

Belfast Consolidated School Newsletter



Mr. John Munro- Principal

Alyssa Thaxter- Admin Assistant

Ms. Kelley Carpenter – Vice-Principal

Attendance Line 902-659-7200 #1

At Belfast School we have an Attendance Line which parents/guardians can call anytime of the day. Calling this line will enable us to ensure the safety of your child.

Dates to Remember:

October 7- K-3 Fire Safety Presentation- 9AM
October 9- Bulldog Assembly- 2PM
October 12- **Thanksgiving- NO SCHOOL**
October 13- Subway Orders Due
October 13- K-3 MacPhails
October 13- Crafting Buddies- pick up 3:30PM
October 15- Comic Club Starts- pick up 4:15PM
October 19- Home and School meeting- 6PM
October 20- Subway Day
October 20- Garden Club- pick up 4PM
October 21- Walking Buddies Starts
October 26- Meet a Machine- K-3
October 28- Gillis Lodge Book Buddies Gr 2- 10AM
October 30- **Orange** and Black Day
October 30- **Halloween Spooktacular Night-6PM**
November 2- Picture Retakes and Grad Photos
November 3- Newsletter

School Visitors:

STOP

As per the PSB's Policy: **ALL VISITORS MUST:**

1. **Check- in at the office**
2. **NOT go beyond the lobby**

Milk Orders:

A reminder that milk needs to be ordered on **Thursdays** each week by 12PM. Late orders **will not be** added to the list. If there is no school on a Thursday, orders will be placed on Wednesday.

#BYOC:

Please remember to bring your own cutlery to school each day. The school does not have any to give out.

Halloween Activities:

Thursday Oct. 30th- **Orange and Black Day**
Please **NO Halloween Costumes**



Halloween Spooktacular Night:

Belfast Home and School are planning a night full of Halloween fun on Friday, Oct. 30th 6-8PM. Costumes welcome- no weapons! Students need an adult in attendance. There will be a canteen and 50/50.

Water Bottles:

We ask students to please bring a reusable water bottle with their name on it each day.

BINGO:

Belfast Home and School will be holding their 5th Family **BINGO** Night since COVID on Friday, November 20th 6:30PM-8:30PM. If you would like to donate a prize for Bingo, please reach out to the school.

Remembrance Day Assembly:

Our Remembrance Day Assembly is on Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 10:30AM.

Extra Clothing:

The weather tends to be unpredictable these days. Please keep this in mind as we move into the fall and winter season. Please dress your child appropriately so they are comfortable. Please label all clothing and footwear. It would be appreciated if you would please send in a complete set of clothes with your child. If there is a spill or a fall, then your child will be prepared. Thank you.

Belfast Home and School:

We have important updates about the Maritime Madness fundraiser:

1. Local ordering and delivery is now the **ONLY** option. There are no gift cards available. Any gift cards sold can be refunded to the buyer.
2. There is an update to the local ordering form to include tax for taxable items. These are: any brittle products (e.g. Peanut Brittle), and clothing. HST is 15% and must be charged on top of the listed price for these items.

Thank you for your help as we work through these details as they come up. The Belfast Home and School Association appreciates your help working to make this fundraiser a success for Belfast Consolidated School.

If you have any questions, please reach out to belfasthomeandschool@gmail.com

Parent Teacher Interviews:

Our parent teacher interviews will be the week of Nov. 23rd- 27th. Interviews will be held in person. If you cannot make an in-person interview, a phone interview is also possible by reaching out to your child’s homeroom teacher. Email addresses are on the website. We will be sending a link out November 13th for you to use to sign-up for an interview time. All sign-ups must be in **NO LATER** than Friday, Nov. 20th at 4PM. If you have any questions, please call Alyssa at the school.

After School Changes:

To ensure the safety of your child, the school **MUST BE INFORMED BY A NOTE, EMAIL, OR PHONE CALL IF YOU ARE:**

- 1) planning on picking your child up, when they usually travel by bus
- 2) planning on having someone else pick your child up, when they usually travel by bus
- 3) sending your child home on a different bus for childcare purposes ONLY
- 4) planning to have your child travel on his/her regular bus but getting off at a different stop for childcare purposes ONLY. This only is for K-6 students. Junior high students do not get bus notes for childcare reasons.

If the school has not received any notification from you, your child WILL follow their regular routine.

-Bus notes must include- date, child’s name, civic address of location

Just a reminder the school does **not** call to arrange after school plans for students. After school activities must be arranged beforehand. If we do not receive any notice, your child(ren) will follow their regular routine.

Grade 9 Fundraiser:

Don’t miss your chance to win A Grand in Your Hand! The grade 9 class are selling spots to win \$1000 cash. Spots are \$20 each. Contact a grade 9 family to enter. There are only 100 spots!



