

# BERTIE SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

BERTIE NEWS

HOME OF THE ROADRUNNERS

SEPT. 2011

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome back to a new school year! A very special greeting is extended to those families which are new to our community/school system. I am sure that the summer months have gone by as quickly for you as they have for me but I hope that everyone has enjoyed a restful, fun, and healthy vacation. **I am looking forward to my 6<sup>th</sup> year as principal of Bertie and all of our teachers are anticipating another great school year.** As a staff, we will endeavour to provide a quality educational program for all of our students and we ask for your ongoing help and support throughout the school year.

Children's learning and development are greatly influenced by the key factors in their lives: family, friends, school, and community. Effective partnerships involving these factors can greatly enhance our students' ability to succeed and strongly influence the development of self-esteem and positive growth. We will do our best to establish meaningful partnerships and ongoing open communication throughout the course of this school year! Your support, assistance, and suggestions will help us in our efforts to make this a successful year for each and everyone of our students.

I would like to maintain an open door policy at Bertie school. Please don't hesitate to contact either myself or your child's teacher any time that you have a concern or question about your child's progress. I believe that ongoing communication between the home and school is a very important component of each student's level of success. Your calls and visits to the school to share pertinent information about your child will greatly assist us in understanding and helping our students more effectively. To keep you informed about the many activities and events at Bertie, we will send home a newsletter each month of the school year. If you do not receive it during the first week of each month, please ask your child about it or drop by the office. It is important that you receive the information that is contained in each of our newsletters.

The entire school staff is dedicated to providing a rich learning environment for the students of Bertie. A wide variety of learning opportunities, activities, challenges, and special events have been planned which will add to and enrich the school life of our students. In addition, it is my personal belief that together we must also "nurture" respect for others, teach self-discipline, and promote a "love for learning". We look forward to your continued support in this endeavour and we appreciate your help as we strive to teach our students to have confidence in themselves so that they can successfully meet the new challenges that this school year will undoubtedly bring.

I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to Ms. Upfold, Bertie's secretary, Mrs. Raymond, our head custodian, and our teachers for their efforts in getting ready for a new school year. Through their hard work and commitment, we were well prepared to receive all of our students. Great job everyone!

I am looking forward to working with everyone in the school community and we will endeavour to provide positive and meaningful learning experiences for our students. I am certain that great things will continue to happen at Bertie and I anticipate another interesting, productive, and educational school year!

D. Pirillo

## THE STAFF OF BERTIE SCHOOL

Mrs. B. Carlson	- Grade 4
Miss M. Horth	- Grade 4
Mr. M. Greggio	- Grade 5
Mr. S. Maione	- Grade 5
Mr. S. Laing	- Grade 6
Mrs. A. Henderson	- Grade 6
Mrs. T. Foster	- Grade 7
Mr. T. Bianco	- Grade 7
Mrs. C. LeBlanc	- Grade 8
Mr. T. Fazekas	- Grade 8
Mrs. S. Gohm	- LRT
Mlle L. DiBartolomeo	- Int. French
Mdm A. Seibert	- Jr. French
Ms. C. Woolley	- Youth Counsellor
Mrs. R. Raymond	- Custodian
Mrs. V. Upfold	- Secretary
Mr. D. Pirillo	- Principal
Mrs. Bartlett	- Lunch Supervisor
Mrs. Detlor	- Lunch Supervisor

In June's Year-End newsletter which was sent home on the last day of school we welcomed Miss Horth as one of our grade 4 teachers and Mrs. LeBlanc who is teaching grade 8. They are great additions to the Bertie team and we are really looking forward to working with them. In addition, Mrs. K. Goodwin will be at Bertie as our part time Literacy coach.

## BELL TIMES

The following bell times will apply for 2011 - 2012.

