

THE BENNINGTON BULLDOG – OCTOBER 2016



"Recognition, Respect, Responsibility and Integrity"

From Ms. Danish

I can't believe that we are heading into the second month of school! We have accomplished so much in such a short period of time. I want to thank parents, staff and students for your patience and understanding as I develop my understanding of Bennington school operations. I feel honoured and privileged to be working in such a supportive school community.

Cross Country

Over 60 Bennington students in grades 1-6 have been training four days a week to prepare for their Cross Country race on October 17th at Earl Bales Park. Cross Country running is a demanding sport that takes discipline, resilience and consistent practice to improve. We are confident that our students will be well-prepared for race day on October 17th. Bennington is proud of our students' commitment to achieving their goals. We will be cheering you on October 17th!



Girls and Boys Slo-Pitch

Bennington Heights' slo-pitch teams are improving every year. Team members are getting better at batting, pitching, fielding and team play. Teammates have been showing good sportsmanship and building team camaraderie through fun drills and games. Students are playing at recesses and really enjoy the game. Thank you to the entire teacher and parent coaching staff. Thanks to Stu Jeffries, Anna Shaw, Graydon Lau, Ms. Johnston and Mr. A for coaching this year.

Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox lives here! For the past ten years Bennington has done its part to raise money for cancer research. We have raised over \$16,000 in total for the cause. Our goal this school year is to raise \$3,000 and if we meet this challenge, we will plan a spirit day in October to dress up as a super hero. Students will be continuing a school wide Terry Fox DPA in honour of the man who ran a marathon every day for 144 days.

Rain and gray skies did not discourage us on our Terry Fox school run. Check out the smiles and soggy shoes. Keep the pledges coming!



Extra-Curricular Band

We are offering an extra-curricular band for interested grade 5 and 6 students. This band will have the opportunity to perform several times throughout the year and will be an extension of the work we are doing in class with a focus on polished performance. Our rehearsals will be on Thursdays during lunch recess and our first rehearsal will be Thursday, Oct. 13. Please contact Ms. Scharfstein for more details.

Grade 4 Students

The grade 4 students are very excited to begin playing their instruments in band and will begin their playing next week. In order to give students a head start in playing, Ms. Scharfstein is offering instrument-specific beginner sessions throughout the week. Each session is from 3:20-4:30 and students will learn the basics of instrument set up, playing their first notes, and care and cleaning. The sessions are:

Monday, Oct. 3 - Clarinets

Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Trumpets

Wednesday, Oct. 5 - Trombones

Thursday, Oct. 6 - Flutes

If your child cannot make their scheduled time, please contact Ms. Scharfstein to make other arrangements.

Donation of Games/Activities for Classroom

When it is raining outside our students have indoor recess and we want them to enjoy this time by having access to fun games and activities. We are in the process of stocking each grade 1-6 classroom with a large bin filled with games and activities. We are asking parents to donate gently used games/activities for their child's classroom. The following are teachers' suggestions for games/activities that students in different grades may enjoy:

Suggested Games/Activities for Grades 1-3	Suggested Games/Activities for Grades 4-6
Connect 4 (multiple sets) Snakes and Ladders Uno Sketch pads or Doodle colouring booklets Deck of cards Lego sets Building blocks Battleship Banana grams Jenga Hungry Hungry Hippos Clue Rubik's Cube Checkers and Chess set Spot It Candyland Mini Hockey game (Foosball idea) Monopoly Junior	Chess set Playing cards Dominoes Banana grams Lego Snap cubes (something else they can build with) Origami booklets with extra paper and instructions Connect Four Countdown (great math game!) Doodle colouring booklets Rubik's Cube Jenga

After 4 Program

Our After 4 Program is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays and will begin next week. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays (Oct. 4 - Nov. 22)	Thursdays (Oct. 6 – Nov. 24)
Super Sports – in the gym	Jedi Lego – in room 1
Top Chef – in the staffroom	Pawsitively Pets – in the library
Creative Coding – in the library	DIY Emojis – in the staffroom
	Kids O Course – in the gym
	Knit + Purl Your Girl – in Resource room

Parent Information Sessions

I have planned a number of parent information sessions on topics that parents have expressed an interest in. Our Social Worker, Janine Lawford will provide information related to Promoting Healthy Minds: What Parents Need to Know About Children's Mental Health. Ms. Lawford, MSW, RSW has worked as a psychotherapist in the area of children's mental health for over 20 years. She has come to the TDSB from the Hincks Dellcrest Centre where she worked as a senior clinician, as well as a supervisor to trainees from various disciplines including psychiatry, psychology and social work. She continues to work as a consultant for organizations such as Hospital for Sick Children and the Office of the Children's Lawyer.

