

# École Braemar School News



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September 2011

A Message from the Principal

## Welcome Back! Bonne Rentrée!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Heather McTaggart and I come to you most recently from Sherwood Park Elementary School. It is with great pleasure that I join the Braemar school community this year. I have heard many positive comments relating to the pride and dedication of families and staff to make Braemar an engaging and respectful place for learning.

As I settle into my new surroundings, I am pleased to note a school goal of creating learning environments which are inclusive and allow students to feel safe. Without a firm sense of belonging, students, like adults, are hesitant to take personal risks and become involved in activities that develop their social, emotional and physical well-being. Developing positive self-esteem and establishing positive relationships with others through structured and less structured play or activity, sets the stage for thinking and learning to take place with greater ease and success.

Teaching students to think, to learn and to achieve ongoing personal success is one philosophical tenant that needs to anchor all educational debate and innovation. Since individuals learn in different ways and at different rates, we must be responsive to a wide range of learning needs and strive to help all individuals reach their highest potential in numerous aspects of their lives. Cross-curricular learning plays a vital role in this regard. Helping students make connections between disciplines helps them derive meaning from instruction. The more we, as educators and as parents, can do to facilitate understanding between local and global issues for example, the more aware, empathetic and socially responsible students are likely to become.

The return to school is an exciting time for many students and their families. The anticipation of learning opportunities and new challenges is everywhere. For those individuals joining Braemar Elementary for the first time, September invites additional discovery and promise. As Braemar's new school principal, I share that same sense of adventure. I look forward to making new acquaintances and to working with families and staff to further enhance this school community.

Let the school year begin!

H. McTaggart  
Principal

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## Sept. Calendar

Sept. 12	Kilometer Club Starts
Sept. 12	Kindergarten Gradual Entry #1&2
Sept. 12	Kindergarten Parent Meeting 2:00
Sept. 13	Kindergarten Gradual Entry # 1&2
Sept. 14	Kindergarten Full Day #1&2
Sept. 15	Life Touch Photos-Class & Ind
Sept. 16	Pancake Breakfast @8:30 am
Sept. 16	Terry Fox Run @ 2:00 pm
Sept. 19-23	Outdoor School Gr. 6s
Sept. 20	BPAC Class Rep. Mtg. 7:00 pm
Sept. 22	BPAC Mtg
Sept. 24-25	Bighouse Parent Training
Sept. 26	Pro-D Day - School Based-School Closed
Sept. 27-29	Scholastic Book Fair
Sept. 27	Wok Box 1
<del>Sept. 28</del>	<del>Curriculum Night</del> (cancelled)

## Band and Strings Information

Mr. Toren has information posted on the website regarding Beginning and Continuing Band Schedules plus all events for Sept. If you need more information please contact him @ [SToren@nvsd44.bc.ca](mailto:SToren@nvsd44.bc.ca) Start up is as follows for the week of Sept 12<sup>th</sup>:

**Beginners:** Wed. 8:40 am  
Fri. 11:25 am  
(no instruments required)

**Continuing:** Wed. 8:00 am  
Fri. 10:45 am  
(method book and materials required)

Strings information will be issued shortly.

## Kilometer Club 2011

KM Club is "off and running" as of Monday, Sept. 12 from 8:10 - 8:40 am. and finishing Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Let's have a big turnout this year.

## Terry Fox Run - Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

Just a reminder to bring loonies or toonies to donate to the run. Donations will be collected during the week of Sept. 12 - 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The fair will be this Sept. 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be coming home soon asking for volunteers.

## Braemar Call Back

Please remember to call the Braemar Call Back number @ 604-903-3275 if your child will be late or absent. It is important that we have this information. Thank you for your co-operation.

**The daily schedule** for students at Braemar is listed below.

Entrance Bell	8:45-8:50
First Instructional Period	8:50-10:20
Recess	10:25-10:45
Second Instructional Period	10:45-12:05
Lunch	12:05-12:55 (eat first, play after)
Entrance Bell (end of lunch)	12:55-1:00
Third Instructional Period	1:00-3:00

In reviewing the hours it is important to note that students are supervised from the 8:50 am to 3:00 pm including recess and lunch. **No supervision is provided before or after school.** Unless students have a specific task or responsibility to perform with their teacher, we request that they not enter the school until the entry bell sounds at 8:45 am.

Should parents wish to have their child go home for lunch we ask that they notify the school in writing of the arrangement and drop off their note in the main office. If the plan is to be in place for an extended period of time, including the entire school year, please indicate that in your note. Finally, students may not invite friends home for lunch unless written permission has been received in advance from both the host and guest families.

