

Brentwood Elementary School Supplementary Newsletter September 21, 2009

View our Brentwood WEBSITE www.brentwood-school.ca
Information, news and photos are updated frequently so visit our site often.

Dear Parents,

What a great start we have had to the year! Welcome to the students and their families who are new to our school and community. Students and staff are very focused on making our newcomers feel welcome and safe in their new school. Please let us know if your child is having any difficulties. We have many resources to support students socially and academically. We will be continuing to focus on maintaining a safe and caring learning environment as one of our primary school goals.

The Brentwood's Welcome Back Barbeque and Meet the Teacher event was a tremendous success. Thank you to our organizer Tami LeMoine and her team of volunteers. This keen group served nearly 600 hot dogs. The groceries for the barbeque were paid for by our Parent Council.

I would like to acknowledge the effort our parents are making to drive safely when dropping off and picking up students. Please do not park in our staff parking lot even for a brief time. Staff come and go at various times and must have a place to park.

Regular school activities have started and are running smoothly. Our Heart Healthy Hikers are at it again and this year the first leg of our journey will be walking to Vancouver. After that, all of our activities will link to the 2009 Winter Olympics. More information will follow about this incredibly successful program at our school.

Please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher, Mr. Jones or myself if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. We would love to hear from our new parents about things that worked well in your former schools. They might be ideas that Brentwood could borrow and we are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve!

Sincerely,
Laurie Huntley
Principal

PARENT COUNCIL

A big round of applause for the moms and dads who helped make our Back to School BBQ such a huge success this year. We have set a new record for hot dogs served. The people who worked know who they are and we are sure to miss some names so please consider yourself thanked and very, very appreciated.

Our inventory of Choir clothes needs some attention. If you can spend a few hours sorting, mending and organizing these can you please contact Mrs. Lisa Thiessen at 934-4874.

Another area we need help in is in organizing our skates and helmets. We have on hand a number of pairs of skates and helmets that need to be assessed and organized. (Donations of CSA approved helmets would be greatly appreciated.) Please contact Tammy Shpyth – 934-3890 or Tammy Chisan – 901-6874 if you can help.

Our parent council is responsible for many events and activities that take place at Brentwood over the school year but they are in desperate need of volunteers for some events. Please call the school if you are able to help out the Parent Council or the Friends of Brentwood in any way.

FRIENDS OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOL SOCIETY

This group of dedicated (and fun) parents was specially formed to raise money to put toward the purchase of a new playground and other items for the school. Hopefully their efforts will be rewarded by the construction of a new playground sometime this year. The next meeting of the society will be Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm at the Brentwood School library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A great big thank you to the volunteers who worked the Heritage Days Cabaret this past summer. With their support we raised \$500.00 towards the playground fund. Thanks to Tina and Trevor Dahl,

Marcy and Curtis Gillespie, Tracy Walstra, Angela Berger, Jana Robertson, Heather Kelly and Tami LeMoine.

If you are interested in helping out or joining the Parent Council or the Friends of Brentwood School Society please join us at the next meeting or contact Tami LeMoine at lemoine8@telus.net or 403-934-4720. It is a great way to get to know a lot of wonderful people.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Our staff has made a decision once again this year to run our annual fundraiser in February. We believe that the fall is a particularly expensive time for parents. You are faced with back to school expenses and fees for after school activities. Many other schools and organizations are doing their fundraising at this time as well. We hope we can count on your participation to make it a success. The funds raised support many of the fun activities we do at school for the students.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Once again we are trying to raise awareness about the importance of good nutrition. In particular we will be promoting healthy snacks and good breakfasts. We will continue to have a “no soft drink policy” in the school. The use of candies or similar treats as rewards has also been discussed by the staff. While we will be looking for options that will appeal to our students we will not be abandoning this practice entirely. Research indicates that it is important for students to learn how to make healthy choices which can include occasional treats when consumed in moderation and not in place of balanced meals and snacks. We send our students outside to play at noon before they come in to eat their lunch. This means that our students have a very long morning and they need a good breakfast and a mid-morning snack in order to have the energy to focus and do their work. Please help us by making sure they have a healthy breakfast before school and a small nutritious snack to eat in addition to their lunch each day.

