

September 4, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to another school year at Blessed Cardinal Newman School. We hope that the summer months have provided some rest, some adventure and some time with loved ones.

We offer a special welcome to all newcomers, especially to our incoming kindergarten families who are new to our school and to our Grade 7 students making the transition to junior high. We are confident that you will discover a safe, welcoming and engaging learning environment here at Blessed Cardinal Newman. We invite parents to contact us anytime should there be a need to address any questions or concerns that arise. As you know, one of the most important ingredients that contribute to the success of a student is a strong working relationship between school life and home life.

This school year will begin with a change to our administrative team:

Mr. Gratton and Mrs. Green are returning to BCN this fall and will be joined by our new **Assistant Principal, Mr. Mark Driedger**. Mr. Driedger has an extensive background in academic learning and has recently served the District as a Social Studies Consultant. He will be a great addition to our team.

We are looking forward to a successful school startup. With that in mind, we have included in this newsletter some important updates and reminders that make the first days of school run more smoothly.

SAVE THE DATE: September 20-21st. We are encouraging everyone to attend our September Parent-Teacher conferences that will surely build connections between our families and the school community. In addition to regular interviews, we hope to update all interested parties on our ongoing plans to add to our playground. A volunteer orientation is also taking place in the learning common at 7pm. Don't forget to stop by the School Council hospitality table for a free bottle of water.

Interview times:

September 20: 4:00pm-8:00pm

September 21: 8:30am- 11am; 1pm- 2:30 pm

As we close this school opening message, we ask that you carefully review the information contained within the remainder of this newsletter. We have included some very important updates.

Sincerely,

Carl Gratton
Principal

Joelle Green
Vice Principal

Mark Driedger
Assistant Principal

1. Staff list 2018-19

Kindergarten	Mrs. S Hansen	8Butl	Mrs. C Butler
		8Hadd	Ms. R Haddad
1Aber	Mrs. J. Abernathy	8Rodr	Mrs. C Rodrigues
1Blan	Mrs.. V. Blanchard	8Vaes	Ms. D. Vaessen
1 Broo	Mrs A. Broomfield	9Barc	Mrs. A Barciak
2Bair	Ms. P Bairstow	9Brie	Mrs. V. Briere
2Moon	Mrs. E Mooney	9Cham	Mr. P Chamberland
3Ball	Mrs. J Ball	9Desa	Ms. J Desautels
3Bold	Mrs. M Boldt	Music/ Grade 5	Mrs. T. Perreault
3Dela	Ms. W Delaronde	HCSA/ PE	Mr. T Sorge
4Soos	Mrs. C Soos	CTF	Mrs., A Tower
4Usse	Mr. D. Usselman	CTF	Mr. M Selebey
5/4 Rybe	Mrs. C Ryberg	Diverse Learning Coordinator	Mrs. K. Wilson
5Ferg	Miss M Ferguson	Diverse Learning	Mrs. L. Bush
5Yup	Mrs. L Yuzdepski /Mrs. T Perreault	Counsellor	Mrs. L Bacon
6Bady	Mrs J Badyk	Principal	Mr. C. Gratton
6Perr	Ms. Perry	Vice Principal	Mrs. J Green
6Fitz	Mr Fitzsimmons	Assistant Principal	Mr. M Driedger
Elem PE	Mrs.. J Slaney	Office Administrator	Mrs.. B Bentrovato
7Bres	Ms. L Bressanutti	Office Assistant	Mrs. L Wagman
7Brew	Mrs. R Brewer	Office Assistant	Mrs. T. Smith
7Ehre	Ms. T Ehret	Assistants: Mrs. T. Appuzzo; Mrs. B Havery;	
7Hayd	Mrs. L Haydt	Mr. R Aquino; Mrs. M. Knowles; Mrs. R. Smith; Mrs. L. Sheehan; Mrs. J. Hou; Mrs. D. Weins	
Librarian	Ms. L Craig		

