

MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY WELCOME

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Welcome to September 2023! We hope that your school year start up has been a positive experience. The start of our school year has been very exciting and we have been enjoying working with the new staff and students. We would like to welcome Mr. Peter Schmid, our grade five-six teacher and brings a wealth of experience to our school.

Mrs. Muik (Hot Lunch Coordinator) has been working hard to prepare our kitchen for our **Hot lunch program** this year. Our before school and after school snack program starts on September 11th (8:15 am and 2:30 pm). We offer a free snack to our students Monday-Friday. We are planning to start our Hot lunch program mid September—watch for more communication on that.

If there are any cost for food programs support needed, simply reach out to either Mrs. Klassen or Mr. McGifford and we will help out without question.

Merritt Bench PAC—Our Parent Advisory Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. We highly encourage you to consider sitting in on the meetings, or even better—join the PAC executive. Without an active PAC—our students will not be able to access provincial grant funding that supports field trips and items like our new school playground.

Important Items:

As in the past, Merritt Bench Elementary School partners with the **Safe Arrival Program**. Parents may receive communications from the Safe Arrival Program if their child(ren) are identified as being absent or late from class.

Daily Supervision is provided by the staff at Merritt Bench Elementary. Morning supervision begins at 8:15 am, during recess, and until 2:45 pm each day. We are encouraging students to not arrive earlier than 8:15 am and to depart from school grounds by 2:45 pm. Doing so, will help ensure students are not left unsupervised during non-instructional times.

School Access for Families: Please access the school and report to the main office, doing so helps us maintain a certain level of awareness of school visitors, especially if students are being picked up early.

School Clothing order forms will be sent out this fall, please be mindful of Order By dates as we move forward on the orders. Grade 7 Hoodies will also be organized this year, we are just sorting through designs and ordering processes. More information will be made available to MBE families soon.



SEPTEMBER

General Lunch Hour Supervisors:

During lunch hours, MBE students are supervised by our Noon Hour Supervisors. Our appreciations go to: Brandy, Rita, Nikki, Diane, and Marcia. Our supervisors are tasked with ensuring students are safe during lunch hours and will remind student of our school wide expectations. If ever there are concerns, the supervisors to report to the office for guidance and support. Our students are reminded to be respectful when direction whenever deemed necessary by our supervisors.

Important Dates for September

September 11—Before school and afterschool snack program begins, first full day of kindergarten.

September 18th—School individual photos, Pizza Mondays start

September 19th—Hot lunch program begins Watch for email

September 29th—Orange Shirt Day—

October 2nd—No classes, Truth and Reconciliation Day

Student Verification Forms:

Ms. Klassen will send out a form package to parents, please make sure to update any changes on the forms-and return to the school as soon as possible.

MBE Student Code of Conduct

Our students are expected to treat others with kindness and consideration. When necessary, students will be reminded of our school wide expectations. We would like to involve parent feedback, use a clear and collaborative approach. If you have any concerns relating to a peer conflict, please reach out to your child(rens) classroom teacher or myself and we will work to support a resolution.

Classroom Connections—Ms. Shackelly, our FNSW and is looking forward to connecting with staff and students this school year. There will be many opportunities for students, we will starting our year off with an invitation for students in grade 4-7 to join the MBE Drumming group. Practices will take place during lunch hours.

Students will need to keep an ear out for school announcements and join Ms. Shackelly to practice in our school gym.

Terry Fox Run will be taking place near the end of September. Teachers are collecting donations over the next couple weeks, please reach out to us in the office if you have any questions.

Student Safety at MBE will always be a high priority and we ask that pick-up and drop off routines take into consideration our need to minimize traffic congestion in our parking lot and along Grimmett Street. Our parking lot is used for After School care pick up, please be mindful of student and staff pedestrians if you are accessing the school parking lot. Please do not park along the office entrance, that area needs to be reserved for deliveries and district maintenance vehicles.