



## The Baker Drive (October)

**Monthly Updates and Connections.**

**October 5th, 2023**

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## A Few Words



Dear Baker Drive Families,

The start of school and the month of September is very much a time of transition for our school community. Students, staff and families are all working hard to reestablish and/or teach new skills and routines both in and outside of school. As we enter the month of October, the Baker Drive staff continue to work with every student to establish important skills that will benefit both the student and the school as a whole. At both the primary and intermediate level, teachers have been working with students to develop skills in the following areas:

- a) Communication: A student is able to communicate and share their ideas and also actively listen to others
- b) Creative and Critical Thinking: A student is able to apply creative thinking and innovation during play as well ask questions to explore new ideas
- c) Personal & Social Responsibility: A student is able to organize and care for their materials and complete tasks
- d) Self-Regulation: A student is able to demonstrate appropriate emotions and responds emotionally in appropriate ways

On October 19th, each student will receive a paper-based interim report from their teacher to bring home. The interim report is a brief snapshot of how each child is doing so far in demonstrating many of the skills listed above. Also included on the interim report are some short term goals each teacher has co-created with your child along with an opportunity to indicate if you would like to schedule an in-person meeting to discuss your child's growth in the areas listed above or their academic progress. On October 26th, there will be an early dismissal at 12:40pm and teachers will schedule a time with parents who have indicated that they would like to meet on the interim forms.

Thank you,

*Joe Jamieson - Principal*

## Interim Reports - What Can I Expect?



On Thursday, October 19th, students will receive an interim report which summarizes how your child has transitioned to their new grade during the first weeks of school. Throughout the school year, Baker Drive teachers will provide THREE (formal) report cards (December, March and June), as well as provide you with additional information about your child's learning through informal reports – interim report, goal setting and student-led conferences and classroom communications.

The interim report provides you with information about your child's adjustment to their new classroom environment, learning group, and learning opportunities. It is not intended to provide comment regarding the academic learning standards as we have not had enough time together in class. The interim report will also identify some short-term goals for each student as well as provide families with the opportunity to request a meeting with your child's teacher.

If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, you can return the bottom portion of your child's interim form or email the teacher directly by Monday, October 23rd. Your child's teacher will then organize a time for you to meet on either Thursday, October 26th or at another more suitable time and date.

## Pro-Social Behaviour Update



In last month's Baker Drive Newsletter, I introduced our "Bear Essentials" model for supporting our pro-social Action Plan for Learning (APL) goal. On September 22nd, the Baker Drive staff took time to further highlight key "Bear Essential" skills we would like our students to demonstrate at each grade level by the end of the school year. For each family, I would recommend identifying your child's grade level and chatting with them about each of the "I can" statements!

Below is a list of those skills for each grade level at Baker Drive:

### **Kindergarten:**

#### **Be Kind**

- I can invite others to play.
- I can help someone if they're sad.
- I can share

#### **Everyone is welcome:**

- I can say hello.
- I can include others.
- I can smile.

#### **Accept Responsibility:**

- I am responsible for my actions.
- I can take care of this place.

**Resilience:**

- I can listen even when it's hard.
- I can get back up and try again.

**Grade 1****Be Kind:**

- I can have kind thoughts about myself and others.
- I can choose kind words.
- I can celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of myself and others

**Everyone is Welcome:**

- I can accept and welcome the ideas of others.
- I can use words and body language that make others feel welcome.
- I can include others when I play.

**Accept Responsibility:**

- I can solve some problems myself and can identify when to ask for help.
- I can be mindful of how my words and actions affect others.
- I can use strategies that help me manage my feelings and emotions.

**Resilience:**

- I can have a positive attitude.
- I can encourage others to persevere.
- I can try again.

