

# École Belgo Elementary

*Our Values: Community, Respect, Compassion, Responsibility and Perseverance*

## Welcome Back!

It has been a positive and smooth start up for us at Belgo. The first week concluded with time spent building community as a whole school during an assembly, and then outside with our buddy classes. We have plans to really focus on our values this year, and for September we will work on "community". The better connected and supported each learner is, the greater the sense of belonging and likeliness of success. This month will set the foundation for our work with our four other values throughout the year: respect, compassion, responsibility and perseverance.

We are now looking forward to connecting with our wider community as we welcome parents for our **Meet & Greet** this Thursday morning between **8am and 8:30 am**.



We will also be coming together again at the end of this week for our Terry Fox Assembly and Run this coming Friday.

## SEPTEMBER

**12**  
**MEET & GREET**  
 8:00- 8:30  
 Outside  
 Classroom Doors

**13**  
**TERRY FOX**  
 Assembly and  
 Run  
 starting at 10:00

**19**  
**PAC MEETING**  
 6:30 in school  
 library

**20**  
**SCHOOL SPIRIT  
 DAY**  
 Wear blue &  
 yellow or your  
 spirit shirts

**30**  
**ORANGE SHIRT  
 DAY  
 &  
 CULTURAL  
 PERFORMANCE**

## Fees and Online Payment

School fees are now due. Cultural Fees are \$10.00 and school supplies are \$35.00 for a total of \$45.00. We are encouraging all fees to be paid online in order to reduce the amount of money coming in to the school. The on-line payment option is located on the Belgo website [www.bge.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.bge.sd23.bc.ca). Just click on the link and follow the directions. The on-line payment allows the use of a credit card or your checking account. If there are any difficulties with payment please see the office to make arrangements.

## Breakfast Program

We are delighted that this program will continue at École Belgo Elementary this year. In partnership with Hope for the Nations, and Belgo parent volunteers, we will be offering various food items (yogurt, fruit, muffins, etc.) to all students. All food is donated; therefore, the variety offered may vary from week-to-week. This is not intended to replace breakfast at home, but as an option for students who arrive at school feeling like they may not have had sufficient food to start their day. The program will be available Monday to Friday from 8:00am until 8:20am, starting Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>. There is no sign up required. This year again, students will be allowed in the school via the back door. They then proceed to the Breakfast Program counter by the gym where they can find something to eat. There is no seating space; therefore, students will be encouraged to grab and go. If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer, please contact the school or the following parents: Brenda Aubin at [brenda@kelownanotary.ca](mailto:brenda@kelownanotary.ca) or via text at 250-863-3922. The program cannot run

## Parents & Visitors in the School

Please note that as we continue to try to make our school a safe learning environment for all, we try to control parent circulation in the building. Unexpected visitors interrupt learning and create distractions. Unidentified and unknown adults make staff and students wonder who they are encountering. **We will require all parents and visitors in our building to wear a visitor's badge.**

In order to receive a visitor's badge, parents and guests must sign in at the office upon arrival. If you are only stopping in to deliver a forgotten item, or to drop off a lunch, we kindly ask that you leave it at the office and we will make sure it reaches your child in a timely manner. If you wish to touch base with a teacher, even if it is before school, please stop by the office and we will check on the teacher's availability and locate him or her for you. Finally, access to breakfast club is via the back door, and travels for the purpose of breakfast should be limited to the back hallway.

without parent volunteers and we need one or two parents each day. The first shift is 7:50 to 8:10 to set up and the second shift is from 8:10 to 8:30 to clean up. Please contact Mrs. Aubin if you can help.

A great big thank you to Mrs. Aubin and to the other parent volunteers for their dedication to the program. It has been a great success for the last four years.



## Volunteering in School: Criminal Record Check Required

To all parents and anyone who wants to volunteer with the school; please remember that volunteers are required to fill out and return a criminal record check. We want to provide all our students with a safe environment at all times. The checks do take a few weeks to get completed and returned by the RCMP, so we encourage you to plan ahead. If you are wanting to start the process, please stop by the office.

## Hotlunch

Dear Parents:

The Belgo Hot Lunch Program will run each Friday starting October 4th. In order to receive emails about the program, place orders, receive reminders and other information you must register your child. Each year the system is wiped clean so even if you have registered in the past you must re-register. The website for the hot lunch program is

[www.belgo.hotlunches.net](http://www.belgo.hotlunches.net) and the access code for this year is BELGO2019. Session 1 ordering will open up mid September so be on the lookout for an email and an announcement on our Belgo PAC Facebook page. If you have any questions regarding hot lunch feel free to send an email at [belgohotlunch@hotmail.com](mailto:belgohotlunch@hotmail.com).

Thank you, Your Hot Lunch Team

## Nut Allergies and Food Sharing

Please remember that we strive to keep our school nut free. Peanuts are especially critical

and we ask students, parents and others who come into the building to avoid bringing peanut products as we have children with potentially deadly allergies to peanuts. We also have students who have allergies to other nuts; therefore, we ask that we avoid nuts altogether. If a child brings a snack containing nuts or nut products to school, we will simply ask him or her to let their teacher or another staff member hold on to it until the end of the day, at which point they will be asked to take it home. We will not let students go hungry and will make sure that we try to contact you or provide an alternate snack or lunch when necessary.