PEI Home and School:

Semi-Annual Meeting Registration is Open
Parents, school staff, and community members are invited to the Semi-Annual Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Gulf Shore Consolidated School, Rustico, PEI
TOPICS:
1. **Compass Youth Health Survey Results 2025-26** by Cody Davenport
2. **Home & School Networking = We want to hear from you!**
Local Home & Schools will lead the discussions on topics:
A. Active Involvement & Relationship Building - Engagement, positive school culture, and strengthening the ‘home’ and the ‘school’ relationships
B. Breakfast & Snack Programs - Supporting students’ well-being; engaging newcomers/volunteers
C. Fundraising & COSPEI - Effective strategies/alignment with COSPEI **REGISTER by Oct. 15, 2026.** Use this Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/DWTJ58p82CRNMZO78>
Training Workshops for Volunteers
Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Home and School Training Workshops as follows:
Tues., Oct. 6 Alberton Elementary School 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Mon., Nov. 2 Spring Park Elementary School 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Tues., Nov. 3 Souris Regional School 6:00 – 7:30 pm
All volunteer parents and teachers in your school are welcome to attend and learn helpful tips for executive roles (i.e., President, Co/Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and general information for all volunteers. **No cost.** Register by contacting Shirley at: ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca or 902-620-3186. **Register** for Spring Park & Souris by Oct. 28th.
Parent Leadership Grants
Funds available for up to \$500 for Home and Schools to organize parent educational information sessions. Invite speakers to address topics of interest to your school community (i.e., Mental Wellness, Cyberbullying Awareness, School Food Programs, Proper Use of Cell Phones). Submission deadline: Nov. 30. Grant Application and Speakers Resource: <https://peihsf.ca/grants/>

Attendance Matters:

Every day counts. Every student matters.
Regular attendance helps students build friendships, stay connected to learning, and develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed. We understand that families may face challenges that affect attendance, and schools are committed to partnering with families to support student success.
For tips on building healthy routines that promote regular attendance, and for available supports, visit the Department of Education and Early Years [website](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/school-attendance).
Web Link:
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/school-attendance>

After School Clubs:

= Mrs. MacKinnon will be hosting **walking buddies** again this fall for grades 3-9 on Wednesdays. Permission forms are needed and rides prearranged. Frist day will be *Oct. 21st until 3:30PM.
Please note the date change from the permission form
= **Crafting Buddies** (formerly the Knitting Club) will be back in action after a year off. This is a chance for creative brains to come together and get crafty! You can bring any kind of project you might be working on or want to start. We will have some supplies but welcome you to bring any of your own. In the past, we’ve had knitters, sewers, crafters of all kinds, artists and more. We will start on Tuesday, October 13th. We meet immediately after school in Ms. Stewart's room until 3:30. Please be sure to arrange a drive. Permission forms will be available in the office and will need to be returned signed in order to stay after school. Crafting Buddies is for all ages and is run by Ms. Stewart and Ms. Robinson.
= Heather Rooney and Dan Roper will be hosting a **Bulldog Comic Club** on Thursdays until 4:15PM for K-9 students. Permission forms needed and drives prearranged.

AI in School:

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to evolve, we recognize the importance of addressing parent/guardian questions regarding its use in education and the safeguards that are in place for students.

The Department of Education and Early Years recognizes both the opportunities and the responsibilities associated with the use of AI in schools. The use of AI platforms in classrooms in PEI schools is not mandatory. Teachers continue to be responsible for planning instruction, assessing student learning, and determining when and how technology (including AI) can be appropriately incorporated into classroom activities. The Department of Education and Early Years' approach is based on the principle that AI can be a tool to support learning. The goal is to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities needed to use these technologies appropriately, ethically, and effectively in an increasingly digital world.

Google Gemini and Gemini Notebook have been approved for student use when logged into their @cloud.edu.pe.ca account. Using this account provides students with an extra layer of security and privacy because of provincial agreements with Google and Google's commitment to not use prompts or information from education accounts to train their models. Google does not have access or visibility of Gemini or Gemini Notebook use within our accounts. Student Google accounts are set to only provide content that is approved and safe for users under 18.

As with any educational resource, the use of AI by students is guided by teacher direction and age-appropriate expectations. Students who are permitted to use AI are expected to use AI responsibly, ethically, and in accordance with school and classroom guidelines. This includes understanding that AI-generated information may not always be accurate, and that students must continue to apply critical thinking, verify information, and demonstrate their own learning and understanding.

Teachers are also expected to use AI responsibly and professionally. Teachers and school administrators will continue to receive guidance regarding privacy, confidentiality, data protection, academic integrity, and appropriate instructional practices. Any use of AI must comply with existing policies related to the sharing of student information, professional conduct, and educational standards.

One of the reasons AI has been incorporated into the ICT form is to ensure that parents and students are informed that these technologies **may** be used in classrooms and that their use is subject to the same expectations for responsible digital citizenship that apply to other technologies used in schools.

Through guidance, students are given the opportunity to use AI in different ways to support their learning. Teachers may or may not choose to use AI in their classrooms. Teachers will determine if and how students can use AI for their learning.

Students in grades K - 3 do not use AI in their learning.

At the discretion of their teacher:

Students in grades 4 - 6 may use AI as a helper. Some ways they may use AI to help them are to get ready for tests or to help them brainstorm.

Students in grades 7 - 12 may use AI as a guide, tutor, or collaborator.

Individuals who choose not to allow their students to use Google AI in the classroom can be assured their child will not have access to Google AI in the classroom. In these cases, the school administration will ensure teachers provide learning alternatives that do not use artificial intelligence through differentiated instruction. There is no deadline for signing the Responsible Use Agreement.

As the educational use of AI continues to evolve, the Department and education authorities will continue to review emerging best practices and provide guidance to teachers, students, and families. The Department is actively working on guidance documents and will make them available as soon as possible.

