



Beattie Elementary School

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www.beattie.sd73.bc.ca

December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank You!

Thank you to each parent who took the time to talk with teachers at our parent/teacher conferences on November 3rd. There is tremendous power in teachers and families working together. If you were unable to meet for the conferences please feel free to contact your child's(ren's) teacher directly to schedule an appointment. Thank you as well to all Grade One parents who participated in the virtual "Come Read With Me" program. This session was a great opportunity for parents to learn some positive reading strategies to help with their child's literacy development.

Winter Showcase

Yes, Beattie Elementary will be having a Winter Showcase this year. Unfortunately, it will look a little different due to Covid-19 as it will be held virtually, but everyone will have a front row seat. This year's theme is 'Beattie does the 80's' featuring 11 of the most popular songs from the 80's. A link to the virtual showcase will be sent out just before the holiday.

No school on Monday, December 6th

Just a reminder that there is no school on Monday December 6th. This is a professional learning day for teachers and support staff in our district.

Winter Vacation

Winter Break this year runs from December 20th to January 3rd. Classes resume January 4th. The staff at Beattie Elementary wishes you and your family all the best for this holiday season.



December School Spirit Days

Friday, Dec. 3rd – Holiday Spirit Day -

red/green/white, Santa or Elf hat, festive accessories (jewelry, antlers, red-nose, Christmas socks, etc. (no face paint))

Friday, Dec. 10th – Crazy Christmas Hair Day –

Create your craziest Christmas hairdo.

Monday, Dec. 13th – Christmas Sweater Day (or Christmas Shirt)

Friday, Dec. 17th – Long Winter's Nap Day –

pajamas, slippers, robe

Christmas Food Hampers

Beattie Elementary will once again be collecting non-perishable food items for Christmas food hampers. Hampers will be delivered to families in need in the community during the last week of school. Your kind donations are appreciated.



Scholastic Book Fair

Beattie Elementary's annual **Scholastic Book Fair** was a great success again this year! Total sales were \$4,436.10. Which means \$2,600 worth of new books for our library! Thank you to the entire Beattie Community for supporting our library.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bins (located just past the front entry way) are ALWAYS full!!!. At the end of the school day on Fridays lost and found bins are put outside the main front doors for parents to go through. PLEASE if you notice that your child has something

missing, have your child take a look through the bins or stop by when picking up your child on Fridays to check for whatever it is. We would love all items to be returned to their owners but must rely on the students and their parents to make this happen! Thanks for helping us out with this!

Cold Weather Reminders

Please work with your child to help them be prepared for spending their break times outdoors. Students are outside in the mornings before school, during recess, and during lunch. Hats, gloves or mittens are a definite musts! We would ask that all children also have boots to wear outside, and appropriate shoes to change into for wear inside, including in gym classes. It would also be helpful for them to have layers that they can add or remove according to inside and outside temperatures. When/if the weather becomes really extreme, we will judge on a day by day basis as to whether it will be an inside or an outside day. Thanks for helping!



School Fees

School fees are now due to the office and statements have been sent home for students with outstanding balances. There are now three options for payment: cash, cheque or SchoolCash Online. Preferred method of payment is SchoolCash Online. If a payment plan needs to be arranged, please feel free to call the office.

Indoor Shoes

As the weather changes, it is important to note that students are required to wear indoor footwear for health and safety purposes. Please have your son or daughter bring and leave a pair of inside shoes at school as the weather is certainly wetter and outside shoes are tracking in a lot of mud and water. On our linoleum stairs this can be a serious slipping hazard for our students and staff and we would be sorry to see anyone injured in a fall.

Safe Arrival

Please remember that all student absences and late arrivals must to be reported by calling 1-844-350-2647, by visiting go.schoolmessenger.ca, or download the school messenger app. Please do not call the school directly. All absences or late arrivals that have not been reported before 8:45 am will initiate the School District’s safe arrival system to call home and

cell phone numbers up to 5 times until a parent is reached and a response is given.

There are now three categories to choose from when notifying the school of your child’s absence due to illness. Please choose either respiratory illness, gastrointestinal illness or general illness. By distinguishing between these three categories of illness Interior Health will have more accurate data regarding the illnesses affecting the community.