BUCKY’S TRAVELS

Bucky the Badger, our traveling mascot, is in his fourth year of travels and some of his photos can be viewed on our website. This special stuffed animal has a backpack and is collecting souvenirs as he goes. Please send a note to make a reservation to take

Bucky on your travels. We would love digital photos of his adventures for our website. This popular mascot is already booked for several weekends already so book early!

STAFF PARKING LOT

The west parking lot is for staff only. We ask that parents do not park or drop their children off in this area.

SUPERVISION COMMENCES at 8:30 a.m. therefore, students **SHOULD NOT ARRIVE** prior to 8:30 a.m. After school supervision is until 3:30. Any students remaining outside are then brought into the school and the family is contacted. Students are expected to go straight home or to their day care. They may return to play on the playground only after they have checked in with their caregivers.

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Thanks to our Parent Council for their donation of \$500.00 to our school which will be put toward the Accelerated Reader Program. Mrs. Peters, our librarian, is excited about the new look for the library this year. A big thank you to some special volunteers from the HOPE church for their help in putting our library back together after our renovations.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your responses to our request for parent volunteers. Please remember to contact a coordinator if you need to cancel an activity you were booked for. Last year there were many times that there were not enough volunteers for the hot lunch program. Many of the programs are underway. The program coordinators are a tremendous help: *Phone Home Program*– Lisa Thiessen, *Hot Lunch* – Grace Barrie, *Duty Free Lunch*- Tammie Shpyth, *Lice Busters* – Christine Brassard. The lice busters team has already started to do head checks for the entire school population as a pro-active measure. These great programs cannot continue without your help!

If you returned the volunteer response but have not been called yet please be assured that your name is being kept on a list/s and we will call as the need arises. Watch for newsletters and classroom notices, as there will be other opportunities throughout the year to volunteer in areas such as field trips, concerts, the music program and days for special events. Our volunteers enhance so many of our programs. Thank

you in advance for your assistance and commitment to Brentwood School.

LEARNING RESOURCE FEE INVOICE

Invoices for the mandatory school fees and busing were sent home on Sept. 21 and we ask that these be paid by October 21. For students in grade 1-6, daytimers were provided at the beginning of the year. This is a mandatory school level fee of \$7.00 and the Resource Fee for gr. 1-6 is \$95.00. Kindergarten fees have previously been submitted. If you require an extension, or an alternate payment plan, please contact Mrs. Muenchrath at the school office. You may submit one cheque with all invoices for your children who attend Brentwood Elementary. If you wish to pay by M/C or VISA you must go to the GHSD Central Office.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation cost for busing this year have gone up and will be \$200.00 per child (kindergarten \$100). If you were billed for busing and want to cancel OR if you did not apply for busing and want to utilize the service, contact Mrs. Muenchrath at school. Students who ride the school bus should arrive at their bus stop **TEN MINUTES** prior to the estimated pick up time as the number of students varies each day. There is no family rate this year.

Resource Fee - FAMILY DISCOUNT REBATE

The family discount rebate is offered to families with three (3) or more students K – gr. 12 registered in Golden Hills School Division. After we send you your receipt of payment, rebate forms for the family discount (to be submitted to Golden Hills) can be picked up at the school office. Proof of payment is required – **please do not misplace your receipts.**

CALL DISPLAY

It is the choice of some families to have call display. Occasionally parents see the school's number on their display and call the school office. **To track the person from the call display could mean interruption of several classrooms.** Our students have a minimum of three teachers (homeroom, computer, music). Other staff members could be calling for various reasons regarding Resource Room, LAC, Early Literacy, as well as Extracurricular Activities. You can be assured that if your child is ill or there is any urgent matter, we will continue to call all numbers available until someone is reached.

Please do not call the school back if you see our number displayed.

Also please tell your children about after school arrangements before leaving for school in the morning to avoid confusion for them at the end of the day.

FAMILY SCHOOL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Have you or your child ever needed to talk to someone about those difficult and frustrating times that every family experiences at one time or another? These times may include divorce/separation, bereavement, anger management, and self esteem issues. Our Family School Resource Worker offers FREE supportive counselling to students and their families. For more information on this program, please contact Mrs. Huntley or our Educational Consultant Mrs. Humphry.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

From time to time parent concerns may arise in regard to programming for their child. When there are concerns, parents are encouraged to contact their schools and participate in some collaborative problem-solving process. On occasion it may be helpful to bring in a consultant to assist in the problem-solving process. On rare occasions concerns are raised to the superintendent and even more infrequently to the Board. If parents are not satisfied with the decision made by the Board parents may request that the Minister of Education review their decision. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or principal of the school immediately if concerns arise that they would like to discuss.