All of us require a little fresh air and the opportunity of stretching our legs during the day. This is especially true of children. Therefore, we expect all students to go outdoors during scheduled breaks. Only the most inclement conditions would make for an exception. As such, we ask parents to make sure that their sons and daughters are appropriately dressed for the day's weather when they come to school. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated!

## POLICY FOR CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT BRAEMAR ELEMNTARY SCHOOL

It is now common for students to carry cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices to school. We recognize that for some families a phone is important for communication between students and parents/caregivers before and after school. However, we are finding that cell phones can be a source of disruption in the classroom, a safety concern on the playground and a cause for social difficulties, especially amongst older children. While students can carry cell phones to school, we ask that parents support our efforts for appropriate use by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Do not allow your child to carry a cell phone to school unless it is necessary for before and after school student/parent communication.
- Cell phones at school must be turned off and kept in zipped backpacks. Students may not use cell phones in classrooms, hallways or on the playground during the school day. Cell phones can only be used outside of our building outside of school hours.
- The school office phone is available during the day if it is necessary for parents to call in or students to call out.
- Cell phones are often equipped with cameras. **Students may not take pictures at school.** In order to satisfy legal requirements around the protection of privacy, photography at school is allowed only for school purposes and with the permission of a staff member. Permitted photos can only be used with parental consent.
- The school takes no responsibility for loss or damage to cell phones, iPods and any other electronic device. Parents send cell phones to school at their own risk.
- In order to encourage positive social interaction, iPods and other music players should not be used on the playground during recess and lunch.
- Since personal music devices can generate significant sound levels in headphones, we recommend that you advise your child of the hearing damage that may occur when high volumes are used.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to these points.

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## School Planning Council Needs your Input!

The School Planning Council (SPC) is a vehicle to enable meaningful parent participation in school decisions that affect student achievement. The SPC prepares and submits a school plan outlining goals for the upcoming year, consults on matters referred to it by the Board, consults on matters referred to it by the principal, PAC and staff, and consults with PAC, teachers, students and other school community members.

Ideally, the council is made up of the Principal, one teacher representative and three parent representatives. In the past we have met three to four times a year but this can vary depending on the issues to be considered. Next month, at the October PAC meeting, we will be looking for parent volunteers. An election by way of secret ballot will be held if necessary.

The following is a list of the current goals that have been set through the development of our school plan in 2011-12.

- Goal #1 to improve students' proficiency in literacy
- Goal #2 to improve students' proficiency in mathematics
- Goal #3 to improve students' social responsibility

Serving on the SPC is a great way to broaden understanding of current educational issues. Please consider this opportunity and call Heather McTaggart at 903-604-3270, if you would like further information.

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### **BRAEMAR Organization 2011-2012**

<b>Div</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>English Teacher(s)</b>
E01.....	7.....	Mrs. Pam Waters (Mon – Thurs) Mrs. Heather Frechette (Fri)
E02.....	6.....	Mrs. Suzanne Brumec (M-Th) Ms. Meghan Burns (Fri)
E03.....	5/6.....	Mrs. Helen Peristeris (Tu-Fr) Mrs. Heather Frechette (Mon)
E04.....	4/5.....	Mrs. Liza Bishop
E05.....	4.....	Mrs. Robin Hennessy
E06.....	3.....	Ms. Kelly Munro
E07.....	2/3.....	Mrs. Caroline Sykes (Mon, Wed, Th, Fr) Mrs. Kelly Hinze (Tu)
E08.....	1/2.....	Mrs. Susan Kiss
E09.....	1.....	Ms. Nicola Demeule
E10.....	K.....	Mrs. Anna MacNaught

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<b>Div</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>French Teachers</b>
F01.....	6/7 .....	Mme Michelle Didier
F02.....	5/6 .....	Mme Michelle Hoodless
		Ms. Melissa Kwok
F03.....	4/5 .....	Mme Vicki Vinaric
F04.....	3.....	Mme Nicolette MacFarlane
F05.....	2.....	Mme Bev Amundsen
F06.....	1/2 .....	Mme Barbara Kirchner
F07.....	1.....	Mme Kate Lechleiter (Tu-Fr)
		Mme Barb Scobie (Mon)
F08.....	K.....	Mme Mireille Appelbe (M-W)
		Mme Nelly Callow (Th-F)
F01L .....	7.....	Mme Stephanie Weller
F02L .....	6.....	Mme Ellen Knight (Mon-Th)
		Mme Joan Reader (Fri)

Principal .....	Mme Heather McTaggart
Vice Principal.....	Mr. Rob Harden
ESL .....	Mrs. Martha Molls
Library.....	Mrs. Leanne Ross
LAC (Eng).....	Mr. Rob Harden
LAC (Fr) .....	Mme Barb Scobie (Tu, Wed, Th am)
Music.....	Mrs. Jeannie Denault
Band .....	Mr. Stephen Toren
Strings .....	Ms. Janet Murray
Counselor .....	Ms. Enzula Tavormina
Learning Support Teacher.....	Mrs. Martha Molls (Tu, Wed, Th am)

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We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new principal Mme. Heather McTaggart and our new teachers Ms. Melissa Kwok, Mme Didier and Mme Callow. We look forward to having a wonderful year with them.



