



# BLUMENORT SCHOOL

**BENGALS UPDATE 03 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

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## **Strong Connections - September 15 & 18**

Our annual Strong Connections began today and continues on Monday. With half of our students present, our homeroom teachers will focus on collecting our students and building relationships. The only assessments that will take place are for the students who did not take the assessments in June.

## **Grade 7 & 8 Red Rock Outdoor Education - September 20-22**

In just a few short days, our Grade 7 & 8 students will be heading to Red Rock Bible Camp for their Outdoor Education Retreat. Parents can expect an update, along with today's Bengals Update. If you have any questions, please let us know.

## **Orange Shirt Week - September 25-29**

Orange Shirt Week at Blumenort School is set for September 25-29. Students can wear orange for the week, if they would like. We will have daily announcements and then an assembly on Friday, September 29th @ 9:10am. Teachers who have lessons planned for the week based on Truth and Reconciliation, will keep our families informed and will be well aware of the age of their audience. If you have any questions, please let us know.

## **Picture Day - September 26**

Please take note that our Picture Day is set for TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH. You should have received a package from our school outlining the various picture options. Please also note the following change for this year... *"Classroom group photos will continue to be complementary for families ordering a photo package. Families that don't order a photo package will now have the option to purchase a group photo for \$9.99."*

## **Terry Fox Run - September 29**

Our annual Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday, September 29, starting at 2:30pm. This year we are reverting back to a tradition of running as a whole school. Spectators are welcome to attend and participate with us if you'd like! We will also be collecting Toonies for Terry so any money you would like to donate can be handed in to our main office.

## **Maker Space Update**

In our end of June newsletter, we asked our families to donate grade-specific items that would be very useful in our new Maker Space room. Today, we are asking our families if they can help us with any of the items on the list. To refresh the memory, here is what we are looking for...toilet/paper towel rolls, egg cartons, plastic containers, cardboard, newspaper/magazines, pipe cleaners, pompoms, dixie/styrofoam cups, wrapping/tissue paper, popsicle sticks, beads, tinfoil, cards, toothpicks and fabric and puzzle pieces (no worries if pieces are missing). Thank you!

## **HSD Parent Portal Kiosk**

If anyone needs assistance connecting to the HSD Parent Portal, please give our office a call to arrange a time for you to stop by. Before creating a Parent Access Account, you will first need to obtain a unique Access ID for each student profile that you want added to your account. Please contact our school office to request account setup information.

## **Student Fees**

Student fees for supplies and agendas have been charged to the student accounts. Please log into your Parent Portal account to make payment. Be sure to check the balance before making payment as many accounts had a credit on them from last year. If you are unable to make the payment online please submit a cheque or cash to the office.

## **Bengals Athletics**

Our Grade 5-8 Cross-Country Running practices are taking place Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 12:20. Coaches are Mrs. Shannon Sawatzky, Mr. Cam Hiebert, Mrs. Irene Plett and Mr. Nathan Giesbrecht. Here is the upcoming schedule...

- Race #1 - Thursday, Sept. 21 at 1 PM at Abe's Hill/Steinbach Soccer Park
- Race #2 - Some may be invited to the Provincial Milk Run at La Barriere Park on Wednesday, Sept.27. More info to come.
- Race #3 - Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 1 PM at AD Penner Park.

As for our Volleyball practices...

- Grade 7 Girls - Black Team - Tuesdays 7:30-8:45 AM and Thursdays 3:45-5 PM
- Grade 7 Girls Orange Team - Mondays 7-8:30 PM and Thursdays 5:30-7 PM
- Grade 7 Boys - Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30-8:45 AM
- Grade 8 Girls - Mondays 3:45-5:30 and Fridays 3:45-6PM
- Grade 8 Boys - Mondays 5:30-7 and Wednesdays 5:30-7pm
- Girls' games are Tuesdays October 10 - November 14
- Boys' games are Thursdays October 5 - November 16

## **Utensils**

Our main office has noticed a steady stream of students coming to borrow forks and spoons for lunch. If you could ensure that utensils are packed when necessary for your child's lunch, then our school supply should make it through the year.

## **Safety Reminders**

As mentioned in our first update, we again need to pay close attention to the safety concerns that arise as our students make their way to school. One area in particular is the east sidewalk leading from the school to the crosswalk on PTH #311. It is a narrow sidewalk that is highly congested, especially at the end of the day. A second location is the entrance to Parkview Bay, which is to the west of our school. Drivers, bike riders, walkers and those who are being picked up or dropped off always need to be aware of their surroundings and proceed with caution.

## **The Umbrella Project at Blumenort School**

Welcome to the Umbrella Project! One of the most fundamental and well-researched predictors of childhood wellbeing and resilience is the quality of the relationships that children have in their lives. As the busyness of the school year picks up, remember that strong relationships need time to nurture and build. Before you add homework and extracurriculars into your child's schedule, be sure to prioritize time in your weekly schedule for family bonding, friends, play and other important relationship-based activities as they are critical components to support your child's wellbeing. I recommend you add these into your schedule as you would swimming lessons or piano so this time doesn't get overlooked and forgotten.

Here are 2 ideas that pop up regularly in the research as big builders of relationship skills for your child:

1. Find time for family meals together as often as possible. This seemingly simple activity improves parent-child connectedness and supports positive behaviours and health, especially as your child reaches their teen years.
2. Have unstructured playdates. Unstructured play helps kids build relationships and important social skills. Book time for your child to spend time with friends that isn't based on a prescribed activity like video games or sports but is free time where they have to create their own experience.

This low-key, fun time will help your child develop the relationships skills that will positively impact their lifelong wellbeing.