REGISTRATION UPDATE

A form indicating the registration information for your family was sent home in Sept. Please make certain this was returned if you have any change^s. While trying to contact parents for various reasons we have encountered registration information that has not been updated with changes.

It is absolutely essential that we have updated information (including correct phone numbers, emergency contacts, babysitter, and medical alert information). We are not well-equipped to look after sick children at school. Family or emergency contacts are necessary so that students can be picked up and cared for elsewhere when they are ill.

DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thank you to the Strathmore Value Drug Mart for once again donating school supplies to Brentwood through the KITZ 4 KIDZ program.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Photos will be taken on Sept. 23th. Photo proofs will arrive about two weeks after photo day.

Students who were absent or requested a retake will have their photo taken from 9 – 10:30 on Nov. 3. If your child is in the K Tues/Thurs. class and was not brought to school on Sept. 23 for a photo, tell Mrs. Last or Mrs. Funk and the photo will be done on Nov. 3. *We cannot guarantee that retake photos will be back prior to Christmas Break.*

Our Safety Patrol Squad will have a group photo on Nov. 3.

HOT LUNCH UPDATE

The first hot lunch order was sent home Sept. 14. We have promised the organizers that we will NOT ACCEPT LATE ORDERS! There will be NO exceptions.

A big thank you to Grace Barrie the hot lunch coordinator and all the parents who sent in their volunteer responses. Many helping hands are needed for this huge undertaking! The Sept. – Dec. lunches are on THURSDAYS. It is important that you detach these exact dates from the order form and **put them on your home calendar so that there is no confusion over lunch arrangements.** We receive many calls from parents who have lost this information.

SAFETY PATROL TRAINING

Interested Gr. 5 and 6 students were trained by the AMA on Sept. 9 and the new squad is up and running for the safety of everyone.

LIBRARY CLUB AND BOOK CLUB

-- Students in grades 2, 3 and 4 who love books are invited to join the **Library Club**. We will have literature-based activities including stories, book talks, author studies, videos and crafts.

-- Students who attend the **Book Club** for gr. 5 & 6 will be asked to be a very committed group as they will be expected to read a certain amount each week and attend every week. We also would like to be able to discuss a newer book and would like the students to purchase one that we have agreed to read. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Peters will lead this group.

MUSIC INFORMATION

Recorder Purchase

Every student in grade 2-5 will be using recorders for the duration of the school year. Grade one students will be starting to learn how to play the recorder after Christmas. The school has provided your child with a recorder but some students may wish to purchase their own. If you would like to purchase a recorder, please bring \$4.00 to Mrs. Steeves by Sept 25. Please bring exact change or a cheque payable to Brentwood Elementary School.

This year we will be ordering three-piece colored plastic recorders with sparkles. Each recorder comes with a matching cloth bag. Colors available are: black, turquoise, purple, blue, green and pink. Please indicate the **COLOR** you would like when ordering. The recorders should arrive by late October. Kindergarten students may purchase a recorder if they wish, however, they will not learn to use them until the latter part of grade one.

CHOIRS

Primary Choir (all grade one students)

This year, once again, there will be Primary Choir in the school. This choir will be for all grade one students in Brentwood School. It will rehearse Wednesday, at 11:45 am. The purpose of this group will be to provide every grade one child with a positive and enjoyable singing experience.

Primary Choir (Gr. one) Dress Requirement for Performances

The members of the Primary Choir should be wearing a white top, a dark skirt (girls) or pants (boys), and dark shoes. Girls should have on white tights. The school will provide a red tie for performances.

Junior Choir (Gr. 2-3) and Senior Choir (Gr. 4-6)

The Junior Choir will be comprised of students from grades 2 and 3 and the Senior Choir students from grade 4, 5, and 6 who would like to join and are committed to making music together. Children will not be selected on the basis of their singing voice, but rather will choose choir as an activity based on their love of music and commitment to the group as a whole.

- Jr. Choir **Rehearsals** are Tuesdays during the noon recess beginning Oct. 6.
- Sr. Choir **Rehearsals** are Wednesdays during the noon recess beginning Oct. 7.