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## BEAR AWARE



Please be aware that, from time to time, bears pass through in the woods around the school. Please go over safety procedures with your children. For more information, contact the North Shore Black Bear network at 604-990-2327 or go to the following website: [www.dnv.org/bears](http://www.dnv.org/bears)



### **BPAC News**

All parents who would be interested in becoming Class Rep for the 2011-2012 school year are invited to attend an information meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 7- 8 pm in the Activity room. If you require babysitting please contact Elly Safari @ [alismalous@aol.com](mailto:alismalous@aol.com) or call her at 604-716-2843

## **WELCOME BACK PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> @ **8 to 8:45 am.** – North School-yard  
A SUGGESTED DONATION OF **\$2 PER PLATE** GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED  
PLEASE **BRING YOUR OWN RE-USABLE** PLATE(s), CUTLERY, AND CUP(s)  
PANCAKES, FRESH FRUIT, JUICE AND COFFEE SPONSORED BY

YOUR BRAEMAR P.A.C.

See you there, Deidre Smith  
[deidre.smith-baker@telus.net](mailto:deidre.smith-baker@telus.net)

"604-603-3047\_\_



**Join us**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 17th**  
 Noon – 4pm

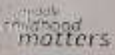
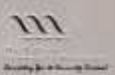
If you're not sure what after school activities to register your child in this year, this is the event for you! Over 20 North Shore vendors will be onsite for you to speak to.

**Performances & Demonstrations**  
**12:30pm - 3:30pm**

- Vanleena Dance Academy
- Black Belt Academy
- Pro Arte Centre
- Air Cadets Canada
- Champions Martial Arts
- RNB Dance
- Ava Music

Face Painters & Balloon Twisters will be on site to keep the kids entertained!

Brought to you by:



## SEPTEMBER 2011 – Public Health Update

**Medical conditions:** If your child has a serious allergy or medical condition such as diabetes, epilepsy, severe asthma, blood-clotting disorders, or serious heart conditions it is important to complete the necessary forms at the school.



If your child has a life threatening allergy, inform the school, and have your doctor fill out the **Anaphylactic Student Emergency Procedure Plan** form (available at each school office).

Persons diagnosed with a life threatening allergy are advised to carry an epinephrine auto-injector at all times and wear medical identification, such as a MedicAlert® bracelet ([www.medicalert.ca](http://www.medicalert.ca))

### Websites:

[www.epipen.ca](http://www.epipen.ca) Epipen has a free reminder service to help parents keep track of the expiry date  
[www.anaphylaxis.org](http://www.anaphylaxis.org) Anaphylaxis Canada  
[www.allergysafecommunities.ca](http://www.allergysafecommunities.ca) Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

### Immunization:

The following vaccines will be offered to grade 6 students this year:

- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal C
- Chicken Pox
- HPV (girls only)



Personalized consent forms will be coming home with your child. Please review their immunization records and provide consent if you would like them to be immunized at school. If you do not want your child immunized at school please fill out and return the consent form indicating your preferences.

### Kindergarten booster:

It is recommended that children between the ages of 4-6 receive a booster vaccine against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, and Polio. Please call 604-983-6700, or call your family doctor for an appointment. If you are new to Canada or BC it might be helpful to visit [www.immunizebc.ca](http://www.immunizebc.ca) to ensure that your child is fully protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases.

### STAYING HEALTHY WHILE AT SCHOOL

#### Teach your child:

- That hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs
- To use soap and water for 20- 30 seconds
- To cover their **nose and mouth** with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash after they use it; *Or* sneeze or cough into a sleeve or an arm
- To avoid **touching their eyes, nose and mouth** as germs spread that way
- To avoid close contact with people who are sick

#### Keep your Child home if they are sick:

- The illness can spread to other children, their families and school staff
- Recovery can be delayed without adequate rest
- The school is unable to care for a child when he/she is sick

### RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

For non-emergency health information call **811** to speak with a:

- Nurse
- Dietician
- Pharmacist



[www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles](http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles)

North Shore listing of resources and programs for children and families: [www.ConnectforKids.ca](http://www.ConnectforKids.ca)

For more information please contact your Public Health Nurse Suzanne Holynaty at 604-375-6030