**Grade 2/3:****Be Kind**

- I can hold the door for anyone behind me to come through
- I can choose thoughtful and kind words with others
- I can look for ways to help others without being asked

**Welcome Everyone**

- I can ask others to join me in play outside and during class games
- I can greet others
- I can share my story

**Accept Responsibility**

- I can show that I understand when I have done something that has negatively affected someone
- I can do the right thing even when no one is looking
- I can accept that my actions impact others

**Show Resilience**

- I can do things even when they are hard
- I can have a growth mind set
- I can apply strategies to work through emotions

**Grade 4/5****Be Kind:**

- I can recognize that kindness comes from within (for the benefit of others).
- I understand that being kind should not be motivated by rewards.
- I know that being kind means doing the right thing even when no-one else is watching.

**Everyone is Welcome:**

- I respect diversity.
- I will work with my community to make sure everyone feels safe.
- I will take the initiative to be inclusive of others.
- I will take the initiative to show care of others.

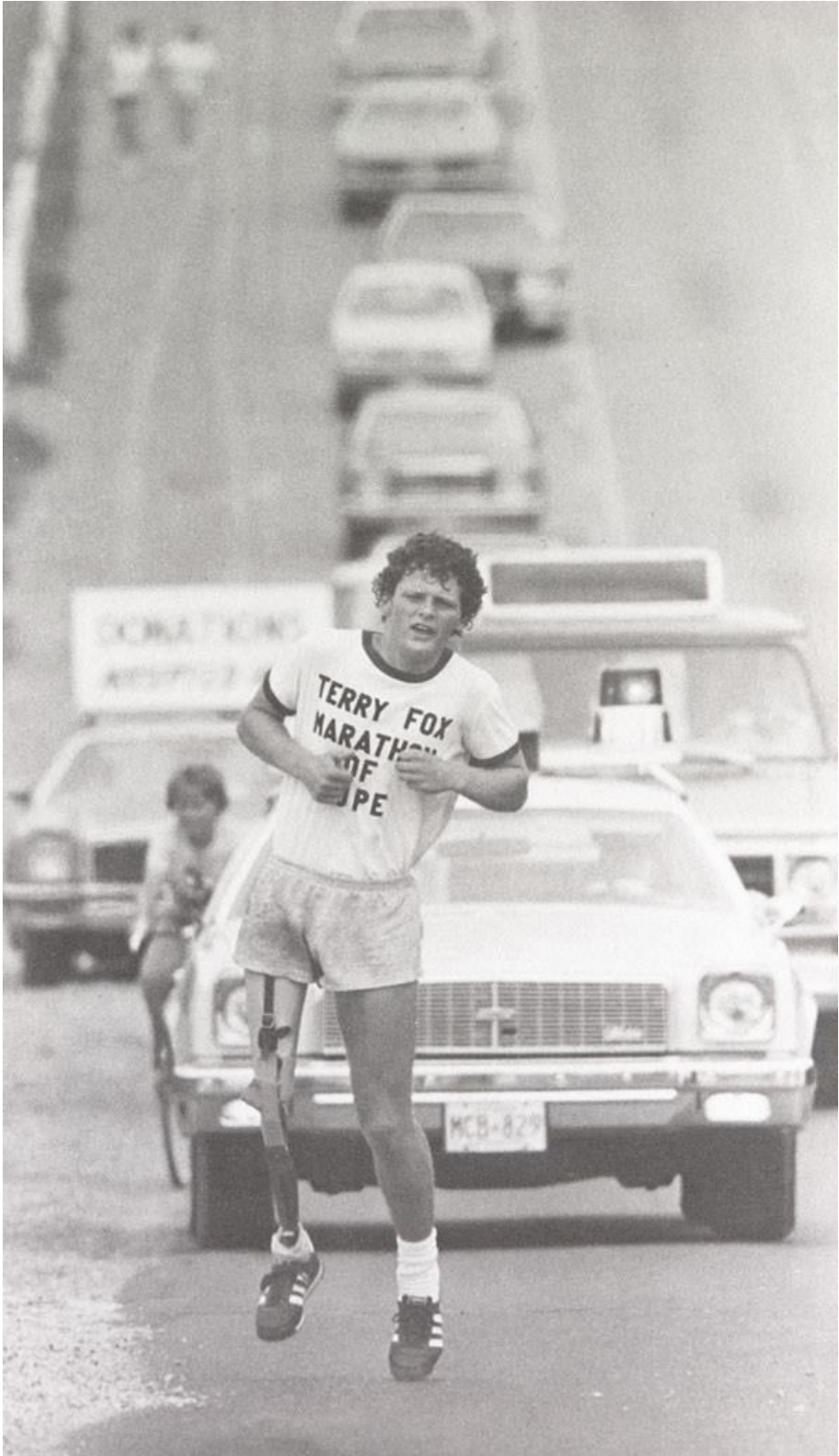
**Accept Responsibility:**

- I can own my choices.
- I will lead by example (talk to talk and walk the walk).
- I know that I am responsible for the well-being of our community.
- I recognize that my choices affect others.

**Resilience is Key:**

- I know that learning will be uncomfortable/difficult sometimes.
- I recognize that resilience takes time and patience.
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Terry Fox Run

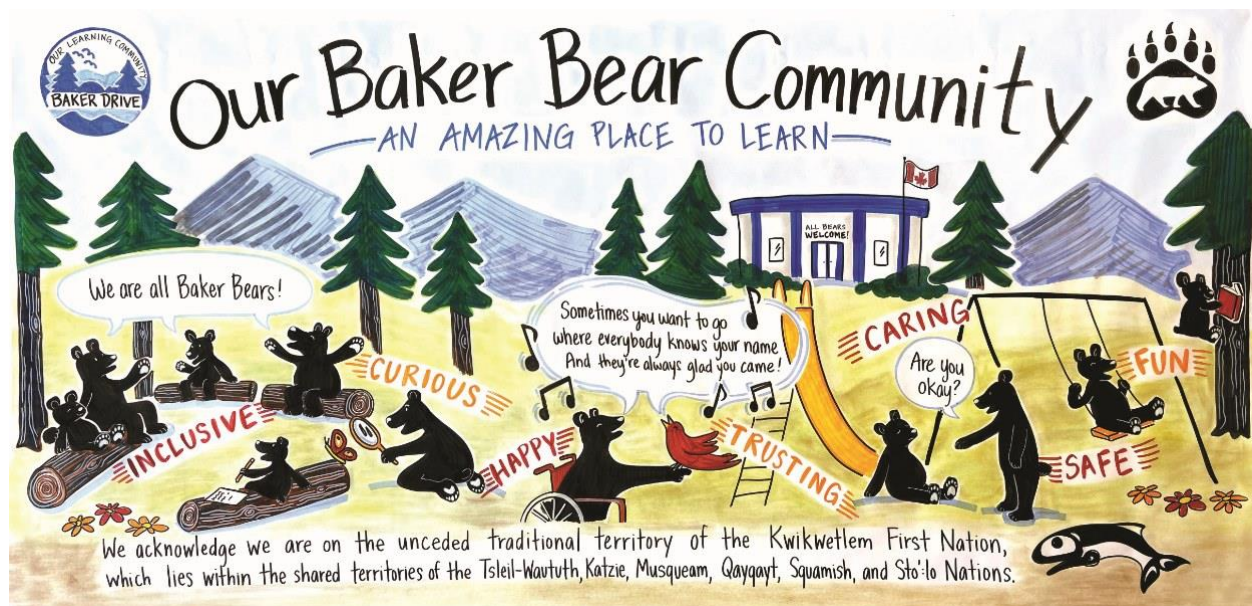




Thank you to Ms. Capel and all of our parent volunteers for organizing a very entertaining Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 28th. Fortunately, the weather held-off and students were able to freely navigate the yard collecting stamps on their map of Canada at each of the volunteer stations. I was pleased to see how enthusiastic students and surprised to learn that many participants collected more than 60 stamps during the event!

The Baker Drive staff would also like to thank our parent community for their generosity with donations. As of Monday, October 3rd, we were only a few hundred dollars from meeting our \$4500 school-wide goal!