JUNIOR CHOIR - Dress Requirement for Performances

Members of the Brentwood School Junior Choir should be wearing a dark blue skirt (girls) or pants (boys), dark shoes, a white top and blue scarf (which the school will provide). The boys will be given a tie. Girls should have on white nylons or tights - not kneesocks. Choice of jewelry, hair ornaments, etc., will be left to your discretion.

SENIOR CHOIR - Dress Requirement for Performances

Members of the Brentwood School Senior Choir should be wearing a BLACK skirt (girls) or BLACK pants (boys) dark shoes, a white top (boys and girls). Girls should have on BLACK nylons or tights - not kneesocks. Choice of jewelry, hair ornaments, will be left to your discretion.

The school will provide an accessory – ties for the boys and scarves for the girls.

ACCOMPANISTS

All three choirs are directed by Mrs. Carolyn Steeves. We are fortunate to have three wonderful volunteer accompanists for our three choirs. Rachel Neil will accompany the Grade One Choir, Felity Kwok will accompany the Junior Choir, and Kathie Zakresky will accompany the Senior Choir. Brentwood is very grateful to these three ladies who will be volunteering their time.

The Choirs will perform many times throughout the year and may participate in either the Calgary Music Festival, the Drumheller and District Music Festival or Choralfest. Other musical and fun events will be announced throughout the year.

Skirt Rental -- Junior & Senior Choir

Over the years a number of blue (junior choir) and a few black (senior choir) skirts have been accumulated at the school. As policy, a \$5.00 rental fee is required when borrowing one of these skirts for your child's use for the year. When it is returned at the end of the school year in good condition, there will be a \$2.50 refund. We will be continuing with this policy again this year.

If you still have a skirt from last year that you won't require this year please return it to Mrs. Steeves ASAP for your \$2.50 refund. *Donations of blue or black skirts are always welcome.*

MUSIC QUESTIONS (Kindergarten – Gr. 6)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Steeves at school (934-5013) or at home (934-2293).

Remembrance Day Ceremony at Brentwood: Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 9:30 AM

EVERYONE is welcome! The ceremony will include the debut of the choirs which includes all students in gr. one plus those students in gr. 2-6 who have joined Junior/Senior Choir. The grade six students will be playing guitar.

Please return the permission slip if your child would like to participate.

NOONHOUR ACTIVITIES from 12:25 12:50 and begin the end of Sept.

(these activities are supervised by a teacher or the librarian)

	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday
Jr Choir Music	Gr. 2 - 3		
Sr Choir Music		Gr. 4 - 6	
Book Club	Gr. 5 - 6		
Library Club			Gr. 2, 3, 4

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. DRAMA CLUB – will be formed when school musicals are held
2. The extracurricular schedule is subject to change and will depend on student enrollment – you will be notified of any changes.
3. PRIMARY CHOIR classes take place on Wednesdays during regular school hours.

Information on other activities will be provided in future newsletters.

TEACHERS IN CHARGE

Music	Mrs. Steeves	Library Club (2-4)	Mrs. Peters
Drama	Mrs. Humphry/Mrs. Motley/ Mrs. Steeves	Book Club (5-6)	Mrs. Peters/Mrs. Miller
		Safety Patrol	Mrs. Fule/Mrs. Motley

Keeping Students Safe

In keeping with our policy of no dogs being allowed on the playground (leashed or unleashed), between the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM, we would like to remind parents that this includes the area where buses pick up and drop off students. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

(NOTE * IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN COMING HOME FOR LUNCH AND WILL NOW BE PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE NOONHOUR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO THE HOMEROOM TEACHER INDICATING WHICH DAYS YOUR CHILD WILL HAVE LUNCH AT SCHOOL).**

Literacy Tip for the Month of September

Remember, the best way for children to learn to love reading and books is to have reading experiences each day. Let your children help choose the books you read together. This will help keep your child's interest. Early Literacy Team

Attention Parents! www.mandmmeatshops.com



Oct 15/2008 - School Day Program at M&M Meat Shops.

Shop on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and request that 5% of your total purchase be donated to Brentwood Elementary School. Each month, the proceeds will go into the Brentwood School playground fund.

Back to School with Good Food

Healthy eating helps children to grow, look good, feel good and gives them a lot of energy. If they feel cranky and irritable, it could be because they are hungry.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and should never be skipped or skimped. It supplies the nourishment and energy for an active morning in school. Children who eat a filling and healthy breakfast are more productive and alert, and concentrate better in school.

