



# Stuart W. Baker Elementary School

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Principal: Mrs. Karyn Linton Marra

*A Community of Learners*

## **WELCOME BACK!!!!**

It's another new and exciting school year at Stuart Baker Elementary School (SBES) and we would like to welcome all new and returning families. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. SBES is such a special place to be because of our enthusiastic staff and student body who work together within a supportive community. We know this is going to be another successful and productive school year!

Our teachers have been busy these last few weeks getting classrooms ready and planning for the upcoming term. Your continued support of this exceptional group of teachers is always appreciated.

Over the summer, work has continued on the SBES grounds as we work towards improving accessibility and replacing flooring in some of our kindergarten classes. We are looking forward to the benefits of the finished product. Thank you to Mr. Jessup and Ms. Henderson for the wonderful job they did over the summer. They have worked hard to ensure that our school is sparkling clean and safe for our return.

### **\*\*\*SCHOOL HOURS REMINDERS \*\*\***

8:55 a.m.	Entry
9:05 a.m.	Opening Exercises
10:45a.m. - 11:05a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Nutrition Break
11:05 a.m. - 11:25 p.m.	Recess
1:25 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break
1:45 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.	Recess
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal

**Please Note:** Staff supervision begins at 8:35 AM. Students who are dropped off prior to this time will be unattended.

### **NEW THIS YEAR...**

**This year students will begin their day on the school yard.** Students are asked to drop their backpacks off at their outside lineup spot and play outside until the morning bell signals. Doors will be locked until such time, as we make improvements to our safety

procedures, while honouring the preparation required by our team to begin the day's learning activities and to welcome our students.

## DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

This year we have said good-bye to some of our staff members who have moved on to new schools or new endeavours. We would like to welcome back Mr. Hewitt, as he fills in for Mme Brown who is on maternity leave and Ms. Alleway who has returned to SBES to teach Grade 2/3. We have had some shuffles within our school, and as most of our community is aware, there has been a change to our French Immersion Program, which now begins for students in Grade 1.

## **Meet Our Team!**

<p>Ms. Burk &amp; Mrs. Brennan - Jk/Sk Rm. 6          Ms. Holden &amp; Ms. Casey - Jk/Sk Rm. 7          Mrs. Merritt &amp; Mrs. Nelson - Jk/Sk Rm. 16          Mrs. Longo &amp; Mrs. Gallagher - Jk/Sk Rm. 17          Mrs. Lewis - Grade 1 Rm. 4          Ms. Malott - Grade ½ Rm. 3          Ms. Alleway - Grade 2/3 Rm. 10          Mrs. Bain - Grade 2/3 Rm. 11          Mr. Stephen - Grade 3 Rm. 9</p> <p>Mme. Ward - FI Grade 1 Rm. 2          Mme. Davis - FI Grade ½ Rm. 5          Mme. Gruppe - FI Grade 2/3 Rm. 8          Mme. Zahab - FI Grade 2/3 P1          Mrs. Bjelis - SERT          Ms. Burtch - Music/Prep (0.2)          Mme. Haase - FI Music/Prep (0.5)          Mr. Hewitt - Music/Prep/SERT          Mrs. Metzger - Health &amp; Physical Education          TBA - Prep (0.3)</p>	<p><b><u>EA's</u></b>          Mrs. Lytle          Ms. Mathers          Mrs. MacInnes          Mrs. Sutherland          Mrs. Rae</p> <p><b><u>Secretaries</u></b>          Mrs. Manol - Head Secretary          Mrs. Charlebois - (Mrs. Manol's replacement during medical leave)          Mrs. Hicks - (PT with Library)</p> <p><b><u>Custodial Team</u></b>          Mr. Lewis - Chief Custodian          Mr. Jessup - (Mr. Lewis' replacement during medical leave)          Ms. Henderson - Afternoon Custodial</p>
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## SAFETY EXPECTATIONS FOR VISITORS

The safety of our students is always a focus at Stuart Baker. This is best achieved when we all work together. When entering the school for any reason please make sure that the office is your first stop. Check in with Mrs. Manol, our school secretary, to receive your visitor's pass. This will clearly identify you as an adult with appropriate business in the school. **You can also assist us by meeting your child outside the school in the supervised area near the gymnasium at the end of the school day, rather than waiting for your child inside the school.** This helps keep our halls open and makes movement much easier and safer for the students, especially during end of day and early bus preparations. This also has the added benefit of teaching our students to be independent as they use the appropriate doors to enter and exit the school.

