

BIRCHWOOD INTERMEDIATE

ISSUE #5
2021

Rob MacAdam, Principal

Patsy McDonald, Vice Principal & Troy MacCallum, Vice Principal

School website <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/birchwood/>

Twitter feed @BirchwoodCobras

Instagram Feed birchwoodcobras1

Upcoming Events

January 25 & 26	Grade 9 Grad Photos
January 29	Grade 7's off grounds for lunch
January 29	Winter Wellness Day
January TBD	Grade 9 registration for grade 10
January TBD	Incoming Grade 7 FI Immersion

Birchwood Christmas Program



A big thank you to all those who donated their time, money and energy supporting families at Birchwood this Christmas. Over \$6000 was raised in total!! Thank you to our kindness club who gave up their breaks to sell candy canes. As well as sales from our Christmas basket, staff dress down funds and many parent donations. All of your hard work goes a long way in making Christmas a little bit brighter for our families

We are so honored to be part of a community that goes above and beyond to support our youth. Special thanks goes out to Foodland, Ford Electric, Capital Honda, Hyndman & Co Ltd, Probation Services, Dairy Queen, Source For Sports, Outer Limits Sports, Pizza Delight and many other individual donors for their generous donations.

With all of your generous donations, we were able provide gift cards for food, clothes, presents and gas along with some special surprises on Christmas morning. We couldn't have made this happen without your kind and thoughtful donations.

Thank you From the Staff & Students of Birchwood Intermediate

Protocol for Students Feeling Unwell While in School

Parents/Guardians: Please have the discussion with your child in regards to the following proper protocol should any student become unwell while at school. Students will put on a non-medical mask and go directly to the designated Health room on each floor to isolate. Teacher will contact administration/office who will call home to have parents pick up their child. Parents will be asked to call 811 or their health care provider. Custodian will clean and sanitize the areas.

Cell Phones

Students are not permitted to have their cell phone during class time and should be kept in their locker. If a student should feel unwell or for any other reason need to contact a parent, they should not do this from the classroom. If a parent is trying to reach their child, instead of texting them, they should call the school and we will relay a message or call them down to the office.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Sometimes, it may be necessary to close individual or families of school **during the day** to get the children home before weather conditions become too severe. In such cases, announcements will be made on all radio stations and our website at [Public School Branch](#). **Birchwood School is in the Colonel Gray Family of Schools.**

Please **listen to the radio** between **6:00 am – 8:00 am** to determine if schools are operating.

DO NOT drop children off at school unless you are certain that school is operating that day.

ONE HOUR DELAY – In cases where a decision cannot be made by 7:00 a.m. a **one-hour delay** will be announced. This means that all schools and buses may operate one hour later than the usual time. A further announcement regarding delays and/or cancellations will take place by 8:00 am.

Face Masks

Cobra face masks are available in the office for \$10.00. E-transfer to birchwood@edu.pe.ca or cash accepted. If doing an e-transfer, please state who and what it is for.

Grad Photos

Grade 9 graduation photos will take place in the cafeteria on Monday, January 25th and Tuesday, January 26th. On January 25th students in homerooms 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D and 9E will be photographed. On January 26th students in homerooms 9F, 9G, 9H and 9I will be photographed. Traditionally, students wore a white shirt and black tie, v-neck shirt, or plain shirt. Gowns are being sanitized between photos. This year, students are not able to share the shirt and tie that was typically provided by our photographer.

Grade 7 Parents

Birchwood Grade 7 students have permission to go off grounds Friday, January 29th. 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.

Winter Wellness

January 29th has been officially declared Winter Wellness day on PEI. The bill was passed in the legislature on December 4th. Gord McNeilly (who proposed the Bill) will be leading us in a school workout. Weather depending, students may engage in other winter activities. We will communicate this closer to the date.

“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.

Library News

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy activities as a family. Here at Birchwood we value the importance of strong literacy skills and the positive impact it has on child development. Did you know that only 20 minutes of reading will expose your child to over 1 million words a year?

If you are new to the Birchwood community, you should know that we have created a space that encourages and promotes literacy for our students. Our Offline room in the library is a home-style, restful environment for our students to unplug and connect with a good book or board games with friends. The space features comfortable couches, ambient lighting, and inspirational quotes — all designed to help students relax and disengage from the endless stream of videos, photos and more that await on their cell phone.

Everyone has different interests, so here are a few different options for you to try at home that encompass family literacy:

Opting for a book/magazine instead of a screen for a quick 20 minutes.

Board Game Night (comprehension is key)

Creating bookmarks

Trivia (Sports trivia, music trivia)

Scanning Athlete Profiles and creating one for themselves

Interpreting the story behind songs. There is a story behind every song.

“Where words fail, music speaks.” Hans Christian Anderson

Coaches Corner



Basketball

Basketball league is underway! Birchwood has 4 teams. Doors open for spectators (2/player) 15 minutes before game time. Thanks to all volunteer coaches for their dedication and expertise.

