



September 2022



BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Highpoint Community School



From the Principal's Desk

A *warm welcome* back is extended to all Highpoint students and their families. We offer special greetings to our new Grade 3 students and to all new families registering with us from other areas. As a staff, it is our goal to provide each student with the best educational opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Our school community continues to grow, and you will notice many new additions to our staff this year.

Any time that you wish to speak to someone at the school, please call. A talk over the phone or a personal interview

Please remember that our current organization may change due to shifts in enrolment. This means that there is the potential that classroom make-ups could change, and as a result, students could be placed in a different classroom. If this is necessary, I will communicate this as soon as possible.

A reminder that this letter, and other useful information will be posted on our school website at www.hpe.bwdsb.on.ca, which we will endeavor to keep updated throughout the year. There is a link to our school Facebook page on that website.

Monthly newsletters, emergency bulletins, messages from our Director of Education or the

Ministry will go out to you via School Messenger. If you know of someone not receiving the information, please remind them to ensure we have their email address on file. Once you have signed up, you can adjust how you receive messages using the School Messenger App. I encourage you to sign up for phone, texts and emails. I only send messages via phone for urgent situations (e.g. school closures). Please see the attached flyer for instructions on how to register.

Nut Free School



Severe allergy. No nut products at school please.

2022-2023 Highpoint Staff

Principal– Kelly Merrifield

Vice Principal/ELL– Andrew Noble

Office Manager– Debbie Wickens

Office Professionals: Kim Trudgeon/Robyn Atkinson

Office Professional/Library Technician: Kim Blakeney

Learning Resource Teacher– Dave Sheaves

Grade 3– Nicole Taylor

Grade 3—Amanda Hymers

Grade 3-Scout Wilkinson-Cocks

Grade 3-Dale Lewis

Grade 3/4– Katie Zurkuhl

Grade 4 (&French)-Mariska Vermeer

Grade 4 (&French) Lindsey Breadner

Grade 4/5 —Sarah Merrifield

Grade 5– Brittany Priddle

Grade 5– Cole Parker

Grade 6– Mike Broderick

Grade 6– Brodie Martell

Grade 6– Stephanie Bumstead

Grade 7-Jodi Halls

Grade 7– Mondays-Reagan Kaufman

Grade 7– Sara Brockelbank

Grade 7/8– Matt Swart (Jenna Brown)

Grade 8– Monte Rigney

Grade 8- Melissa Harrison

Developmental Learning-Nicole Hanley

Core French/Guidance– Heather Caughill

Core French/ Resource-Miranda Todoroff

Music/ Prep Coverage– Wayne Peeters

Primary Prep Coverage-Colin Hall

Prep Coverage– Sherifat Ogunyomi

Resource/Library Contact – Carolyn

Galbraith

Ed Assistants: Leann Routenburg, Valerie Welch, Kira Wright, Eastlind McCormick, Candace Da Chuna, (Kenzie Pearson), Julie Ellis, Jamie-Lynn Henderson

Head Custodian—Jackie McEacheron

Custodian—Jeff McFadden & Cindy Rai

Roopnarine

School Day Schedule

At Highpoint, we follow a Balanced Day schedule with two nutrition breaks.

8:30-8:50 Students supervised in the backyard

8:50 Entry Bell—students move directly to the classrooms; all staff are present in the hallways to provide supervision. * (Nutrition Program estimated to start week 3)

10:50 to 11:30 Snack/Lunch Break and Outdoor Activity (recess) - half in/half out then switch

1:30 to 2:10 Snack/Lunch Break and Outdoor Activity (recess) - half in/half out then switch

3:10- Dismissal—Walkers & students being picked up head out directly, After school care students report to the gym and bus students head to their indoor bus lines. Bus 1A and 2A head directly outside to load.

Bus Cancellation Reminder

PLEASE subscribe as bus runs may be cancelled if we become short of drivers.

On-line bus cancellations for Bruce & Grey counties are available at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. Anyone can subscribe for email notifications for general notices, school closures and route cancellations & delays. You must first confirm that you have a valid email address. To subscribe go to the above site, click on the "Subscriptions" icon, then click on "Subscribe". Enter your email address and press the "Subscribe" button. You will receive an email confirmation containing a link that you will need to click to complete the subscription process. Once you have confirmed your email address you will be able to login and select what you want to subscribe to and update your information (if necessary).



Highpoint Community Council (SCC)

Get involved with Parent Council! Our council is unique as it incorporates both Proton and Highpoint schools. Join our meetings to discuss fundraising ideas, projects, school and student needs. Our first meeting will include elections for different positions on the council. If you are new to the area, or just want to see what the council does, come out to the meeting and get involved.