Morning Entry Bell	<b>8:45 a.m.</b>
Instructional Block #1	8:50 - 10:30 a.m.
Nutritional Break	10:30 - 10:50 a.m.
Fitness	10:50 - 11:10 a.m.
Instructional Block #2	11:10 - 12:50 p.m.
Lunch	12:50 - 1:30 p.m.
Instructional Block #3	1:30 - 3:10 p.m.
Dismissal	<b>3:10 p.m.</b>

**Supervision on the playground begins at 8:25 a.m. and 1:10 p.m. Students are supervised at 3:10 p.m. until they have boarded their buses for home.**

## BOARD INFORMATION

The elementary schools in the D.S.B.N. are organized into 4 areas. Bertie is part of area one which includes Ridgeway, Stevensville, Fort Erie, and Niagara Falls. Mr. C. Hathaway is our superintendent and his Executive Secretary is Mrs. Debra Dinga. Our Board office is located at 191 Carlton St. in St. Catharines and the phone number is 905-641-1550. Mr. Dave Schaubel is the trustee for Area one.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, i-pods) must be kept in a student's locker throughout the entire school day. If they are taken by a teacher for violation of our rule, they will be sent to the office and will **NOT** be returned at the end of day. Parents will be required to contact the principal and make arrangements for return of the device.

## STUDENT INFORMATION PACKAGE

**Your child received some information which should be kept at home:**

- Elementary School Calendar
- Student Insurance (Mailed in by Parents)
- A number of other information items.

**The following important forms must be completed, updated, and returned to the school as soon as possible:**

- Student Information Form: Please take a few minutes to fill this out even if you have done so in the past so we can ensure that all information on file is current. If for any reason this information changes during the year, please inform our secretary so that we can keep our files up to date.
- Acceptable Use Agreement (Internet)
- Lunch Arrangement Form
- Emergency Contact Form
- Parent Volunteer Form
- Walking in the Neighbourhood Permission Form
- Breakfast Club Information/Sign Up
- Student Costs
- School Sports Uniform Policy

## STUDENT ORGANIZER (Premier Agenda)

Each student in grades 4 to 8 has received a Student Organizer. Students will use their agenda daily to record important information about activities, assignments, and homework. Teachers and parents will also have the opportunity to use them to communicate regularly about the progress of students. The Organizers contain other important information about the school including a copy of **the behaviour code** and routines for Bertie. Please read through this section very carefully. It will give you useful information about our routines and expectations. All students are expected to **know** and **follow** the behaviour code for our school.

## "ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN"

The DSBN does not provide medical payment coverage for students. If you have no other coverage please consider purchasing the Reliable Life Student Accident plan.

## STUDENT COSTS

We will again collect money in advance from each of our students for the yearbook, agenda, and special programs. \$10.00 is mandatory for each student in the school. Those students who want to purchase a yearbook are required to pay \$20.00. Money collected will be applied as follows:

- \$10.00 Bertie's Yearbook
- \$ 5.00 Student Organizer subsidy
- \$ 5.00 Special Student Programs (e.g. Art Gallery lesson)

### \* Please note:

**No student is required to purchase a year book, however, they will not be available at a later date.**

## ATTENDANCE

The safety of children is our first concern. If your son or daughter will be late or absent from school, we require a note or phone call **(905-894-0313)**.

**Your cooperation is extremely important.**

Our secretary is available from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to receive your call. At other times, please leave a message on our answering machine.

Please identify yourself by name and state the reason for your child's absence.

Phone calls will be made to your home, as part of our regular call back policy for absences without reason.

## SCHOOL ENTRY AND EXIT

We remind you that students are not permitted to use the front hall entry doors when entering or leaving the school on a regular basis. Students arriving late must of course use the front door to report to the office. Students leaving the school before regular dismissal for appointments, etc. must report to the office before leaving the school.

## HOT LUNCH DAYS

Once again, we plan to have "hot lunch" days here at Bertie. Hot Dogs will be available on Tuesday starting next week with hamburgers available on an occasional basis throughout the year. Pizza will be available on Fridays (First pizza day is scheduled for Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>). We will be buying the pizza from Aneta's or Papa's Pizzeria this year.

