



# Barnwell School

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Barnwell School Advisory Council  
September Principal's Report  
September 6, 2023  
Barnwell Library 6:30 pm

- 1.) We have a current student enrollment of 194 students including our Pre-K classes this year. We have welcomed Jill Flockhart and Wade Goertzen as new staff members, and we have increased teaching time for Shane Johnson and Annie Leray to fill-in for Jeff Milner and Aaron Edlund who are both currently on leave. We currently have 11 teachers and 9 support staff including our counselling staff, Hailey Astalos is returning as our family connections worker and Alicia Yetman is our new counselor.
- 2.) We've had a good start-up and students seem to be in swing of things with their classes even with all of the classroom changes. With a reduced staffing we've had to shuffle teaching assignments around, however, we are confident that we have a team in place that will continue to make learning exciting for kids and provide support where needed.
- 3.) This year instead of a Student Council, we have created a student leadership option class. We are hoping that this format allows students to show leadership in a variety of different ways plus it allows them to have time to properly prepare in advance for events.
- 4.) Last May, I talked to Lifetouch about our school picture day. I requested a change of backdrop and told them I'd prefer to have no backdrop in lieu of what they have. If this year's backdrop is not satisfactory, we will be using the gym wall with the Barnwell mats. With the increased costs, Lifetouch will no longer be providing free class photos. They will be available for purchase for a low fee of approximately \$7. They will continue to offer discounts for families of more than one student, however, overall, our school has not had a large percentage of families opt to buy school pictures.
- 5.) Horizon is moving forward with new report cards beginning this year. We will be using Power School, which is the same program high schools have been using for years. Our JH classes will be receiving percentage scores for their core classes, and we'll continue to use a 1-4 system with the elementary. We have not seen what the new report cards will look like. It will be a surprise for all of us!
- 6.) At the end of school last year, we recognized that our last day of school did not have much to offer our elementary students. At our start-up meeting we have decided to create an evening event for our Grade 9 class to recognize their accomplishments at our school, and we will look for more ways to include some elementary involvement with an "End of Year" presentation which highlights what every grade has done- not just the Grade 9's and a few JH. We will keep you posted as we get closer to the time.

Excelling in the 3 A's: Academics, Arts, Athletics!

- 7.) We are working on being more consistent with student achievement and recognition this year with our Purple Pride Assemblies. They will be held on the last Thursday of each month during period 5- the last period before lunch. Teachers will be presenting their own certificates and explaining why a student has received it. Classes will also be signing up to present a form of entertainment. We will be notifying families if their child is receiving something so that arrangements can be made if they'd like to attend.
- 8.) New lockers were installed over the weekend and we are waiting on some new furniture for the Kindergarten room including a new carpet and some new tables. We also ordered some tables instead of desks to be used in Ms. Forbes room.
- 9.) We are moving towards getting one to one chromebook access for our students. We will be seeking support from the Society for this in the future once we have figured out what we need.
- 10.) Thanks for some staff members, we have started the volleyball season rolling at Barnwell. It's a huge learning curve when you've relied on someone for so long to take care of a program fully but we are working through it. Our hope is to sit down and fully look at the scope of what is needed and then meet with parents of kids in sports to share how they can help us out to ensure the programs keep running.
- 11.) We'd like to remind parents that when parking along the street to drop off or pick up students. Please remain at least 6 ft away from the entrance of the bus loop. It is difficult for our busses to make the turn when a car is parked right at the entrance. We will be placing a pylon in the area as a reminder. Also, please do not ask your child to cut across the front lawn to get to the car. It's very dangerous for our drivers to see our kids when they are going between buses and it causes a hazard. Tell them to use our sidewalks and walkways to get to where they need to be. Finally, we have also noticed that students are being careless when riding their bikes or other forms of transportation to school. They are not watching for vehicles, pedestrians and are often cutting across the bus loop when we have buses parked or when we are waiting for buses. This is extremely dangerous and we'd appreciate it if you reviewed wheel safety with your kids. We are looking at bringing in some community support to help teach rules of the road.

Other Important Upcoming Dates:

September 14- Welcome Back BBQ  
September 15- Terry Fox Run  
September 21/22- No School, PD Day  
September 28- Purple Pride  
September 29- Truth & Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day  
September 30- No School, Truth and Reconciliation Day  
October 9- No School, Thanksgiving  
October 11- Zones Cross-Country  
October 19- Parent-Teacher Interviews  
October 20- No School- PD  
October 26-30th- Book Fair