Please continue to show students and staff that teaching time is valued by making an appointment with the teacher when you need to speak with them. **Dropping into the classroom to have a discussion with the teacher is disruptive to the teaching and learning process and affects all members of the class.** It also jeopardizes the privacy of the conversation. Our team will gladly give you the time necessary to answer any questions you may have during a mutually convenient time. Please leave a message for the teacher with Mrs. Manol or via the communication tool suggested by the teacher. The teacher can then return your call or respond to your message. **Any matter of an educational nature should first be discussed with the classroom teacher.**

### **CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION**

Assigning students to the most appropriate classroom setting is a very important and time-consuming responsibility for the school's staff and administrative team. Many factors are taken into consideration in completing this task including: academic performance, level of independence, student learning styles, balance of boys and girls, personality traits, social considerations and class size guidelines. In all cases, we attempt to create the most advantageous, positive working groups that form the new classes. Parent input is an important aspect of the process however, the school policy is that the professional judgement of the staff, who have considered all these factors, will determine student class placement.

Because our student population continues to grow and change, our current class lists are tentative. It may be necessary to reorganize some classes later in September. Parents of those students who may be affected will be notified as soon as possible if necessary. We appreciate your continued support and understanding in this matter.

### **PARENT SAFETY PATROL/ KISS AND RIDE**

We hope to begin a Kiss and Ride program this year. With your cooperation and assistance we will work to keep our students safe when arriving at and leaving from school. BUT, we are in need of volunteers to assist during the morning (from 8:30 - 9:00) and in the afternoon (from 3:10 -3:30). Without sufficient volunteers we will not be able to run this program. If you are interested, and can spare one or two days a week to assist us, please call the office and speak to Mrs. Marra for further information.

### **ALLERGY ALERT/NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT**

We have several students with life threatening allergies to peanuts, and other products. In order to provide students with a safe environment we request that all students not bring nut product snacks and lunches, including artificial nut products, such as WOW

Butter. Your child's teacher will inform you whether there are additional allergies in their classroom. Thank you for taking the precautions in keeping all our children safe.

### **STUDENT ABSENCE/LATENESS**

If your child is going to be away or late, please make sure you call the school and speak to Mrs. Manol or leave a message on the school answering machine. The answering machine will take messages 24 hours a day. This will help make our Safe Arrival Program run more smoothly.

The **Safe Arrival** procedure is designed to ensure student safety. An important part of the program requires parents to contact the school if their child is going to be away. Families of absent students will be contacted if no notification call has been received as to the reason for the student's absence. Regular and punctual attendance is an important part of ensuring student success at school.

## Attendance Matters!

One or two days a week does not seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That Equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every two weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late per day? Surely that won't affect my child's education?

He/she is only just missing...	That equals...	Which is about...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 and ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1 one hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2 and ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 years

Every day counts. We know all parents want their children to be successful at school. Regular attendance and punctuality have an impact on student success at school. Being at school on time and attending a full day is key for children to reach their full potential. "I'm here!"

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The Stuart Baker School Council is an elected body of parent representatives that support many school initiatives for students and provide input to the principal, and staff representatives. The School Council will meet approximately 5-6 times throughout the school year. The first meeting will be on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. At this time we will also hold the School Council elections.

Council must complete a nomination form, (to be received in the coming days), and returned to the school by Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We look forward to seeing you!

## **SBES / JDH BBQ and CURRICULUM NIGHT**

All Stuart Baker families are invited to attend the SBES/JDH School Council Barbeque and Curriculum Night on the evening of Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the members of the SBES and JDH teams and reacquaint yourself with returning families. More information will be sent home closer to the date. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

## **INDOOR SHOES**

All students are reminded of the need to reserve one pair of shoes with non-marking soles for indoor use only. These are necessary for participation in indoor gym classes and assemblies as well as for maintaining a level of cleanliness and safety within the hallways and classrooms.

## **AGENDAS and PARENT/GUARDIAN STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Again this year, our student in FDK will be using communication bags prepared by teachers. Students in Grades 1-3 will once again continue to receive a Student Agenda. Please encourage your child to use this tool to organize assignments dates and daily work/practice, as it help develops organization skills and independence. In addition, it is helpful for parents to know what work is being done in class.

The PARENT/GUARDIAN STUDENT HANDBOOK contains important information about the TLDSB Strategic Plan, Online Payments, Emergency Procedures, Behaviour Expectations, Safe and Accepting Schools etc. Please review this booklet with your child and keep in a safe place for reference throughout the year.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Thursday Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>- SBES/JDH BBQ

Friday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> - Picture Day

Tuesday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> - Haliburton X-Country

Thursday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> - Terry Fox Run