Children can eat just about any food for breakfast. **A healthy breakfast** should include at least 3 food groups from Canada's Food Guide: milk and alternatives or meat and alternatives, grain products, and vegetables or fruit.

Breakfast can be more than cereal, milk and juice. Examples of a healthy breakfast: yogurt and fruit smoothies, whole wheat bagels or homemade muffins and cheese slices, whole wheat toast and peanut butter, whole wheat bread or bun with ham or eggs. Add any vegetables or fruit you like. A glass of milk is the best choice for a breakfast beverage.

Kids can't keep adult hours for mealtimes. They have to eat **snacks** more frequently to have enough energy between meals and to be able to concentrate in school. Snacks should be enjoyable and nourishing. Try to include two or more food groups in a snack to make it high in nutrients. Try these great ideas: fresh fruit and crackers; fruit yogurt topped with cereal; celery or carrot sticks with cheese spread, dried fruit, unsalted seeds and nuts, or home made cookies. A glass of water should accompany your snack to hydrate your body.

A nutritious **lunch** provides energy for schoolwork during the afternoon. It helps children remain attentive and alert through the second half of the day. It should be healthy, easy, and fast to prepare. Children should prepare lunch together with their parents (night before), and it should include foods from at least three food groups.

Examples of easy-to-prepare and easy-to-store lunches: Sandwiches made of two slices of whole wheat, rye or multigrain bread with slices of roasted chicken, ham, meatloaf, a sliced hard boiled egg, cheese, cottage cheese, with vegetables (red or green pepper, tomato, lettuce). You can add small amounts of mayonaise, or Italian or other type of salad dressing. Another lunch idea is vegetable or pasta salad with chunks of ham, cheese, roast beef, chicken, turkey or tuna, packed in a sealed container. Another tasty suggestion is a tortilla wrap or pita bread with sliced chicken or turkey and lettuce and tomatoes. A bagel with cream cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce could be prepared for another day. Milk, unsweetened fruit juice, or home-made lemonade are healthy fluids alongside lunch.

Greta Kubis, M.Sc., RD

FAIR NOTICE LETTER GHSD #75

Dear Parents:

The Golden Hills School Division #75 is anxious to continue to ensure a safe and caring environment in each of its schools. This letter is intended to serve as a fair notice that we, as a school community, will not accept 'no response' to incidents that intend to do harm against someone or something.

The Student Services Team has developed a protocol to deal with immediate risk, high-risk and worrisome incidents. These are incidents that may involve weapons, threats to harm (spoken, written or symbolic) or assaults. When a potentially high-risk incident occurs, the Principal contacts the School Consultant who assesses the level of concern and determines what level of intervention is warranted. The assessment may include a data collection process through structured interviews with staff, students and parents; consultation with other community partners (Mental Health, RCMP, Family School Resource Worker, etc); possible use of a behavior checklist, such as the BASC; and an intervention plan. Findings are reviewed with the student and parents by the Consultant or Assessment Team.

The Division wants to respond in an appropriate and timely manner that ensures the safety of students and staff, while at the same time respects the rights of those involved in the incident. (Should you wish to review Administrative Procedure #350A, 'Action Guidelines for Response to Use of Abusive Behavior by a Student', please check out our website and www.ghsd75.com).

Please review this Administrative Procedure with your child early in the school year and discuss any concerns with your school administration.

Golden Hills School Division Board of Trustees

Permission to join extracurricular activities -- The clubs will begin in October.
Please fill in the appropriate areas and return this section **by Sept 25.**

Gr. 2, 3, & 4 Library Club Permission

My child _____ in grade ____ A B

My child _____ in grade ____ A B

Gr. 5 & 6 Book Club Permission

My child _____ in grade ____ A B

My child _____ in grade ____ A B

Choir Permission Form

My child has permission to join the Junior Choir or the Senior Choir.

		<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
____ Junior Choir	(grade 2- 3)	_____	_____ A B
____ Senior Choir	(grade 4 - 6)	_____	_____ A B

CHILD CARE- often parents who are new to our school are looking for child care for their children. While we cannot give references, we would be happy to give your name and phone number if you are offering such a service.

____ **Yes, I offer before and/or after school care and would like my name on the list at the school office.**

Name _____ Phone _____

____ **Yes, I have a Day Home**

Name _____ Phone _____