 4 groups will be going in May and those forms will be sent home after Spring Break.) You have already paid for this

activity with your field trip fees that were collected in November. This activity promotes a healthy lifestyle, is a lifelong skill and is part of our Physical Education program which the children look forward to.

School Council News

Let's do it for the kids!!!

Hopefully you have received your requests for volunteering and feel the pull to support our kids.

Please watch your email boxes for 2 separate Sign-Up Genius requests from Brentwood Volunteer Bank. 1. Casino 2. Family Fun Night (previously Carnival)

School Council/Society has exciting news; we have been handed our next date for the School **Casino**. **Please Save The Date April 21 – April 22, 2017@ Elbow River Casino.**

If you did not receive an email, please have your email address added to our volunteer list by emailing brentwoodvolunteerbank@gmail.com or check your spam or promotions folder if your email is on our list. We require *many, many* volunteers to help make this successful so clear your schedules, and your spouse's schedules, friends, and family (over the age of 18) can also help!!!

Note: you DO NOT require a police clearance to volunteer at the casino. Casino is very important to our children as the funds supply them for the next few years worth of extra activities and some school purchases.

All the Residencies the children enjoy each year, as well as some updates to our computer technology, are a few examples. In the past, School Council has been given the opportunity to supply money to our school for new iPads, laptops and Mr. Michayluk is currently in the process of purchasing new Smart boards which are greatly needed.

This is our largest fundraiser for the school and only happens once every 18 – 24 months. Volunteering for this event is also a lot of fun!! Do not worry if you have never volunteered before, no experience is necessary. Just come out and have a great time!! It really is a lot of fun!

Our last meeting was held on Tuesday January 17th, 2017. Please see the meeting minutes on the school website posted under the 'School Information; School Council' drop down headings on the main page. (<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b204/council.htm>). Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday February 14th @ 2pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome, please come and join us on Valentine's Day!

Staff Appreciation Team supplied a magnificent Dinner for the teachers on November 24th during parent teacher conferences. The teachers were very grateful for a delicious meal for their break. Thank you, team, for supporting our staff and showing them how much they mean to us. You are always surprising our staff with unique thankfulness.

Treat Day... On Thursday, February 2nd, 2017 please bring a loonie if you would like to purchase a Purdy's Chocolate Valentine Treat. It will be nut and gluten free.

Fun Lunch was greatly enjoyed by our children, yet again. Pizza from Little Caesars is always a great hit. It was held on Friday, January 27th, 2017 thanks to the support of our Unbelievable Fun Lunch Team and Fantastic Parent Volunteers.

Our next Fun Lunch will be Friday, March 17th, 2017. We utilize the online lunch ordering system 'Healthy Hunger'. **Please register online and order your lunches at least 5 days prior to every Fun Lunch or the order cannot be processed.** Gratefully it is a very user friendly service. Please double check on the Healthy Hunger website to confirm that you have ordered and PAID FOR a lunch for your child. If you ordered a Fun Lunch on the Healthy Hunger website, you will receive a confirmation email of your purchase order at the time of ordering. If you do not order/pay for a Fun Lunch, please send a lunch for your child as there are no extra orders available. You can also contact brentwoodfunlunch@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Events Team: Save the date February 24th, 2017 from 6:30pm to 9pm for

Family Fun Night 2017

sponsored by Brentwood School Council!!

A family affair filled with lots of fun, including *LED Interactive games, Robotics Presentations, Balloon Twisting, Glitter Tattoos,*

Magician Shows, DJ dance party, Silent Auction, Photo Booth, Food and more!! This year we have some new and exciting things lined up! Stay tuned to Brentwood School Parent's Corner on Facebook and Twitter for updates leading to the event!

This event will be pre-ticket sales only, there will be no tickets sold at the door so make sure to purchase your tickets in advance.

Parents, We NEED you!! Success of this event depends on our volunteers! Please sign up for one or multiple spots so that we, Brentwood School Parents, can make this an exciting and fun evening for all! Please add your email to brentwoodvolunteerbank@gmail.com and keep your eyes open for **Sign-up Genius. No experience necessary.**

If you would like to volunteer for any of our exciting events, please be sure to add your name and email address to brentwoodvolunteerbank@gmail.com. If you would like further information, please email us at brentwoodschoolcouncilinfo@gmail.com Please join us on Facebook and twitter.

@Brentwood Parents

Brentwood School Parent's Corner

[Special Lunch Online Orders - HealthyHunger.ca](#)