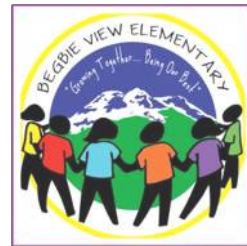


BVE Summer Note to Families

Dear BVE Families,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the summer! Though we are still more than a month away from the first day of school, the Back to School ads are already out, so here's a mini-newsletter to hopefully answer any questions you might have about school start up :-)



First Partial Day (9:30-12:00) Tuesday, September 8th



First Full Day (8:30-2:32) Wednesday, Sept. 9th

First Partial Day: Tuesday, Sept 8th 9:30-12:00

Our first day will be a partial day, and will begin at 9:30 am and end at 12:00 noon. We will have the traditional “Mug and Muffin” (coffee and time to visit parents, students and school staff together) to start the first day of the year. **Families are encouraged to bike or walk with your children as parking will be rare on Ninth. **Note that for families of Kindergarten students, you will follow the gradual entry schedule in your Kindergarten letter, rather than the schedule below.****

9:30 – 10:00 Mug and Muffin: Bring your own mug! This year again we'll spread out the muffins and coffee, and group teachers by grade to make it

easier to find your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Help yourself to coffee under the blue shade tent at the back paved area of BVE, then come meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and our support staff members. Grade 1-3 tables and teachers will be near the doors facing RSS, Grade 4-5 teachers will be near the big blue shade tent, and Grade 6 & 7 staff will be on the basketball court area. Kindergarten families will follow the gradual entry schedule .

10:00 The school bell will ring, students will line up with their teacher and head to their classroom.

Recess will be around 11:00 - There will be a 20 minute outside play and snack time, so please pack your child a recess snack.

12:00 Dismissal – this first day is a partial day, be please have a plan for your child to walk/ride home or be picked up .

Wednesday, Sept. 9th will be regular school hours for Grades 1 through 7, 8:30 – 2:32

BVE Staff and classes - Class lists and teachers will be posted on the front entry doors of the school after 3:30 pm on Friday, September 4th . We use first names only for privacy, with last name initials if needed for clarity.

Kindergarten and other Families New to BVE Kindergarten students have a slightly different gradual entry schedule from other grades. Letters have gone out to Kindergarten families, so if you do not receive yours, please contact the school office the week of August 31 – September 4th to receive your child's schedule for the first days of school [250-837-3085](tel:250-837-3085). Families of students in other grades who are new to our school, Welcome! If you would like to arrange a little tour of the school, please call the office on Monday (August 31st) and we'll arrange a time for you and your child(ren) to visit the school.

Configuration of Classes – We are planning for 13 divisions, and about 280 students. If we have many families who have moved to our area, or many who have moved away, our class configurations may change. The partial day on September 8th allows us to count “whites of eyes” to know exactly who will be attending in the year ahead. **If your child will not be in attendance on September 8th , but will be attending BVE this year, ensure that you call the office to include them in our student numbers.** While we have drafted class lists, there may be a need to make some changes in the first few days of school. Classroom placement is a thoughtful and collaborative process. Requests to change classes are rare and are only considered after all options to make the placement work have been tried. In our configuration, multi-aged or combined classes will exist. This practice is well supported by research, and it also accommodates the number of children in each grade.

Supplies –As for those Back to School ads you might be seeing, please feel free to ignore them! The BVE Supply Purchase program includes the entire year's supply of classroom materials needed. We have been able to maintain the fee at **\$45, this includes \$37 for supplies + cost of agenda book, \$8.** Supply fees can be paid by cash, cheque, card or online once the school is open. More information to follow. Be sure to send a water bottle, clean indoor running shoes with non-marking soles, and a pair of headphones (preferably the plug in kind rather than ear buds) labelled with your child's name. If you would rather purchase supplies yourself for your child, there are supply lists on the BVE website [here](#) for each grade. (The list on the website says 2024 but it is still current.)



Agenda books and Student Handbook – Each BVE student in Grades 1 through 7 is required to purchase an agenda book, available from the school for \$8. This is an important tool to aid in planning and to facilitate communication between home and the classroom. As well, the agenda book contains the BVE Student Handbook (the first 8 pages of the agenda). Please carefully read the Handbook together with your child, and sign that you've read it. If you have questions about the

Handbook, please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher, either by phone or email.

A couple of important school policies to note:

- **Students are not to come to school with a phone or other connected device, including smart watch that can access the internet.** We have school iPads and laptops to facilitate instructional technology use, and the use of phones, cameras, social media distracts from rather than enhances the elementary school experience. If your child needs their phone after school hours, they may bring it and leave it in airplane mode, either in the office or with their teacher until after school.
- **The use of e-bikes and e-scooters by students is not legal in BC for elementary school aged children.** Students must be age 16 or older to ride e-scooters or most e-bikes (smaller power e-bikes may be ridden over 14 years of age). **Please do not send your child to school with these motorized vehicles.** This article from the Canadian Paediatric Society outlines the risks. <https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/safety-and-injury-prevention/electric-scooters-and-bikes>

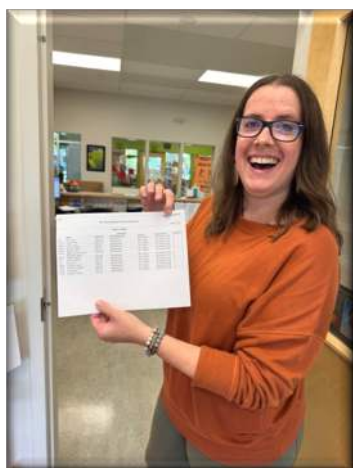
BC laws for electric scooters are available

here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules>

and BC laws

for electric bikes are here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/cycling-regulations-restrictions-rules/e-bikes>

Please encourage your child to walk, bike or scooter to school, but leave the motorized ones at home.



Contact the school if your child will be late or absent Call the office the evening before or first thing in the morning if your child will be late or absent for any reason (250)837-3085. You can see how happy our Secretary, Ms. Johnson is when we all help her with attendance!

Traffic flow – We will continue to reserve the BVE cul-de-sac area for families with students in Kindergarten and Grade 1, or for Cornerstones childcare drop off and pick up. All other traffic should drop off and pick up along Ninth Street, or another street nearby that is a walkable distance from school. As much as possible, please encourage your child to walk or ride to school

On behalf of the BVE Staff, we are so much looking forward to the year ahead, and the enormous privilege of teaching your child. See you in a month!

Sincerely,

Ariel McDowell,
Principal,
Begbie View Elementary

