



BELLS CORNERS PUBLIC SCHOOL

BULLDOGS

August 28, 2023

Dear BCPS Families,



Welcome to our 2023/2024 school year! If you are new to Bells Corners, Sadhana Lad and Elysa Esposito are your proud Principal/Vice Principal Team. We look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the school year to support your student(s). Our BCPS families are an integral part of student well-being and achievement and we are excited to meet you and foster a collaborative approach in your student's success.

Dates to Remember

August 28th: Office will reopen (For the week of Aug 28 - Sept 1st, office hour are: 9am - 3:30pm)

September 1st - 1st communication from your child's new teacher(s) via email by 4pm

September 5, 2023 : First Day of School for BCPS (information will be sent by classroom teachers to family emails)

September 13, 2023 : First BCPS School Council Meeting in the School library starting at 6:30 pm

First Day of School Procedures September 5th, 2023:

Kindergarten to grade 6 students will be starting on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023. Our staff are very excited to be welcoming students and meeting our new members of our school community. Please read through information carefully regarding the 1st day of school and procedures that will help families navigate entry to school.

Kindergarten Students

We understand this is an exciting time for students and families. We kindly ask that once you have dropped off your child at the kindergarten gates near the main entrance of the school, to please exit the yard. This is the area where all our bus students disembark from the buses and vans. We need to try and avoid congestion so we assist bus and van students.

Kindergarten students must be accompanied by a trusted adult to the front kinder yard of the school. If you are driving to school, please park your car in a designated parking zone and bring your kindergarten student(s) straight to the front of the school.

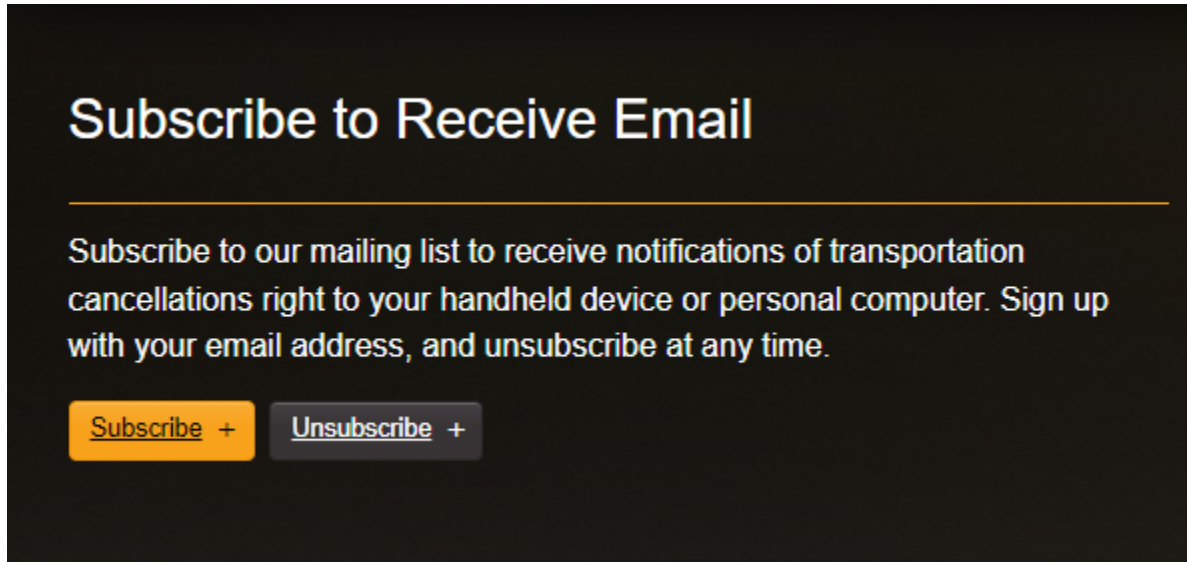
Students in Grades 1 to 6

All available staff will be outside on the first day to help students orient themselves and ensure they are in the right area and find their educator. For safety reasons, we ask that all families please stay outside of the gray gates. There will be plenty of staff members to welcome students outside and ready to assist you.

Buses and Vans are Running!

All students who are qualified and have decided to take school transportation, can do so starting September 5th. **We encourage all Bulldogs to get into the routine early to make the transition to the new school year a successful one.** When your child comes off the bus or the van, there will be many staff on duty ready to welcome your student and guide them to the proper area according to their grade level.

IMPORTANT: The office does not have up to date information when bus or van routes are canceled suddenly or delayed. Families are encouraged to check the [OSTA Website](#) regularly for any cancellations or delays. We recommend that you subscribe to their alerts by going to the bottom of their main page, to receive notifications straight to your email.



Subscribe to Receive Email

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive notifications of transportation cancellations right to your handheld device or personal computer. Sign up with your email address, and unsubscribe at any time.

[Subscribe +](#) [Unsubscribe +](#)

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

Walkers and Bikers

We encourage all students who can walk or bike to school to do so. There are bike racks for students to secure their bikes for the day. Children need to wear a properly fitted bike helmet when riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard at all times.

Family car drop off

Families who are driving their students to school can drop off starting at **9:00 a.m.**

If you are driving your child to school, please drive your car around along our grey fence. If there are already cars dropping off students, please wait until the cars have cleared the way and have left and you can reach the front of the gate. For safety reasons, we do not want students walking in the parking lot.



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.

School Schedule

Please find below our school schedule:

9-9:15 - student arrival, begin of supervision

9:15-11:15 - 1st learning block

11:15-11:40 - recess

11:40-12 - nutrition

12-2 - 2nd learning block

2-2:25 - recess

2:25-2:45 - nutrition

2:45-3:45 - 3rd learning block

3:45-4 - student dismissal

**Report
Student
Absence**

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 next year? This dynamic team of parents 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. Council is actively looking for a **Secretary/Recorder**. 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 first meeting that will take place Tuesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:30pm in our library.

Looking forward to welcoming your student on September 5th and beginning our new school year together!

**Take Care,
Sadhana Lad and Elysa Esposito**