Before and After School Pick Up and Student Safety

A reminder to parents that the school parking lot is limited to STAFF PARKING ONLY. To help ensure the safety of our students, parents should not be driving through the parking lot at any time to drop off or pick up their children. Please park on the designated spots on McGill or in the Freshco parking lot. We appreciate your understanding.

Entrances & Exits

At this point, all students should know which door is for their designated use. If your child is late please use the main door and someone will let them in. Upon entering the building, students should then notify the office that they have arrived.

Important Dates!

Tuesday, Jan 4 th	School Reopens
Friday, Feb 4 th	District – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, Feb 21 st	Family Day
March 21st-April 1st	Spring Break
Friday, April 15 th	Good Friday
Monday, April 18 th	Easter Monday
Monday, April 25 th	District – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, May 20 th	District – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 23 rd	Victoria Day
Thursday, June 30 th	Administrative Day



COVID-19

Vaccination for children

5-11 years old



What are the benefits to getting children vaccinated against COVID-19?

While most children who get COVID-19 have a minor illness, a small number get very sick. Some children may continue to have health issues for long periods of time after the initial illness. Children are also able to pass on COVID-19 to other people in their families and communities.

Vaccinating children helps keep them safe as well as others around them – especially older adults, younger children and infants, and those with illnesses.

COVID-19 vaccine approval process for children

There is a very strict process to test and approve vaccines in Canada. These vaccines work and are safe for children aged 5-11.

Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine for children?

This vaccine is for any child between 5 and 11 years. If your child is 4 years old, you will not be able to get them vaccinated until after their 5th birthday. The vaccines are free and your children do not need BC Care Cards to receive them.



How can I explain how the COVID-19 vaccination works to my children?

Explain that the vaccine helps make sure they don't get sick by quickly fighting off the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine is so powerful that it even helps to protect the people around them, including their family and friends. **Kids Boost Immunity** has videos that explain more.

Who can provide consent for children to be vaccinated?



Parents/guardians, (including foster parents and prospective adoptive parents) and other custodial caregivers (for example, a grandparent who is raising the child).

Only one parent or legal guardian is required to give consent. The process for collecting consent may be different depending on the immunization clinic you attend.

Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccinations?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time as other childhood vaccinations, including the flu shot.

These support techniques apply to other childhood vaccinations. Check if your child is up-to-date with their vaccines at children's immunizations schedules. Arrange with your healthcare provider to have any missed vaccinations given as soon as possible.

Before the appointment

- Children should be told about the injection close to the actual day of the vaccine. For school-age children, one day before may be appropriate.
- Encourage your child to ask questions. It's important they understand what will happen at the appointment and feel comfortable. HealthLink BC has more information on preparing children for vaccines: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/immunization-experience-child>



- Try the **CARD system** to help your child find their preferred way to prepare for the vaccine:
 - Comfort
 - Ask
 - Relax
 - Distract
- There are simple breathing techniques that young children can learn to keep calm. Children can practise **breathing exercises** by pretending they are blowing bubbles. A team from BC Children's Hospital has developed a game to help children practise belly breathing which is proven to manage anxiety. Access it at respiire.com/COVID-19.html

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On the day of the appointment

- Some people find **numbing creams or patches** help. You can buy these without a prescription at most pharmacies. Apply them an hour before the appointment.
- Do not focus your child's attention on the needle with comments like "It'll be over soon, and you'll be okay," as this can increase stress. Instead, try distracting them with puzzles or chatting, and breathing techniques.
- Healthcare providers at immunization clinics are trained to work with children and can help you to support your child.



For more information on COVID-19 vaccination for children, including how to register your child, visit <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/vaccines-children>

After the appointment

- There are some common side effects such as pain, redness and itchiness at the injection site. These will pass quickly. Serious side effects are very rare, but if you notice any health changes contact 811 or your healthcare provider.
 - One very rare side effect is myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle. Most cases are mild and treated with rest and improve quickly. COVID-19 disease can also cause myocarditis and the risk of it from the disease is much higher than the risk from vaccination.
 - Symptoms to look out for:
 - Chest pain
 - Shortness of breath
 - Feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm
- If your child experiences these symptoms, seek medical help right away. Inform the healthcare provider that your child received a COVID-19 vaccine recently.
- COVID-19 vaccination has no impact on future fertility. There is no biological way for this to occur.

