



September 2019



BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# The Egremont Eagle



## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back everyone! It has been a unique start to the school year. I would like to thank all students and parents for their cooperation in adjusting to new routines.

Our [Egremont School Handbook](#) is available on our website and contains important information about how we are keeping students safe during COVID as well as our code of conduct and normal operating procedures. Please see important information about the process if your child has COVID-19 related symptoms in the attached COVID update (also linked on page 4).

We have several new faces on our staff to begin the year. Ms. Stott and Ms. VanEsch have joined us as permanent staff members in Grade 6/7 and Grade 1 respectively. Ms. Maxwell is covering the JK/SK class for Mrs. Hartemink. On our Educational Assistant Team, Ms. Langdon-Aldcorn will be with us in the middle of each day.

Please remember that our current organization may change due to shifts in enrollment. More information will be shared with you soon.

A reminder that this letter, and other useful information will be posted on our school website at [www.egr.bwdsb.on.ca](http://www.egr.bwdsb.on.ca), which we will endeavor to keep updating throughout the year.

This newsletter is coming to you through each classroom teacher. However, whole-school communication including newsletters, emergency bulletins, messages from our Director of Education or the Ministry will normally go out via School Messenger. Once you have signed up, you can adjust how you receive messages using the School Messenger App. I encourage you to sign up for phone, texts and emails. I only send messages via phone for urgent situations (e.g. school closures). Please see page 7 for instructions on how to register. If you need any help please contact me (Cathy Griffin).

Attached with this newsletter is a school year calendar. Note the Professional Activity days (November 27, February 2, June 4). Report Cards will come home 3 times in the school year - the Progress report on November 20; Term 1 on February 24; Term 2 June 25. Complete school year calendars can be found on our website or the

Bluewater website ([www.bwdsb.on.ca](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca))

Please monitor your children for head lice and contact the school if detected so that we can help to minimize transmission.

**School Community Council** will be meeting shortly to discuss alternatives to our usual open house. If you are interested in being a part of our SCC, please contact the office. All are welcome.

No nut products please!

Please help in protecting a student with a severe life-threatening food allergy to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes.

Please send foods to school that are free from peanuts or nut products. If you would like to look at a list of safe foods please go to [SnackSafely.com](http://SnackSafely.com). If you have baked or made an item yourself without nuts, and you have done your best to make sure no nut products have come into contact with the ingredients, you may label it nut free.



Thank you! We look forward to a great year full of learning!

JK/SK— Ms. Maxwell	Grade 7/8—Mrs. Shannon/Mr. Rupoli
ECE—Mrs. MacTavish	Core French & Primary prep coverage—Ms. Hodgins
JK/SK—Mrs. Runyon	Instrumental Music/Phys. Ed./Guidance & Library Contact Teacher—Mr. Shannon
ECE—Mrs. Welch	Learning Resource—Mrs. Barnes
Grade 1— Ms. VanEsch	Educational Assistants: Mrs. Smit, Mrs. Wright, Ms. Langdon-Aldcorn, Mrs. McArthur
Grade 2—Mrs. Hamilton	Office Manager—Mrs. Timmins
Grade 4/5 —Mrs. Matheson (formerly Miss. Mifflin—congratulations!)	Head Custodian—Mrs. Lawrence
Grade 3/4—Ms. Moore	Evening Custodian—Mrs. Nicholson
Grade 5/6— Mr. McInnes	
Grade 6/7— Ms. Stott	

## School Day Schedule

Please see [Egremont School Handbook](#) on our school website for full details

At Egremont we follow a Balanced Day schedule with two nutrition breaks.

8:40-8:55 Drop off/Walkers meet at Optimist Club

8:55 Entry Bell—students move directly to the classrooms; all staff are present in the hallways to provide supervision. \* (Nutrition Program coordinated by parent volunteers estimated to start week 4)

10:55 to 11:35—Snack/Lunch Break and Outdoor Activity (recess) - half in/half out then switch

1:35 to 2:15—Snack/Lunch Break and Outdoor Activity (recess) - half in/half out then switch

3:10-3:20—Dismissal—Walkers & students being picked up report to the gym, Daycare students to Library, bus students wait in classrooms until called to their bus

3:15—Walkers and Pick up students will make their way to the Optimist Club for dismissal and pick up

### Bus Cancellation Reminder

PLEASE subscribe as bus runs may be cancelled if we become short of drivers.

On-line bus cancellations for Bruce & Grey counties are available at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. Anyone can subscribe for email notifications for general notices, school closures and route cancellations & delays. You must first confirm that you have a valid email address. To subscribe go to the above site, click on the "Subscriptions" icon, then click on "Subscribe". Enter your email address and press the "Subscribe" button. You will receive an email confirmation containing a link that you will need to click to complete the subscription process. Once you have confirmed your email address you will be able to login and select what you want to subscribe to and update your information (if necessary).