Our meetings will be in person this year and will be held at either Proton or Highpoint.

For more information feel free to contact the office. Dates will be announced once set.

Snack Tray Program

Our Snack Tray Program will be run by our Developmental Learning class and will offer a variety of nutritious foods delivered to each classroom. We may be offering special meal days this year, similar to the wrap days we enjoyed last year. More information to come!

Teacher Program/Classroom Newsletters

Throughout the year, teachers will send home newsletters, describing classroom program, routines, curriculum and classroom expectations, assessment and evaluation information, information about special projects, activities and events they have planned. We are using email communication through our new Student Information System, ASPEN.

Important Busing and Safe Arrival Information

Riding Bus Transportation

For information regarding transportation, please see the “Riding the School Bus” pamphlet located on the web-site www.brucegreyschoolbus.ca under “Info for Parents”. These procedures are in place to create maximum safety for all students. Kunkel Bus Lines will be providing bus transportation. The company may be reached by calling 1-800-586-5357.

Please note that buses cannot provide transportation for birthday parties or other get-togethers. In these cases, parents are responsible for providing transportation. Buses provide transportation between school and students’ homes or regular child care providers only. No additional passengers will be given permission to ride a school bus that they do not ride on a daily basis.

Picking Up?

If you are picking up your child instead of having them ride the bus, please notify the office **prior to 2:00 p.m.** . It becomes very busy in the office at dismissal time and we always want to avoid possible mix-ups which can be upsetting to both students and parents. This contributes to student safety and avoids unnecessary delays in bus departure.

For any changes in regular bus, walking or pick-up routines please contact the office or send a note into the school.

Walkers and Bikers

If your child is walking from home, we encourage them to use the sidewalk and cross at the cross walk. Prior to school and following dismissal, the road is very busy with a traffic. Students who ride their bike to school are expected to wear a helmet and adhere to safe cycling practices. Once on school property, please walk your bike to the bike rack. With cars and buses dropping off and picking up students, it is unsafe to have students on bikes or scooters.

Bus Route Change Requests

Requests for bus route changes must come to the school office (not the bus driver), in writing, and can only be approved under very special circumstances (i.e. not for play dates, parties etc.)

As noted on the previous page, please subscribe to on-line bus cancellations for Bruce & Grey counties are available at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/Cancellations.aspx>! This is very important this year ALL YEAR in case we run into bus driver shortages in our area.

Attendance and Safe Arrival

We need your help in ensuring safe arrival for your child at school. Communication between home and school is essential, so if your child is absent, please call the school by 8:30 a.m.. Classroom attendance is taken first thing in the morning and again at 1:10 p.m.

New Phone Number for Safe Arrival!

We will now be offering both texting and voicemail for safe arrival messages at any time. The number is **519-378-3189**. Our voice mail phone service will also still be available– 519-923-2336. Please call before 8:30 am. **It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school of every absence or lateness by telephone with a reason provided.**

If we do not receive notification from home, we will be contacting parents to ensure the safety of each child. Students who arrive late to school are required to report to the office before going to class. Our goal is to keep all our children safe and maintain efficient office operation. We appreciate your help and efforts to support your child's learning with regular attendance.

What if my child is sick?

If your child has cold or flu symptoms they should remain at home until they are feeling better to help prevent the spread of germs. More information will be coming from Public Health about protocols in the next few weeks. We will continue to sanitize & make masks available.

Pizza

We will be offering pizza for sale again this year. The ordering needs to happen monthly and will start in October. More information to follow shortly.

Library News

Ms. Blakeney is our Library Clerk and she will be in the building every other Wednesday afternoon. We are hopeful that we will be able to run a Scholastic Book Fair this year to help update our books to lend. Mrs. Taylor will be the teacher contact for the library this year if there is interest in any fundraising needs.

Please return ASAP– IMPORTANT

You will have received various forms in the first week of school requiring your consent. Please return to the school as soon as possible making sure that all required signatures are completed. We have a friendly competition– first class with all of their forms in wins an ice cream treat!

Administration of Medication to Students

Parents/guardians are reminded that written permission for the administration of medication is required. If your child's doctor prescribes medication to be administered during school hours, a form must be completed before any medication may be given and/or stored at the school. Please call the school or drop in to see Mrs. Wickens if you require a form.

Student Accident Insurance

Attached with this email is information about Student Accident Insurance which covers selected items not covered by the provincial hospital insurance plan. Should you wish to purchase this plan, please send all premiums and registration forms directly to the company in the envelope provided. We do recommend that families give serious consideration to this additional insurance. It is especially encouraged for students involved in school sports to purchase this insurance as the board's liability policy does not cover payment of expenses for medical or dental.