2. CLASS SCHEDULE

Elementary		Junior High	
Period	Time	Period	Time
Am 1	8:25-10:10	1	8:25-9:00
		2	9:01-9:49
		locker	9:49-9:54
recess	10:10-10:25	3	9:54-10:42
Am2	10:25-12:00	4	10:43-11:31
		Lunch	11:31-12:14
Lunch	12:00-12:40	5	12:19-13:07
Pm	12:45-2:45	6	1:08-1:56
		7	1:57-2:45

Kindergarten class times will be communicated at the initial kindergarten interview

3. INFORMATION PACKAGE **VERY IMPORTANT!!**

All students will be receiving the school package. **Included are many information forms that require parent signature. Please review, sign and promptly return all the signed forms to your child's teacher/homeroom teacher by Monday September 10, 2018**, thus enabling our staff to get to the important business of teaching and learning without delay.

Review, Sign and Return

- Demographic Update forms
- Email Address form / Severe Medical Data Sheet (only return if there is a medical concern)
- Student Acceptable Use Policy for Internet
- Field Trip Consent form
- Consent form for Media Coverage
- Parental Authorization to Compete in Competitive Sports F531-1
- Parental permission to leave property at lunch
- School Opening Mass/Terry Fox run Field Trip Consent

To keep to information only

- 2018-2019 District Calendar
- Blessed Cardinal Newman Conference Manager
- School Fees 2018-2019 Parent Information Letter
- Fun Lunch Program
- St Albert the Great Sacramental Preparation Memo

4. DEMOGRAPHIC FORMS

In the attached package, we have included Student Demographic forms for your review. **We require that all forms be returned with any necessary changes.** We thank you for your cooperation in this very important administrative procedure.

5. SCHOOL FEES AND ONLINE PAYMENT

This package includes information regarding school fees including changes to our practiced this year. Please look to the **Parent Information Letter- Fees 2018-19** for more details.

New for 2018-19: Pay as you GO!

ACTIVITY FEES have been reduced to \$10 per student in grades 1-9.

Over the course of the year, additional activity fees may be charged and will be collected AS NEEDED to support program specific enrichments such as field trips. In this case, we will limit such requests to ensure that the annual maximum allowable school fee per grade is never exceeded. This also means that each time we ask for fee payments, parents will know exactly what the payment is to be used for. As per CSSD guidelines, the maximum allowable amount to charge, per year, in program enrichment fees (does not include noon hour fees or optional fees) per grade level is listed below:

Kindergarten: \$70

Grades 1-6: \$75

Grades 7-9 \$115

For more information or to pay fees online, please visit www.cssd.ab.ca and click the icon on the homepage. For general inquiries, please email feeinquiry@cssd.ab.ca.

6. AGENDAS AND HANDBOOKS

Each student in grades 1-6 will be issued an agenda. These agendas are a useful tool for communication between home and school and are used on a daily basis. We appreciate parents of students in Grades 1-6 to be diligent in checking and signing the agenda on a nightly basis.

Junior High students are not issued an agenda as they are expected to utilize Brightspace/D2L for communications and updates. We do issue a student handbook that outlines expectations and procedures. Parents of students in grades 7-9 are advised to review the handbook.

7. ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

Every year in June, our teachers work collaboratively to create class lists in all grades for the upcoming year. In the case of grade 7 classes we incorporate input from our feeder schools. Class list creation is a lengthy process to ensure that each class is balanced in regard to size and makeup with consideration given to individual student abilities, needs and learning styles. We also work to ensure that each child is surrounded by compatible classmates to grow strong bonds for learning and friendship. With all of this in mind, we must stress that changes to class assignments are strongly discouraged as it threatens to upset the balance that was very carefully achieved. Only extremely serious concerns will be given consideration along the following guideline:

Student homeroom assignment changes will only be considered after the Fall Conferences on September 20th. Such requests must be received in writing from the parent/guardian directly to Mr. Gratton. (email is best)

In past practice, we have learned that students who may be unhappy on the first day of school will have made new connections by the end of the second week. Most often by that time they have changed their mind and are happy to remain where they are. We also feel strongly that the opportunity to build new relationships, something that some teens are reluctant to embrace, is very beneficial for them and something they ultimately appreciate in the end.