## Baker Drive 2023-24 School Staff - Updated



Below is a list of our 2023-24 Baker Drive Staff

### Classroom Teachers:

- Ms. Karen Capel, Ms. Kelsey Keller, Ms. Sandi David, Ms. Kelly Kolbe, Ms. Jacqueline Fontaine, **Ms. Haley Joel**, Ms. Christine Dos Santos, Ms. Jen Freeman, Ms. Lindsay Ward, Ms. Mary Anne Guevarra & Ms. Denean Lederer

### Specialized Teaching Staff:

- Ms. Sue Sabourin (Student Services), Ms. Tracy Tong (Student Services), Mr. Alvaro Rojas (Music), Ms. Alexa Romilly (Teacher Librarian and Learning Commons Facilitator) & Ms. Brooke Townsend (Counselling)

### Classroom Support Staff:

- Ms. Kathy Desjarlais, Ms. Linda Wilson, Ms. Lynn Truong, Ms. Joanne Kim & Ms. Jody Baliko

### School Support Staff:



- Mr. Joe Jamieson (Principal), Ms. Lisa Ploss (Clerical), Ms. Hardish Manhas (Noon Hour Supervisor), Ms. Melissa Tucker (Noon Hour Supervisor), Mr. Jeff Froese (Morning Caretaker) & Ian Yoon (Evening Caretaker)

## Attendance, Illness & Sign-out Reminders



Illness throughout the school has also been on the rise and teachers are continuing to emphasize proper hand hygiene throughout the day. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until you feel that they are well enough to attend school. If you have any questions or are uncertain if your child should be attending school due to illness, please feel free to email Mr. Jamieson or call the school office.

Your child's safe arrival in their classroom is VERY important. Attendance is done every day at 8:50am and 12:40pm. Families MUST complete an online Absence Report (under Quicklinks on website) OR call the office and leave a message ANY TIME your child is late, absent, or needs to leave early. If you are picking up your child from school prior to dismissal time, please come into the office and speak with either Ms. Ploss or Mr. Jamieson. They will direct you to sign-out while a message is relayed to your child's teacher indicating that there is an early dismissal.

In rare cases, you may be late picking your child up from school. Please call the school if this is the case and we will have your child wait for you in either the main office or Mr. Jamieson's office.

## Baker Drive's 4th Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and Costume Parade!



On Tuesday, October 31st, there will be a number of Halloween events that will take place in the morning and we would appreciate the support of our parent community!

### **Pumpkin Competition:**

All students are invited to participate in the 4th annual pumpkin carving competition. Students who would like to participate, should bring their carved pumpkin to school and drop it off at our school gym. Please make sure the back of your child's pumpkin is labeled with their name and division number. This will help later in the day when pumpkins will need to be returned to students.

Any parent volunteers that are able to help support the collection of student pumpkins between 8:15am and 9:00am would be appreciated!

This year, there will be three contest categories. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative, scariest and funniest pumpkins and all classes will be provided time to view the pumpkins and submit their vote.

### **Costume Parade:**

At 9:15am on October 31st, there will be a costume parade in our school gym. Parents are invited to join the fun as each class will have the opportunity to present their costumes with other members of the school community. Please join us for a very enjoyable community building event!

## A Safe & Appropriate Halloween - An SD43 Message



### Message to SD43 families: Safe and Appropriate Halloween

Halloween across all schools in SD43 is a fun and festive day which brings the school community together. Typically, the time around Halloween is incident-free and very respectful. From time to time, a few students “in character” push the boundaries of what is socially acceptable, or what is appropriate behavior in schools, sometimes at the expense of others. With that in mind, for student safety and school climate reasons, and to ensure that every student and adult in our community enjoys the time around Halloween, we would like your assistance in reinforcing these guidelines with your children:

- Students in costume should be easily recognizable and/or identify themselves to any staff member when queried. Also, students “in character” are to conduct themselves appropriately. Behaviors which intimidate, harass, or humiliate members of the community do not contribute to a fun, festive, and safe environment.

- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are inappropriate, as are costumes which are hyper-sexualized, or costumes which depict elements of sexual exploitation.

