

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.

Principals Welcome:

Welcome back, students and staff! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer vacation and feel re-energized for the 2024-2025 school year. As a staff, we are all excited to be back at school, and look forward to supporting students' learning and development.

The Public Schools Branch has noted an increase in the amount of time students have missed from school over the past couple of years. This will be a point of focus for all schools across P.E.I. As a school, we will be focusing on improving student attendance at our school and to support students and families as best we can. Research has found that missing school on a regular basis, whether full days, or arriving late to school regularly, has a negative impact on student learning. The Public Schools Branch has provided guidelines and policies for all schools to follow this school year.

I would like to share there has been a change in the policy around student cell phones in school. If students in grades K-6 students have a personally owned mobile device (cell phone, tablet, smart watch), they are to be kept out of site, powered off, or on silent for the duration of the school day. For grade 7-9 students, electronic devices must be stored out of view, and on silent mode during instructional time. Grade 7-9 students will be provided a school lock and asked to lock electronic devices away during instructional time. If used appropriately, grade 7-9 students will have the privilege to have access to their electronic devices during lunch and recess.

We are looking forward to continued collaborative work with parents and guardians to enable us to provide students with an excellent learning environment. Please reach out to me, or staff during the school year to share how the year is going for your child(ren).

Sincerely,

John Munro Principal Belfast Consolidated School

Dates to Remember:

September 2024

- 9- First day for PEI school food program
- 11- Meet the families- 6:00PM
- 12- First milk ordering day
- 12- Bulldog Assembly 11AM
- 16- Picture Day K-9 (Not grad photos)
- 17- First Home and School Meeting- 7:00PM
- 19- Dress/talk like a pirate!
- 23- Professional Learning Day (no classes)
- 27- Orange Shirt Day
- 27- Dental Clinic starts
- 30- National Truth & Reconciliation Day (no classes)

Newsletters:

We are trying to cut down on our paper usage here at Belfast School. Starting in October our monthly school newsletters will no longer be sent home via a paper copy. Our newsletters will be emailed to the email address we have on file and posted on the school's website.

(<https://belfast.edu.pe.ca/> or Google Belfast Consolidated School) for your viewing. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, instead of an email copy, please contact Alyssa Thaxter at athaxter@edu.pe.ca or 902-659-7200 ext. 0. Thank you.



School Website/Facebook:

Don't forget to subscribe to our school's website to get email notifications of what is happening each day at Belfast School! <https://belfast.edu.pe.ca/>

Make sure to like and follow our schools facebook page to stay up to date with everything happening at the school!

[Belfast Consolidated School](#)

School Visitors:

STOP

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

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

Peanut Products:

A student who is registered at our school has a life-threatening allergy to peanuts and peanut products. Exposure to even a small amount of food containing peanuts could cause anaphylaxis. The school has an obligation to establish a safe environment for all students. Therefore, we are a PEANUT **FREE** zone (school and bus).



Dental Clinic:

Attention Parents/Guardians:

The Dental Public Health Preventative Clinic will be at Belfast Consolidated on September 27th, 2024.

Purpose of Dental Clinic: Screen children to assess risk of oral disease; provide oral health education, topical fluoride, scaling/polishing and sealants, according to your child's individual needs.

Screening: All children will be seen for a two-minute screening to determine their risk of oral disease. If you do not wish your child to have this dental screening, please notify the school secretary or classroom teacher.

Consent: After the screening, all children will be given a consent form which will be necessary for you to complete and return before services are provided.

Fees: There is no cost involved as the preventative services are covered by the Provincial School Dental Care Program.

Further Information: Please note that only preventative services will be provided, and the screening is not a substitute for an annual dental examination. It is strongly recommended that parents take their children to a dentist for regular examinations and treatment. The Provincial Dental Care Program assists with the cost of basic dental care delivered in private and public dental offices for children from ages 3 -17. For more information, please visit <http://www.healthpei.ca/dentalhealth>

After school sports:

Grades 7-9 Golf tryouts will be at Belfast Highland Greens. Stay tuned for dates. Please let Mr. Munro know if you need any equipment. The golf course does not charge students for the rounds for try-outs. Students will need have rides to and from the course arranged.

Mrs. MacKinnon's walking buddies will start October 2nd for students in grades 3-9. If you are interested, see Mrs. MacKinnon for a permission slip.

Fundraising:

Belfast School is excited to announce that we are still in the COSPEI Gold Rush. The COSPEI Gold rush is a collaborative fundraiser that is open to all schools on PEI. We encourage you to click on this link (<https://cospei.goldrush.causable.io>) to create an account, choose to support **Belfast Consolidated School** and play. A \$5.00 play gets you 3 numbers. You can play up to \$20.00 (12 numbers) per account per week. Once you are assigned your numbers, they are yours forever/until you choose to stop and are entered into every weekly draw. If you activate your numbers (pay \$5.00) you have a chance to win half of the pot; if you do not activate your numbers (do not pay \$5.00) and your number is drawn, you are a "nonwinner" and the pot rolls-over. To ensure you never miss a draw, click on the gray circular button to the left of your numbers and activate "AutoPlay". Draws take place every Tuesday at 1:00. You can further support the fundraiser by following and sharing the COSPEI Gold Rush Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067977702130>). Please encourage your friends/followers to support our fundraiser! Thanks for your support! Good luck!

Gum:

Students are not allowed to chew gum from the time they get on the bus in the morning until they get off in the afternoon.

#BYOC:

Please remember to pack your own cutlery each day. We do not have an extra here at the school.

Scent Free:

With increased sensitivity to scents, students, parents, staff, and visitors are asked to refrain from wearing products containing scents/perfumes.