Parents will learn about factors that impact a child's mental health and some strategies to promote the development of healthier minds. Parents often ask themselves: "What does this behavior mean?" "Is this normal, should I be worried?" "What should I know to help raise a resilient, healthy child?" Join us on **October 24th at 6:30 p.m.** for some answers to your questions.

CN Tower Climb for United Way

Bennington will be registering a team for the CN Tower Student Climb on Saturday, October 22nd. Parents, teachers and students are invited to join us that day as we climb to the top together. Climbers under 12 years of age must be a minimum of 42 inches/107 cm tall and must be accompanied in the stairwell by an adult. All money raised (minimum of \$50) goes to the United Way. A training schedule and time of our event will be sent out shortly. *-from Mr. Arabia*

Coffee and Conversations with Kindergarten Parents

All Bennington Kindergarten parents are invited to meet and connect. You can bring your little ones too!

Date: Wednesday, October 5th

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Address: 5 Nesbitt Drive

Contact: jennifer.sylvester.charles@gmail.com or aretalloyd@me.com

Library Volunteers

The Bennington Library is in need of parent volunteers. Volunteers will be asked to come in twice a week for at least an hour to help re-shelve books, assist with book displays and other library related maintenance. Any interested parents please visit Mr. Arabia in the library or contact him at frank.arabia@tdsb.on.ca

Thank You to Pizza Lunch Parent Volunteers

Our first Pizza Lunch of the school year was very well organized and went very smoothly. Thank you to our amazing volunteers Holly Watermeyer, Leah Ramos, Masja Becker, Kathryn Peterson, Colleen Groth, Angela Polizos, Susan Mainprize, Elizabeth Denham, Nicoleta Barbure, Frank Lauraistis, Angela Caldwell, Joanna Lang, Catherine Stedman, Kyla Bowman, June Lau and Faye Caswell.

While the students were happily devouring their pizza lunch, our staff sat down to a delicious gourmet lunch of pasta & salad delivered by Bennington parent, Graydon Lau. Thank you Graydon, we really appreciate this kind gesture.

Door-to-Door Pick Up of Donated Food for Sarah and Claire's Food Drive

Bennington parent, Faye Caswell, has generously agreed to pick up donated food from your neighbourhood if you leave it on your doorstep on Saturday marked "Sarah's Food Drive." Please email her in advance to let her know that you are leaving donated food on your doorstep.

Her email contact for the drive is fayecaswell@rogers.com

School Council

Our first School Council meeting for this school year is - **Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30 pm** in the library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the committee.

Home & School News

Movie Night – Friday, October 28. Come to the school gym at 6:15 to see a Free Movie! (Popcorn, chips and candy will be for sale.) Kids wear their PJs and are supervised by parents/guardians. More details to come.

Holiday Bazaar - Start saving all of those gently used items that you would normally give to Goodwill! We will be collecting donations starting in early November. We are looking for items that are clean and in good working order such as toys, books, small household items, things for Dads, Moms, children, tweens, teenagers and grandparents! Our Holiday Bazaar will be held on a day in December. The school gym will then be transformed into a shopping mall with all of your donations sorted and ready for sale! It's a chance for your children to "shop" and purchase holiday gifts for their family. All purchased items will go home wrapped, labeled and ready to open, to save or to put under your tree. So start saving! More details to come.



October at Bennington Heights E.S.

October 3-6	Grade 6 trip to Sheldon
October 3	Cross Country practice, 8:00-8:30 am Boys slo-pitch practice, 3:30-5:00 pm
October 4	Cross Country practice, 8:00-8:30 am Girls slo-pitch practice, 3:30-5:00 pm
October 5	School Council Meeting 6:30 pm in the library
October 6	Girls slo-pitch practice, 3:30-5:00 pm Boys slo-pitch practice, 3:30-5:00 pm
October 7	P.A. Day – no school
October 10	Thanksgiving Day – no school
October 13	School Photo Day Home & School meeting, 9:00-10:00 am
October 17	Cross Country Regional Qualifier at Earl Bales (grades 1-6)
October 21	Cross Country Conference Finals at Earl Bales (grades 3-6)
October 22	CN Tower Student Climb in the am
October 24	Workshop for parents - <i>Promoting Healthy Minds: What Parents Need to Know About Children's Mental Health</i> , 6:30 pm in the library
October 26	Pizza Lunch
October 27	Dental Screening Cross Country City Finals @ Centennial Park (grades 4-8)
October 28	Dental Screening Movie Night 6:30-9:00 pm, Doors open @ 6:15
October 31	Halloween Walk/Haunted House 1:00