

Dec. 2018



# Birchwood Intermediate

Ron Carragher, Principal  
Patsy McDonald, Vice-Principal  
Jolene Johnston, Vice-Principal  
School website: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/edu/birchwood/>  
Twitter feed: [@BirchwoodCobras](https://twitter.com/BirchwoodCobras)  
Cobra Gear Store: [Shop](#)

Dec. 05 Turkey Dinner in Cafeteria at noon \$6.75  
**Dec. 05 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS 4:00- 7:00**  
Dec. 05 Cookie Dough Pick Up  
Dec. 07 Cake Auction  
Dec. 08 Santa Run at UPEI – 9:00 a.m.  
Dec. 12 Islanders Game 10:00 a.m.-12:00p.m. Black & Gold Day  
Dec. 13 Birchwood Christmas Band Concert 7:00 p.m. in Gym & Bake Sale  
Dec. 14 Food Drive  
Dec. 14 End of Candy Cane Sales  
Dec. 15 Babysitting Course  
Dec. 17-21 Spirit Week – Various Activities  
Dec. 24-Jan.3 Christmas Break  
Jan. 3 Classes Resume for 2019



## Public Schools Branch

tel: (902) 368-6990 Stratford; (902) 888-8400 Summerside;  
(800) 280-7965 Toll Free; [www.gov.pe.ca/edu/psb](http://www.gov.pe.ca/edu/psb)

## NOTICE TO PARENTS

### SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

All Public Schools Branch (PSB) weather related cancellations will be announced on local radio stations and posted on our website by 7:00 A.M. An announcement that "all classes in the Public Schools Branch are cancelled" means that there is no school for students. An announcement of a "system wide shutdown" indicates that all schools and offices are closed. In some instances it may only be necessary to close an individual school or a "family of schools". Partial system closures or delays will be announced by family of schools. (See Below)

### ONE HOUR DELAY

If a decision on cancellation cannot be made by 7:00 A.M., a one hour delay will be announced whereby all schools and buses will operate one hour later than usual. A further announcement will be broadcast by 8:00 A.M.

### LATE BUSES

In some instances, even in fine weather, buses may be delayed. Parents will be notified via radio broadcast that a bus will be delayed (i.e. Bus #297 is running 30 minutes late).

### SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING THE DAY

It may be necessary to close school part way through a school day. Detailed announcements will be made on local radio stations and posted to our PSB website as early as possible.

Parents who will not be at home when children arrive are responsible for making alternate arrangements for the care of their children on such days. If you have not done so already, please notify the school of these arrangements as soon as possible.

### EXTREME WEATHER DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Should the Department of Transportation and/or the RCMP recommend that school buses remain off Island roads, students may be required to remain at school beyond their normal dismissal time (unless picked up by a parent or designate). Announcements will be made on local radio stations and posted to our website.

On days when classes are in session, and the low temperature combined with wind provides a wind chill of -20 or below, students will not be required to go outside at recess or lunch, or remain outside upon morning arrival.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

1. **The final decision** to attend school or to travel to school via school bus always rests with the parent.
2. **Please do not drop children off at school** unless you are certain that school is operating that day and that staff are present to supervise the children.
3. **Please listen** to the radio and check the PSB website frequently between 6:30 and 8:00 A.M. daily to determine if schools are operating. Every effort will be made to have announcements broadcast by 7:00 A.M.
4. **Please do not** call the school, PSB office, or radio stations for information on cancellations or delays. Such calls tie up telephone lines which may be needed for emergency use.

## **CHARLOTTETOWN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

Charlottetown Rural High, Colonel Gray Senior High, Donagh Regional Birchwood Intermediate, Glen Stewart Primary, Parkdale Elementary, L.M. Montgomery Elem, Prince Street Elementary, Sherwood Elementary, Queen Charlotte Intermediate, Stonepark Intermediate, Spring Park Elementary, Stratford Elementary, St. Jean Elementary, West Kent Elementary, West Royalty Elementary

### **Grade 9 Ottawa Trip**

Any Grade 9 students going on the Ottawa trip in February, the final payment of \$305 is due Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can pay at the office or online at:

<https://birchwood.payschoolfees.net/admin/?sid=&un=0>

### **Grade 7 Parents**

Birchwood Grade 7 students have permission to go off grounds Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you do not wish your child to go off grounds, please have that discussion with your child. The dates will be noted in each month's newsletter and posted on Birchwood's website.

### **Birchwood Gives Back**

#### **CHRISTMAS IS COMING**

The food bank has been a major contributor to the Birchwood Christmas program. Please donate a non-perishable food item to our Birchwood Gives Back to the Food Bank Drive. Donations can be given to homeroom teachers or dropped off in the office through to December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your support!



*Candy canes are on sale in the lobby at break and lunch through December. Proceeds will go toward helping families at Christmas.*

**Cake Auction** will take place Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Proceeds also going towards helping families at Christmas.

### **Recycling Program**

Please don't forget the Birchwood Refundable Collection as this is a big contributor to our Christmas Program. Any juice bottles or boxes, water bottles, or adult beverage containers are welcome (no dairy is refundable). Any time you drop off any refundables to Charlottetown Bottle and Metal at 4 MacAleer Drive, tell them it is for Birchwood Intermediate and they will keep track and credit us. We can arrange to have someone pick up your refundables if you contact the school. Thanks for thinking of us!

### **Band Concert**

Birchwood Band Concert will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in our gym. Students should be in the band room about 6:30 pm. Concert attire is band shirt, black bottoms and black shoes.

Home & School will be having a Bake Sale with half of the proceeds going towards the band program and the other half is going towards helping families for Christmas. If you could send in baked goods the day of the concert or drop off when you arrive, that would be greatly appreciated.