### Egremont School Community Council (SCC)

**Get involved with Parent Council! Join our quick monthly meetings to discuss fundraising ideas, projects, school and student needs. Projects this year will be different due to COVID-19 but past projects include the grade 1 and 3 swimming program, our fall Meet the Teacher Night, musical showcase, Family Fun Night, and playground rejuvenation.**

**Our meetings will be online for now!**

**For more information feel free to contact the office or our SCC President, Tammy Stevenson 519-334-3392.**

### Snack Program

We will not be offering pizza or milk orders at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, we have a group of dedicated Snack Program volunteers who will be starting some grab and go snacks for students by the end of the month. If you have some time available please to help with this program please call the office and leave us your name and number.

### Teacher Program/Classroom Newsletters

Throughout the year, teachers will send home newsletters, describing classroom program, routines, curriculum and classroom expectations, assessment and evaluation information, information about special projects, activities and events they have planned. We are using email communication through our new Student Information System, ASPEN. This will be safer during COVID as well as saving trees.

## Important Busing and Safe Arrival Information

### Riding Bus Transportation

For information regarding transportation, please see the “Riding the School Bus” pamphlet located on the web-site [www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca](http://www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca) under “Info for Parents”. These procedures are in place to create maximum safety for all students. Kunkel Bus Lines will be providing bus transportation. The company may be reached by calling 1-800-586-5357.

**Please note that buses cannot provide transportation for birthday parties or other get-togethers. In these cases, parents are responsible for providing transportation. Buses provide transportation between school and students’ homes or regular child care providers only. No additional passengers will be given permission to ride a school bus that they do not ride on a daily basis.**

### Picking Up?

If you are picking up your child instead of having them ride the bus, please notify the office **prior to 2:00 p.m.** . It becomes very busy in the office at dismissal time and we always want to avoid possible mix-ups which can be upsetting to both students and parents. This contributes to student safety and avoids unnecessary delays in bus departure. Please send a **note/letter** to inform the school of any changes in regular bus, walking or pick-up routines. **Please remember that students being picked up at the end of the day will be dismissed at the Optimist Club which is just south of the school!**

### Walkers and Bikers

If your child is walking from Holstein, we encourage them to use the pathway. Walking on the road is an unsafe practice. Prior to school and following dismissal, the road is very busy with a variety of traffic. Keeping to the pathway increases student safety. Students who ride their bike to school are expected to wear a helmet and adhere to safe cycling practices.

### Bus Route Change Requests

Requests for bus route changes must come to the school office (not the bus driver), in writing, and can only be approved under very special circumstances (i.e. not for play dates, parties etc.)

**As noted on the previous page, please subscribe to on-line bus cancellations for Bruce & Grey counties are available at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>! This is very important this year ALL YEAR in case we run into bus driver shortages in our area.**

## Attendance and Safe Arrival

We need your help in ensuring safe arrival for your child at school. Communication between home and school is essential, so if your child is absent, please call the school by 8:45 a.m.. Classroom attendance is taken first thing in the morning and again at 1:10 p.m.

Our voice mail phone service will accept your message if you need to call outside office hours. **It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school of every absence or lateness by telephone with a reason provided.**

If we do not receive notification from home, we will be contacting parents to ensure the safety of each child. Students who arrive late to school are required to report to the office before going to class. Our goal is to keep all our children safe and maintain efficient office operation. We appreciate your help and efforts to support your child's learning with regular attendance.

## **I have been asked to pick my child(ren) up at school due to signs of COVID-19 Related symptoms. What do we do now?**

**Please read through the important document attached and available on our website. We must send any child with a COVID-19 Related symptom home. We must send any siblings in our school home at the same time. Siblings at another school may finish the day, go home but then they must also follow the advice in this document!**

### **PLEASE RETURN ASAP — Important !!!!!!!**

You will have received various forms in the first week of school requiring your consent. Please return to the school as soon as possible making sure that all required signatures are completed.

## Library News

Mrs. M. MacLeod will be continuing at Egremont as our Library Clerk! Mrs. MacLeod and her volunteers keep our library in tremendous shape and well-stocked with books and resources. Also, we are very grateful for the many donations of library books that we get. Not only do we appreciate getting the books for our students to use but, the community interest and support is sincerely appreciated!

Our library is closed at the moment to volunteers and students, But Mrs. MacLeod is signing out books to classrooms for individual students to use. We will be following the COVID protocols so that books are not shared between students until cleaned.



## Administration of Medication to Students

Parents/guardians are reminded that written permission for the administration of medication is required. If your child's doctor prescribes medication to be administered during school hours, a form must be completed before any medication may be given and/or stored at the school. Please call the school or drop in to see Mrs. Timmins if you require a form.

## Student Accident Insurance

Attached with this email is information about Student Accident Insurance which covers selected items not covered by the provincial hospital insurance plan. Should you wish to purchase this plan, please send all premiums and registration forms directly to the company in the envelope provided. We do recommend that families give serious consideration to this additional insurance. It is especially encouraged for students involved in school sports to purchase this insurance as the board's liability policy does not cover payment of expenses for medical or dental. The basic insurance can be purchased for as little as \$8.00/year!