- It is also important to note that costumes which portray negative stereotypes or that demean or make fun of any group of people are inappropriate. Costumes should not make light of anyone's religious, cultural, ethnic or racial group. As a reminder, by law and School District expectations, the use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks at school is strictly prohibited. This pertains to students before, during or after school, on or offsite. With respect for each other, we can avoid any disruption to school communities in the form of vandalism and/or disrespectful, potentially dangerous behaviour. Students and parents need to be mindful that inappropriate behaviour will be addressed by school administration under the authority granted by the BC School Act and with the involvement of police where appropriate. Please refer to these readily available public websites for more information:

<https://www.coquitlam.ca/286/Fire-Safety-Tips><https://www.portcoquitlam.ca/city-services/fire-emergency-services/fire-safety-information/>

<https://www.portmoody.ca/en/city-services/fall-safety-tips.aspx#Halloween-Safety>

Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland

Superintendent/CEO



## Eco Bears



The Eco Bears have been busy this month rolling out some eco initiatives. The goal is to make it easy and natural for everyone to act locally and think globally. We made bins for collecting dried markers and soft plastics for recycling and GOOS (Good On One Side) paper bins for reusing paper within the classrooms. The Eco Bears are also actively collecting litter from our school grounds, sorting garbage on hot lunch Wednesdays and educating their peers about our activities and the importance of our actions.

Our focus this month will be reducing contamination through careful garbage sorting. Did you know that when materials go to the landfill it causes methane which has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide?!? This is why we want to direct as much as we can away from the landfill but we also must not contaminate our good compost and recycling bins while we do this.

## MyEd Parent Portal & Student Verification Forms - Reminder!



As our district is moving towards digitization of our forms, while ensuring that we are safeguarding personal information, Student Verification forms will no longer be printed but published to the Family Portal starting this school year 2023-2024.

Starting Monday, September 18th, Baker Drive families will be able to log into the Family Portal to verify information.

**If there are no changes to the information** - No further action will be required from the Parent/Legal Guardian.

**If there are changes to the information** - depending on the type of change/s made, please see below:

- The Parent/Legal Guardian can print the student verification form and make the necessary changes then send the updated form (with the required documentations) back to the school by email or by dropping it off in the office. Types of changes on the student verification form could include:
  - Changing a phone number, email address, emergency contacts' information
  - Legal Name change (student), home address, legal custodianship/guardianship changes (legal alert), Medical alert changes, citizenship (ex. Permanent Resident to Canadian Citizen) – will require formal documentation
- Parents who require changes to be made and do not have the ability to print can contact the school office and request a printed copy (to be given directly to the parent).

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the school office.

## PAC Information & Reminders



**Baker Drive PAC Website**

Please visit the Baker Drive PAC website for all updated information related to key PAC initiatives including hot lunch and events. Parent Council On-Line - Baker Drive Elementary School<sup>1</sup>

On Friday, October 27th, there will be a Halloween Dance in the Baker Drive Gym between 6pm and 8pm. A flyer will be sent home with each Baker Drive student by Friday, October 6th with more information.

### Monthly PAC Meetings

Our next online PAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 17th at 7pm through Zoom. Meetings usually last about 1hr and they are a great way for families to connect with key initiative and planning for the school year.

## The Weeks Ahead



For your convenience, here's a list of some important dates to help keep track of upcoming events and non-session days in October & November

- Monday, October 2nd - School Closed - Truth & Reconciliation Day
- Monday, October 9th - School Closed - Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, October 17th - PAC Meeting @ 7:00pm (Online)
- Friday, October 20th - School Closed - Professional Day
- Thursday, October 19th - Interim Reports Sent Home
- Tuesday, October 24th - Photo Retake Day (am)
- Thursday, October 26th - Recognition Assembly @ 9:00am in gym

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<sup>1</sup><https://bakerdrive.parentcouncil.net/admin/>



- Thursday, October 26th - Early Dismissal @ 12:40pm for Goal-Setting Conferences
- Friday, October 27th - Halloween Dance (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- Tuesday, October 31st - Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest & Parade (9:15am)
- Monday, November 13th - Remembrance Day Ceremony (Time TBD)