We hope that by educating children and adults, as well as by encouraging hand washing before coming to school when peanuts have been consumed, we can help make the school a safer place for our children who suffer from these allergies.



## Safe Driving and Common Courtesy

We want to remind all drivers that school zones are in effect and that all our little people are here. We appreciate everyone using caution as they drive in our proximity.

We ask that *parents do not enter the parking lot gates to drop off and pick up* as it is a very busy area with children walking in all directions. Please drop off along the sidewalk and keep an eye out for all children including

those waiting to cross. I understand that everyone is in a hurry in the morning, but the potential risk is not worth the few seconds you might save by not being courteous or by speeding. Thank you to all of you for the efforts made in keeping our children safe.

Once again, I have been asked by our neighbours to also remind parents to be aware of where they park. Please do not block driveways and respect the “no parking” zones, the “no stopping” zones, as well as the “parallel parking only” zones. Please remember that there are a number of alleys giving access to the school grounds from each street surrounding our school. Using the different drop off points reduces the congestion up front during pick up and drop off.

## Student Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student injuries** that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students is now discontinued and the IA Financial Group will be offering the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan. This new product will be available to current insureds as well as new insureds and more information will be provided to the District for distribution to parents and guardians later in the year.

### TIPS TO HELP THE OFFICE

- ★ After school plans and calls to the office: Please make arrangements regarding your child’s after school plans before he/she leaves for school and share the plans with him/her. We are glad to help when things come up and we understand that plans sometimes change. This being said, please remember that we look after about 350 students with different after school plans. Even if only 1/10 of our students have emergency change of plans during the day, that would mean 35 phone calls to the office and 35 messages to relay before the end of the day. We appreciate all that you do to make sure you limit the after school messages to emergency change of plans, and we hope you understand.
- ★ Please use the online payment option. If you must send a cheque: when writing a cheque or any communication with the school, if your last name is different than that of your child, please reference your child’s last name as well.
- ★ Absences: please remember to notify the office in regards to any absences or lateness, even if you have let the teacher know. You can call the school as the voicemail system is available 24 hours a day or you can use *School Messenger*. See more information at <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=>.
- ★ If your child is late, she/he must check in at the office upon arrival before going to her/his classroom, otherwise he or she remains marked as absent. If you sign out your child early with the help of *School Messenger*, you must still come in to sign them out when you pick them up.
- ★ Medical Alert: If your child has a medical alert, please make sure to stop by the office to fill out a Medical Alert Planning Form.

Links to our updated Matrix and Code of Conduct - Please Review

## No Pets on School Grounds

While we do love pets, pets are NOT ALLOWED on school property for safety and health reasons.

Schools within School District #23 have a policy where dogs are not permitted on school property at any time (even on a leash).

This is a health and safety issue where the School District must comply with Division 1, Part 107 of the Workers Compensation Act (WCB). By bringing dogs onto school grounds, the health and safety issue is exposing students and staff to the hazards of dog bites, dog fights, and dog feces which has to be cleaned up by school staff. Even if dog owners clean up messes, the residue can still be left on the grass where children play.

Therefore, in order to stay in compliance with the Regulation and our own School Policy, dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time.

## Home Support

I would like to encourage you to start off the new school year on the right foot by establishing routines early on. Encourage your child to go to bed early in order to be alert and fully benefit from his/her time at school. Send healthy snacks and lunches to school with your child and establish a homework routine which includes a quiet space to work and a regular homework time. Remember to include daily reading as part of your routine.

## Student & Family Handbook

A revised copy of our student & family handbook has been posted on our Belgo webpage.

<http://www.bge.sd23.bc.ca/aboutus/HandBook/Pages/default.aspx>

## Central Okanagan Public Schools Policies

### Appeals

The School District Appeals Policy states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in School District No. 23 may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student".

For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the ‘Policies’ link under the Board of Education heading on the School District’s homepage – [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca).

### Hardship

Within School District Policy 425 – Student Fees (see [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)), the Board of Education has indicated “that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship”. This clause in the policy provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school principal, Mme Bedard, at 250.870.5115 if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

## French Classes with Centre Culturel Francophone de l’Okanagan

Follow the link for information:

# PARENT SOCIAL

PRESENTED BY THE BELGO PAC

WHERE: WINGS TAP&GRILL  
1-590 HWY 33 WEST (WILLOW PARK)

WHEN: OCTOBER 3RD 6-8PM (NO KIDS)

PAC WILL PROVIDE APPIES AND A DRINK

COME OUT AND MEET THE PAC AND CONNECT WITH OTHER  
PARENTS IN A FUN AND RELAXED SETTING

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM ( & MILK )

Please return the portion below only if you wish to decline or select soy instead of milk.  
No need to return the form if you are happy to have your child take part in the program.

As part of the Fruit and Vegetable Program, your child will be offered a fruit or vegetable snack every two weeks unless you return this portion of the newsletter to inform us that you want to opt out. Also part of the Fruit and Vegetable Program, your child will receive milk when it is distributed to the class at no cost once every two weeks unless you opt out below, or chose a soy based beverage.

\_\_\_ I would like my child to **opt out** of the fruit/vegetable program.

\_\_\_ I would like my child to **receive a soy based beverage instead of milk** when milk is distributed to the class at no cost.

\_\_\_ I would like my child to **opt out** and receive neither milk nor soy beverage when these are distributed to the class.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_