The sale price of lunch packages is again \$3.00. The various packages are listed below:

- 2 hot dogs and milk/juice box
- 1 hamburger and milk/juice box
- 2 slices of pizza and milk/juice box

## EARLY RELEASE DAY

— **The pizza package will not include a piece of fruit this year.**

**Additional hot dogs and slices of pizza can be purchased at \$1.25 each and hamburgers at \$2.50 each**

## EATING LUNCH AT SCHOOL

It's always best for children to enjoy their lunches at home but we are well aware of the necessity to eat lunch at school because of transportation and working problems. We will continue to provide supervised areas for the students to eat lunch at Bertie. We do, however, ask that you consider the best lunch arrangements for your family and be accepting of our Lunch Procedures. Supervision is provided in the eating areas by parent supervisors with the help of the administration. Students will eat in their homerooms **and are responsible for clean up as well as appropriate conduct at all times.**

Ten classrooms will be supervised by two or three parents with the help/support of the principal. As a result, it is imperative for all students to exercise good manners, co-operation, and self-discipline during their lunch break. **(Our lunch period is from 12:50 to 1:30 p.m.)**

Students must go outdoors after lunch. (Unless special arrangements have been made for various lunchtime activities.) **Lunch students are not permitted to leave the school property without written permission from their parents.** Please complete and return the lunch arrangements form. We do expect all of our bused students to eat lunch daily at school. If your child needs to stay only from time to time, a note to the teacher will be required.

## TUCK SHOP

We will be selling a variety of items at 12:50 p.m. throughout the school year:

<b>Milk</b>	<b>\$ .65</b>
<b>Juice Boxes</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>
<b>Cheese Strings</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>
<b>Yogurt</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>
<b>Rice Krispie Squares</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>
<b>Fruit Cups</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>

Other snacks will be added throughout the year. (e.g. popcorn/chips on special hot lunch days)

## PTA/PARENT COUNCIL

**Our first PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

Friday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> has been designated as an Early

Release Day for the District School Board of Niagara. Students will be dismissed at 12 noon for the rest of the day. Bus students will be picked up by 12:30 p.m. There are no afternoon classes for all of the students in the entire D.S.B.N. However, teachers will be involved in Professional Development and will be working in the school on curriculum planning.

### **MEET THE TEACHERS BBQ AND OPEN HOUSE**

Please plan to join us from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> for an informal “**Meet the Teachers**” barbeque and Open House. We look forward to seeing the majority of our school community during this initial “get-together”.

### **SCHOOL VISITORS**

All school visitors (**including parents and former students**) **must enter the school and check in at the office before** visiting classrooms. We ask for this courtesy to help us to ensure the safety of our children throughout the school day. **Visitors must sign in and out of the school.** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

We would like to remind everyone that **the Staff Parking Lot in front of the school should not be used to drop off or pick up students before school starts and at the end of the day.** Please keep safety in mind when driving, stopping, or parking near our school.

### **PARENT WAITING AREA**

Our waiting area for parents is in the front foyer outside the main office. **Please wait in the foyer until the school bell rings** and then you may proceed to your child’s classroom area if you wish, **after you have checked in at the office!** If you need to pick up your child before the end of the day for any reason, please **come to the office** and we will call your child out of class for you.

### **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

We are most appreciative of the help that our parents give so willingly to our school programs. If you are interested in helping us this year, simply complete and return the Parent Volunteer Form which has been sent home.

### **SCHOOL SPORTS**

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in cross-country running during the month of September. Try-outs/practices will begin next week. Many thanks to Madame Seibert and

Mrs. LeBlanc for their organization of this activity for our students.

Soccer try-outs for our intermediate co-ed team start on Fri. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> and will continue next week. We extend our thanks to Mr. Maione for his efforts in coaching our soccer teams.

### **SCHOOL TRIPS**

At Bertie School, we arrange some great excursions for our students. The majority of these trips support curriculum expectations and are a reward for students who work hard and try their best at school. We feel that all students have the right to go on these trips but the privilege can be taken away because of inappropriate behaviour or incomplete school work/assignments. **We reserve the right to exclude students when it is in the best interests of everyone involved.**

**Students who do not attend trips are expected to be at school.**

### **ANAPHYLAXIS**

A few of our students have a condition called **Anaphylaxis - a severe allergy** that can result in **death.** Anaphylactic reactions to nut products have attracted considerable public attention but a child with this condition can have equally severe, life threatening allergies to many foods (e.g. dairy products) and non-food triggers of reactions include stings (e.g. bees) and medications.

