



BELLS CORNERS PUBLIC SCHOOL BULLDOGS

December 15, 2023

Dear Families,

We want to thank families and friends for joining us on Thursday for our December Assembly. We hope this was an opportunity for you to see what we enjoy seeing at the end of each month from our students. Our assemblies are an opportunity for each classroom to share their achievements and classroom goals and share what they have been working on over the past month. This is an opportunity for our school to come together as a community of care and support each other in celebrating each other's achievements.



Student performances during our December assembly allowed students to demonstrate the use of a variety of instruments and showcase the learning in classes.



Food Drive: December 6th to 13th

Thank you to all the families and students who supported our food drive. This supports many families in the community!



Grade 6 Students: Open House at Bell HS

As we look to the new year, we are inviting our **New Bruins** (incoming grade 7's) families to join us on **Jan 11 @ 6:30pm** for an information session (around 20-30 minutes) and open house (until 8pm).

In an effort to support family involvement, this date is shared with the Bell HS Info Night as well as the much anticipated Art Show.

Families are welcome to visit the school and the many available programs and amenities as they explore the space.

Parents will also have an opportunity to explore the High School as the Grade 8 (HS) parent information sessions will also be underway.

BCPS Spirit Day - "Show your Holiday Spirit"



At BCPS, we recognize that...

- People celebrate and observe different holidays, observances, and celebrations
- People express celebrations in different ways.
- Not all celebrations are religious or cultural.

Through our Spirit Day we want to...

- Validate Non-Dominant Experiences
- Not Make Assumptions
- Let everyone share their celebrations and particular holiday openly
- Value Community

On **December 20th**, we are encouraging all Bulldogs to wear colours, dressings, symbols that represent a celebration, holiday, or pride that is part of their identity. We look forward to continuing to learn from each other.

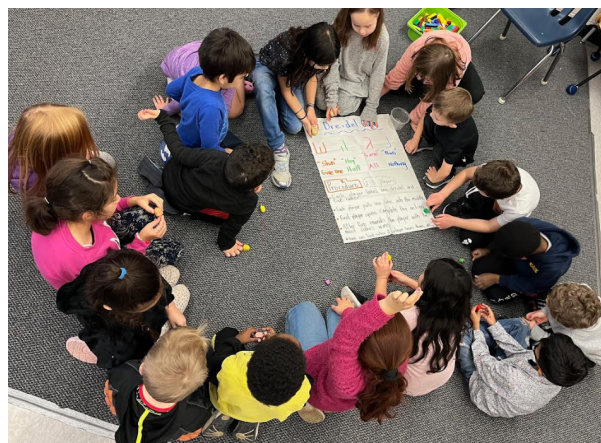
Why this time of year?

With colder weather, seasonal changes, and less daylight, people are accustomed to getting together with friends, family and the community to celebrate traditions, religious beliefs, culture and history. During this time of year, festivals and holidays are filled with rituals and practices to honour heritage, raising our spirits to find optimism and hope for the coming days and year ahead. Bulldogs take the opportunity all year round to learn about our classmates and staff celebrations within our school community. Learning about holidays celebrated in different cultures is a lot of fun and helps us appreciate diversity.



Kindness Squad Presents: School-Wide BINGO

Our grade 5 and 6 Kindness Leaders are at it again! They are organizing a school-wide BINGO through google meet for the entire school to participate. Students will have the chance to either work as a class, individually, or in pairs to play! Participating in school-wide activities that unites us creates community. Kindness Squad continues their quest in MAKING KINDNESS THE NORM at BCPS.



Happy Hanukkah!

This year, Hanukkah was celebrated December 7-15th. The eight-day Jewish celebration of Hanukkah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar and usually falls in November or December.

Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts. We wish all families celebrating a Happy Hanukkah.

Toy Mountain

Toy Mountain is available for families and is still accessible this week by contacting: *211 for Toy Mountain

Transportation

A reminder that we have 3 buses for our school this year:

- X86 AM/PM (red bus)
- E102 AM/E78 PM (blue bus)
- E59 AM/PM (green bus) ****Canceled until further notice****

Please check bus planner to verify your child's bus stop and time.

Dress For The Weather

We encourage students to dress for the weather. As the temperature changes, please send students with a jacket/coat to school. Similarly, students must be prepared to go outside for recess in rain or shine. **Support is available if you require outdoor clothing items.**

***REMINDER: yard supervision begins at 9:00 a.m.. Therefore, no students left unattended on school property before this time. This maintains student safety.**

Picking up your Student at end of day

If your student's pick up arrangements change at the end of day, you need to notify the office no later than **2:30 p.m.** This allows the office and educators to prepare the student(s) for pick up and this also ensures safety of traffic at the end of the day. Especially bus students who are not taking the bus, this needs to be clear **before 2:30 p.m.** You can also email bcpsattendance@ocdsb.ca to let us know **before 2:30pm** that your student's pick up arrangements have changed.

Signing Students in and out outside of arrival and dismissal times

If you are picking up/dropping off your student outside of the usual arrival and dismissal times, you must ring the bell to notify the office you are here and who you are picking up. As with last year's procedure, families will wait outside for their students to come out. For drop off, the office will unlock the door and only the student will come in. For kindergarten students, a staff member will be there to greet the child. **Please try to avoid student pick up during recess times during 11:15am to 11:40am or 2pm to 2:25pm.** It makes it difficult to locate your child in the yard and this avoids unnecessary wait times.

Reporting Your Student's Absence

In order to ensure the safety of our students it is **IMPORTANT** that families continue to notify the school when their **child is absent**. This also applies to days when the **buses are canceled or the weather is extremely bad.** **We should be notified of all student absences.**

Please email us at bcpsattendance@ocdsb.ca. and leave a detailed message with your child's name and teacher and nature of absence. You can also leave a detailed voicemail by calling the school attendance line at 613-828-3559



School Council News

Are you interested in joining the School Council this year? This dynamic team of family members meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8pm. We meet in the school library with a hybrid option of tuning in virtually via google meet. You are also welcome to join as a voting member or simply as a community member at large to observe and learn about the latest that is taking place in our school. Please email either sc-bellscornersps@ocdsb.ca or sadhana.lad@ocdsb.ca for more details to join our next meeting that will be taking place **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at 6:30pm** in our library.

Dates to Remember

December 20th, 2023: School-Wide Bingo (Virtual) at 1pm & “Show Your Holiday Spirit” Day

December 25th - January 5th, 2023: School Closed to staff and students. Happy Holidays to those celebrating during this time.

January 8th, 2024: First day back to school for staff & students

January 9th, 2023: School Council Meeting (6:30-8pm, school library or via google meet)

We hope everyone has an enjoyable weekend.

**Take Care,
Sadhana & Elysa**