

Bedford Forsyth Education Centres

2017 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED

Please check our website at:
www.bfec.hrsb.ca for up-to-date information and
follow BFEC on twitter @BFEC_HRSB

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BFEC High School

Providing a high quality education for every student every day.

Quarter 2 Classes Begin

Dear Students and Parents:

It has been a very busy start to the school year at BFEC! It is hard to believe that Quarter 1 classes have finished and that we have started Quarter 2 classes.

Expectations for students are for regular school attendance, being on time for classes, completing assigned course work and maintaining a positive and safe school environment. We want our students to be proud of their school, their community and to work towards graduation and transitioning to either the workplace or post secondary options.

On December 20th we will host our annual Holiday Lunch, activities and New to You tables. This is a free event for all students and it is a lot of fun! We draw for prizes and gift cards throughout the day. The day takes place at our Bedford campus. Dartmouth students will leave by school bus at 11am and arrive back to Dartmouth at 1:30pm. Regular classes take place both before and after the Holiday Lunch. Dartmouth students will need a signed permission form to attend the event. These are available in the main office.

The staff of BFEC is here to support the learning and development of our students and to liaise and communicate with parent/guardians about learning. Please, do not hesitate to contact your teachers when you need extra help or support. Our social worker and guidance counsellors are available to support students and families.

I encourage you to log into PowerSchool Student/Parent portal regularly to check attendance and marks (see Web-Based Student Information System below). Please make sure that your most up to date address and phone number are in our system. I will be using Twitter, the school website, and School Messenger (the evening phone call system) to communicate with you on a regular basis throughout the school year.

There are updated procedures for school and bus cancellations due to bad weather. Please read the information on page 4 carefully.

Jenny-Kate Hadley
Principal

SCHOOL HOURS

The school doors are open at 9:20 am each morning and there is limited student supervision at this time. Students who arrive to school in the morning are to be in the cafeteria or foyer (Bedford) or in the student lounge (Dartmouth) under teacher supervision.

There is no supervision after 3:20 pm each afternoon. All students must be off school premises unless in a school supported extra curricular activity.

What's after graduation?

As you make your way through high school, it's important to plan what you are going to do after graduation! There are many options available to you including: heading straight to the work force, attending trades programs, colleges or university. Guidance counsellors Lisa D and Lisa R can help you with that!

If you have no idea what you would like to do, we can complete some simple assessments of your interests, abilities and skills together that might give you some ideas about suitable career options. If you know what you want to do and where you want to go, we can help with applications, references and looking at funding options.

Important Dates



Wednesday, December 20
Thursday, December 21

- BFEC Turkey lunch for all students
- Last day of classes before Christmas break

Wednesday, January 3

- First day of classes after Christmas break

Friday, January 26

- Exams begin

Friday, February 2

- Quarter 3 classes begin



STUDENT FEES

(Due on registration)

Includes Student Assemblies and Student recognition, Field trips, Student ID Card.

Student Fees \$20.00

BUS SCHEDULE

BFEC has a complimentary shuttle service that runs throughout the day to our Bedford site. Please see the schedule posted on our school website. There is no bussing at our Dartmouth location.



Health Centre

BFEC students should feel free to stop in and meet Sheila in our YHC. Sheila is always looking for student members to join the Health Centre Advisory, the Breakfast program leadership group and the GSA.

Sheila can provide support to students in areas like stress and relaxation, addictions, and mental health. She has excellent community connections that she would love to help our students access.



From Carol—Social Worker

This fall has been a very busy one with the continuation of social work support to those students and their parents/guardian with a variety of mental health and psycho/social issues that impact on the student's ability to succeed in school. This support has included seeing students and often their parents/guardians, on an individual basis and connecting them with appropriate community supports ranging from mental health, income assistance, accessing the food bank, acquiring appropriate identification, and a variety of other services. An IWK Choices staff person is at both campus sites on a bi-weekly basis to offer on-site addiction supports to students needing it. Other social work initiatives have included a clothing and winter jacket donation drive, and helping those students that request it, register for Christmas support.

Guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRSB staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, all or some schools may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.

Parents/ guardians; winter is coming; do you have a childcare plan in place in the event of a school closure? Do you know what *Family of Schools* your child's school belongs to? Parents/ guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

For **full day closures** of all or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRSB's website (www.hrsb.ca);
- Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRSB_Official);
- Recorded on the HRSB's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11 am. School busses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal, **walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time.

NEW! On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening.

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
- Pre-Primary opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change.