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) sending your child home with someone else for childcare purposes ONLY
- 3) planning to have your child travel on his/her regular bus but getting off at a different stop for childcare purposes ONLY

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

Water Bottles:

Remember to send your child(ren) to school each day with a refillable water bottle. Our school is equipped with refill stations. Please also label the bottle with your child's name.

Milk Ordering:

This year, we ask students to order and pay for milk on **Thursday**, for the following week. If there is no school on a Thursday, ordering will be on the Wednesday. If you have any questions, please let Alyssa in the office know.

Thursday, September 12th is the first milk ordering day. First day for milk will be Monday, September 16th.

The School Milk Foundation Board has set the price for the 2024-2025 school year. The prices are listed below.

The price is \$0.60 for white milk
\$0.80 for chocolate milk



Dress like a Pirate:

Thursday, September 19th is an international, "Talk like a pirate day." We invite students to dress and talk like a pirate for the day.

Attendance:

For the 2024/2025 school year, there is a renewed emphasis on the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality in your child's time in school. Our school, along with all schools across PEI, is placing a strong focus on accurately tracking attendance data and actively engaging with students who experience frequent absences or tardiness. Consistent attendance and attention are key to academic success, and it starts as early as students in kindergarten. We will be working hard to provide an engaging and welcoming space for students to come each day and need support from you in reinforcing the value of being present and on time each day. In the 2023/2024 school year, **5,980 of 20,747 students in Public Schools Branch schools have missed 10% or more of total school days**, that's approximately 18 school days, and it can have a lasting impact on their academic success. To help understand how our school is doing, each month we'll include PSB data in our newsletter with hopes to see improvement throughout this school year.

PEI Home and School:

Update your Local Home and School Contacts

Are you still the President? Treasurer? If not, send current contact info to the Federation office. **Presidents** - Submit the local Home & School Association contact details using the new Google Form. Click here: [Home and School Association Contacts](#). **Treasurers** - Submit 2024-2025 Membership fees to the PEIHSF office by November 1st. Send e-transfers to peihsf@gov.pe.ca OR mail a cheque to PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

What is Home and School's role in education? Is there volunteer training available?

Experienced facilitators **Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould** will lead Volunteer Training Workshops as follows:

Monday, Nov. 4, Ellerslie Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, Eliot River Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Register by email: ssmedlevjav@gov.pe.ca **By: November 1st/2024**

These sessions will equip you with practical knowledge of how volunteers can effectively collaborate with school staff and support their school, benefiting all students!

What's on your Home and School agenda?

- Meet with the principal in September and discuss setting goals for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **PEI Dept. of Education's updated Cell Phone Use Policy** - https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/md_2024-06_responsible_use_agreement_cit.pdf
- **Inclusive Education Model Background Report** completed November 2023: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/better_together_report.pdf
- **Inclusive Education Action Plan:** https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/inclusive_education_action_plan_en.pdf
- Brainstorm collaborative ways to support the school
- Circulate PEI Home and School Federation monthly news articles
- Inform parents about provincial announcements applicable to student learning and supports
- Establish a purpose for fundraising initiatives. Finalize with a Motion and Vote to approve. Is there a need to fundraise this year?

REMEMBER: Everything parents and teachers do benefits PEI students' education and well-being!

Home and School:

Home and School is looking for parents to join the Home and School Committee. We are hoping to get at least one parent/guardian per grade. If you are interested in being part of Home and School, please join Sept. 17th at 7PM for the first meeting.

Phys Ed:

Any parents or community members who would be willing to help with school athletics please contact the school at 902-659-7200. There are coaching positions available this year in Wrestling, Gymnastics, Track and Field, badminton, golf, Cross-country, and basketball.

Belfast Consolidated Webstore:

Belfast Consolidated School now has a clothing webstore. Follow the link below to check it out!

https://allstarcresting.ca/belfast_consolidated/shop/home

There are three delivery options.

1. Ship to home, that is a flat rate fee of \$24.99.
2. Pick up at Allstar Cresting office in Sherwood.
3. We do a bulk shipment ever couple of weeks to the school through McInnis Express.

Crafty Kids Club:

Our new "Crafty Kids Club" (former Knitting Club) will be starting up September 10 after school in Ms. Stewart's room. We will run until 3:30. Any interested students (in all grades!) should arrange transport ahead of time. Students should bring their own craft supplies. If you knit, crochet, or do other yarn work, be sure to bring everything you need. If you are a painter, artist, or work in paper crafts, bring all your supplies. Whatever medium you like to create in, you are welcome. Your craftiness is sure to inspire others. This is a space where artists of all kinds can get together with like-minded peers. I'm looking forward to seeing what students can share with our group. See you on the 10th! – Ms. Stewart

PEI School Food Program:

Ordering will begin on Saturday, August 31st and close on Thursday, September 5th at noon for meals starting Monday, September 9th, 2024.

Our menu has also been revised for this fall! Please check out our website at www.peischoolfood.ca for more information on what's new.

Our menu will be going from a two-week meal rotation to a three-week meal rotation this year. You will still order for a two-week period at a time.

The program will remain a pay-what-you-can program and meals will continue to be sold for the asking price for parents to \$5.75 per meal. We kindly ask school staff, families, and students to pay for their meal if they're able to, to help those who are not! Collectively, we play our part so that every Island student has access to a healthy lunch to help them grow and learn.

Check your email regularly for program updates and stay tuned via social media @peischoolfood!

Air Cadet Program:

The Air Cadets are the official youth program of the Government of Canada and accept youth aged 12-18 as members. The program is also free, with no membership fees or fundraising quotas. For more information about the program you can view our website at cadets.ca. There is an open house for recruits which is taking place September 18th at 7:00PM at Montague Regional High School.