8. VOLUNTEERING

Schools work best when all stakeholders feel a sense of ownership and responsibility. We invite any interested parent or community member to become involved as a volunteer. A mandatory orientation session will be held at the September 20th 2018 Fall Conferences evening at 7pm in the Learning Commons.

9. SCHOOL PHOTOS

Individual and class photos are on October 3, 2018. Retakes on October 24th. Proofs should be available in one to two weeks. There will also be spring photos on May 2, 2019.

10. FALL CONFERENCES

Fall Conference Interviews will be held on Thursday September 20 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and Friday, September 21, 2018 from 9:00-11:30 am and 1:00-2:30pm. Further information regarding online appointment booking will be sent home soon. **There will be no classes on Friday, September 21, 2018.**

11. SCHOOL OPENING LITURGY

Our School Opening Liturgy is scheduled for September 26th 2018 at 10 AM at St. Albert the Great Parish. All parents and families members are welcome to join us.

12. SCHOOL COUNCIL

Every parent or guardian of a BCN student is a member of the school council and automatically invited to all school council meetings. The first School Council meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, September 12th, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons. All interested parents are invited to attend. We congratulate the new and continuing members of our School Council Executive:

BCN Executive Members 2017-2018

Chair:	Judith Tuck
Past Chair:	Laura Dennison
Vice Chair:	Tamara Bezemer
Treasurer:	Sharon Periera
Secretary:	Cheryl Schneider

New members of the executive are always welcome to join!

13. SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Blessed Cardinal Newman teachers are dedicated to keeping parents informed of their child's progress. **The main source of information about BCN is the school website**

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/cardinalnewman/Pages/default.aspx>

Additionally, we make a great effort to keep you informed on a weekly basis with an email broadcast we call the **SCREAM**. (as in the sound of an eagle) The Scream is broadcast on Friday afternoon or Monday mornings at the latest. Weekly events and important alerts are shared. **NEW THIS YEAR:** the monthly newsletter, which once we began the scream was reduced to just the broadcast of information for various stakeholders such as parish news, school council news and Calgary Catholic updates will all be posted on the website on a monthly schedule. When that happens, the Scream will include information to alert everyone that the new website posts are up for you to have a look at.

That stated, as many of us have grown very used to digital communications, texts and emails have become far more common than face to face talks and phone calls as the most useful way to share information. However, some communications between parents and the school can be emotional. In such cases, we feel it is unwise to communicate through digital means. Therefore, Blessed Cardinal Newman teachers make it their practice to only provide factual information by means of emails and texts. Should it become necessary, face to face meetings will be held to achieve a positive result.

14. LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

We employ a good neighbor practice that permits JH students to leave the property during the lunch period. However, this privilege is contingent upon the continued positive conduct and ambassadorship displayed by students when they are off the property.

15. JUNIOR HIGH OPTIONS SELECTION

This year, students will get their first look at the programs available in an assembly during their first option class on their timetable. At that meeting we will provide planning sheets to take home and review with parents and return for their second class. At their second class, students will draw numbers out of a hat and receive their selection order. Students with low numbers will select first for Block A and last for Block B. Students who choose high numbers will select first for Block B and last for Block A. This ensures that each student has a fair chance to select the options of their choice. Selection will take place digitally on chromebooks under the guidance and management of the teachers who are assigned to teach in that block.

Choices, once made and confirmed, are final

16. PASSWORD RESETS

All Students in Grades 4-9 will be required to reset their password. The temporary password is 000+the student's ID number.