### **Babysitting Course**

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, Mr. Tom Baker/ Baker Safety Instruction will be teaching a Red Cross Baby Sitting course that runs from 9am to 5pm. The cost is \$35.00 and the session will be held at Grace Baptist Church/Grace Christian School, 50 Kirkdale Dr, Charlottetown. If your child is interested in taking the course, please contact Mr. Baker via his email [bsi@bakersafety.ca](mailto:bsi@bakersafety.ca) or visit his website [baker.safety.ca](http://baker.safety.ca)

### **Santa Run**

A number of Birchwood staff will be participating our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Run on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 9:00am. The run will take place at UPEI. It is a 5k/2.5k run or walk, and dressing in Christmas attire is a must! The cost is by donation per runner. The run is in support of local families in need at Christmas. We're inviting all Birchwood students and their families to join us and to participate. Registration for the run begins at 8am on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Islanders Hockey Game

The Islanders are treating Birchwood Students and Staff to watch a free hockey game on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wear black and gold to support the Islanders. The players are looking forward to playing for you. Enjoy the game – Go Isles Go!

## Coaches' Corner

### Hockey Academy:

We are into our last month of the hockey academy for our grade 8/9 students. The students have worked extremely hard in all on-ice and off-ice sessions. Thank you once again to parents for your support. Below are the remaining dates for December.

November 28 : Synergy Fitness

December 5: ice session

December 12: ice session - last session



## Spirit Week December 17 - 21

Monday – PJ Day

Tuesday – Bake Sale/Festive hats & headbands

Wednesday – Ugly Sweater Day

Thursday – Christmas Colors Day

Friday – Skate 10-10:30, Hockey 10:30-11:30

Lunch 11:30-12:50, Art Battle 12:50-1:30

Minute to Win it 1:30-3:00

## “Future Goals” After School Program

All students are welcome to attend our after school program, “Future Goals”. This will take place in Room 311 at Birchwood from 3:00-4:30 pm every Monday and Tuesday. Snacks will be provided. Activities will include games, arts and crafts, baking, sports and career exploration.

## Yearbooks

Don't wait to reserve your student's copy of the 2018-2019 Birchwood Intermediate Yearbook! Yearbooks are on sale for just \$30!

The Birchwood Intermediate Yearbook Committee is looking for sponsors to help fund our yearbook this year. Each yearbook will have a page dedicated to our sponsors. We are asking for a \$75 donation and receipts will be provided. We appreciate your time and support. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Vaive (rxvaive@edu.pe.ca), Michelle Bernard, or Kristen Breedon at (902) 368-6870. Yearbooks can be ordered here. <https://goo.gl/wGW5TM>

## PEI Science Fair

This year's Science Fair will be held at the Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre at UPEI on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> (storm date March 28<sup>th</sup>). Students interested in participating are asked to follow the link to sign-up <https://goo.gl/forms/wnsRrcC0tK1kbDee2>

## Library News

We have so much to be grateful for this holiday season. The Birchwood community has gone above and beyond to support our library, and we are incredibly appreciative. Thank you.

If you would like to continue to support our library; Birchwood has an ongoing online Indigo FlipGive Fundraiser that allows you to shop for gifts all while giving back to our library. All shopping done through the link below will support our library.

<https://indigo.flipgive.com/teams/111511-birchwood-intermediate-school-library>

If you prefer to shop in store, this fundraiser allows you to purchase ecards through this link and take the ecard in-store to shop.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

## Home and School

### ***Feedback Requested on Student Transportation Policy and Procedures***

The Public Schools Branch have merged and revised all the Student Transportation policies, procedures and supporting papers from the former Eastern School District and Western School Board into a single document and are now seeking input from schools, **parents**, bus drivers, unions, Home & School and District Advisory Councils. Here is the link to the document:

[https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Student\\_Transportation\\_Consultation\\_Package.pdf](https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Student_Transportation_Consultation_Package.pdf)

Parents are encouraged to review the new policy and forward any input to Karen Redmond - [kkredmond@gmail.com](mailto:kkredmond@gmail.com) by Wednesday, **December 5, 2018**.

### ***Volunteers needed for Christmas Bake Sale - Calling all bakers!***

*The Birchwood band concert is being held on Thursday, Dec 13 and will feature a baked goods table with proceeds being split equally between the school's holiday initiative (Christmas Miracle) and the Birchwood band program. Donations for the bake sale can be brought to the school's main office on Wed, Dec 12 or Thurs, Dec 13. If possible, if items should be bagged/packaged for ease of selling. All food donations are greatly appreciated. Parent volunteers are also needed to sell at the bake table from 6-8pm on Dec 13.*

### ***Opportunity for a Birchwood Intermediate parent to participate in the District Advisory Council***

The Birchwood Home and School committee is seeking one parent to volunteer as the school's representative on the Charlottetown family of schools District Advisory Council (DAC). The DACs are mandated to help shape an education system that is focused on and meets the needs of learners by advising the PEI Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture on education matters. Further, DAC members identify education priorities within their own school or district, engage school communities in discussions, and foster collaboration among home and school associations and the community. After DAC meetings, the Birchwood representative would be encouraged to update the Birchwood home and school community and gather information on the priorities for Birchwood and areas that might be discussed at future DAC meetings. If you are interested in knowing more about this opportunity, or you wish to take on this exciting role, please contact Linda MacLean [LindaMullenMacLean@gmail.com](mailto:LindaMullenMacLean@gmail.com) or Kim Gillis [KGillis@hollandcollege.com](mailto:KGillis@hollandcollege.com)