**In addition to those students who are allergic to nuts/nut products we have other students at Bertie who can have a severe allergic reaction to other foods and bee stings.**

We are asking all parents to help us **REDUCE THE RISKS FOR** these students by:

- speaking with your children about Anaphylaxis;
- not sending products to your child’s classroom which have been identified as harmful to any student in the classroom;
- **instructing your child not to share food/snacks/utensils with other students**
- reminding your children of the need to practise good hygiene by washing his/her hands especially before and after eating.

If you have any questions about any of the above please call the school.

### **DETENTIONS**

A detention is used as a consequence for

unacceptable behaviour by students in and around the school. If your child receives a detention, he/she

will bring home a detention form **at least one day before** it is to be served. This will allow parents the opportunity to discuss the reason for the detention with their child, to sign the bottom section of the form, and to arrange for transportation after the detention has been served (usually 4:00 p.m.).

### **MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

At times it is necessary for students to have prescription drugs administered at school. This is done by the Principal or designate according to Board policy. Parents or guardians will be required to complete a form giving authorization and specifying the medication, dosage, time of administration. This form must be signed by the family physician. **All medications must be kept in the office.** Your cooperation is appreciated.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We do not keep any over the counter medications (Tylenol etc.) at the office since we are not allowed to give these to students without an authorization form signed by a physician.

### **LOCKERS**

All students have been assigned a locker at school. They are encouraged to provide their own **combination lock**. A limited number of Dudley Locks will be available at the office for \$3.00. Please don't purchase Master locks because they are very difficult to "snip" in the event that the combination fails to work. The combinations will be recorded by the home room teacher and kept on file. **Please note that lockers should be kept tidy and any left over food from lunches should be removed at the end of each day.**

### **BICYCLE SAFETY, ROLLER BLADES**

We recommend that any bicycles brought to school be securely locked in the bicycle racks at the front of the building. (Many thanks to Mrs. Lisa Bartlett for her hard work in painting our Bike Racks). **Students must wear safety helmets and those who roller blade to school are to remove them before they enter the building. Students who use skateboards to get to school must leave them outside.** Students must **also WALK** their bikes or skateboards onto and off the property. They are prohibited from riding through the parking lot because it is very dangerous to do so!!

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND INTRAMURAL PROGRAMS**

Extra-curricular and Intramural programs are an important part of school life and we encourage all students to become involved in sports, house leagues, student council, clubs, drama, music, and other activities that are offered throughout the school year.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

We will be offering a Breakfast Club again this year at Bertie. Many thanks to Ms. V. Upfold, and Mr. D. Pirillo for volunteering to organize this program for those students who need something to eat before school begins each day. Students may come in through the front doors at 8:20 a.m. beginning on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> (See Breakfast club form for additional details).

### **PICTURE DAY**

Individual and group pictures will be taken by Pegasus on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and retakes will be done in October.

### **FUNDRAISER**

Fundraising is an important source of revenue for our school. These funds directly benefit our students by helping us to subsidize trips and special events, as well as enabling us to purchase extra equipment and instructional materials for our school.

**We will once again be selling magazine subscriptions provided by the Canadian Community Reading Plan (CCRP) a totally Canadian owned and operated company. An information assembly for students is scheduled for Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 in the afternoon.**

### **HOMEWORK**

There are times throughout the week that students may have to complete school work at home. It would be very helpful for parents to check their child's organizer daily to help ensure that all homework assignments have been completed. Failure to complete homework on time without a valid reason could result in the loss of recess/after school time.

### **DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to come to school dressed appropriately. We are confident that this will not be a problem with most students. **T-Shirts with suggestive writing or inappropriate language, halter tops, backless tops, spaghetti straps, and "short shorts/skirts" etc. are not suitable for school.** We hope that you understand our concern with these articles of clothing and we ask for your cooperation in monitoring how your child dresses for school.