Schedule: http://peisaa.pe.ca/master_sched_league.php?lang=1

Hockey Academy

Hockey Academy will begin for grade 8 students Wednesday, January 13th. On ice sessions will take place over the next five weeks. If you wish, equipment can be dropped off at the Eastlink Center in the morning prior to school beginning. Practice will run from 2:15 - 3:15.

Schedule: Jan. 13, 20, 27 / Feb. 3, 10

Yearbooks



The 2020-2021 yearbooks can be ordered and paid at the following link <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/birchwood/yearbook/>

Home & School News

Home and School News, January 2021

1. Elected school board model consultations

"We want to give Islanders a stronger voice in their education system and how we support student learning while ensuring our school boards are more representative of our Island population under the leadership of elected trustees," Minister Trivers. (Dec. 21/20)

Submit your ideas online at: Elected School Board Model Consultations. Islanders will have the added option to complete an online survey. Online consultations are open until March 11, 2021.

2. Don't forget to nominate school staff

Nominate a teacher, EA, principal, Administrative Assistant, custodian) for the PEI Home and School Federation's **Extra Mile Award**. Submission deadline is Jan. 22. Nomination form is online at: <https://peihsf.ca/extramile>. Presentations will be arranged during **School Staff Appreciation Week**, Feb. 14-21, respecting pandemic protocols. The week provides an opportunity for parents / students to recognize the dedication and hard work of teachers, admin support, EA, and custodians. Say thank you! Keep plans simple!

3. Teamwork: Parents and teachers write resolutions together

Resolutions are developed around issues that will affect positive change in our school system for all students' benefit. Parents and teachers are asking to discuss school system and gaps around the local Home and School meeting table for the purpose of teaming up to write resolutions. What are the issues impacting student learning, student wellness and safety? Check our website to view resolutions. Ask the Federation for help with writing resolutions. Use a NEW Fillable Resolution Form. Deadline to submit resolutions is Jan. 31.

4. NEW School Food Menu: Students asked to give school food another try

Here is what you need to know about the new menus:

- Thirteen NEW menu items have been added based on parent/student feedback.
- Options include: one meat/one vegetarian (daily) and "gluten friendly" being offered for each menu item
- Portion sizes have increased slightly and are more consistent
- Meal orders will continue to be ordered in the two week rotation at: www.peischoolfood.ca
- Ordering begins Dec. 28 and closes at 9 a.m. on Jan. 1. No late orders accepted.
- Photos of menu items were shared on social media channels over the holidays
- Updated ingredient and allergen information will be uploaded to the website

5. Parent Leadership Grants

Parent Leadership Grants. New submission deadline: Feb. 28, 2021

6. What's on your agenda?

Additems from this monthly update

....current educational news

....Education Minister, Brad Trivers' announcements

....Public Schools Branch information

....Federation's resolution deadline

....Awards Programs nomination dates

....Appoint a communication's person to be sure current topics are on your agenda

How can we help? Contact the Federation office: 902-620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664 / peihsf@edu.pe.ca

Community News

Ø **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Canada** is a free book gifting program devoted to inspiring a love of reading in the hearts of children everywhere. Each month, enrolled children receive a high quality, age-appropriate book in the mail, free of charge. Children receive books from birth up to their fifth birthday. Find out how to sign up your child in PEI. Call (902) 368-3620 / 1-866-827-3620.

- Ø **PEI's public library offers a monthly e-Newsletter** will contain the latest news and information on programs and services at PEI's public libraries. Subscribe: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/.../library-newsletter...>
- Ø **Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award** is a literary program in Atlantic Canada designed to bring together readers 9-12 years old with great Canadian books and authors. Click here to see all the amazing books on the non-fiction shortlist. They will be profiling each book on social media over the next couple of months. Register your child or reading group today. Hackmatack.ca
- Ø **YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange** is an amazing Opportunity for High School Students: This national exchange program offers opportunities for youth (age 16-17) to gain valuable work experience, explore another part of Canada, and improve their second official language skills, all for the cost of \$125. Contact [St. John's, NL & Charlottetown, PEI](mailto:kiera.fagan@ymcagta.org) Coordinator: kiera.fagan@ymcagta.org / 709-351-2356 / www.summer-work.com
- Ø **COVID-19 Study:** Would you like to be part of a study to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on school experiences for caregivers and children from K – Grade 4? Contact Tara Cooper, Research assistant to Dr. Marla Morden, Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, BC. For more information visit <https://wordpress.viu.ca/mordenlab/>

Contest for Grade 6-9 students

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) is still accepting registrations from young Canadians to take part in its Junior Astronaut Virtual Camp this summer. **There are very few registrations so far in Prince Edward Island so chances to win one of four spots for the province are very high!**

Youth interested in participating in the Junior Astronauts Camp need to take part in the Junior Astronaut recruitment by:

- Having a parent or guardian [register online](#) to create a profile before February 28, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (PT).
- Participating in at least (science and technology, fitness and nutrition, and teamwork and communication). The activities were originally designed to be done as a team in schools, science centres or youth organizations. However, because of the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the CSA is allowing participants to do them at home with siblings or measures!).
- Submitting a one- to two-minute video in which they explain why they would be a good Junior Astronaut candidate, as set out in the camp [Terms and Conditions](#). Good luck!