* It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Back-To-School Open House on Wednesday evening! We are so excited to see our students early next week. All grade 1-5 students and half of our kindergarten children will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 6th. The remainder of our kindergarten students will begin on Wednesday, September 7th. On the first day all students will come directly into the building upon arrival and go to their classrooms where teachers will be waiting to greet them. Our specialty teachers will serve as our welcoming committee and tour guides and will help children find their way to the classrooms.
* Even on the first day we encourage our kindergarten children to travel by bus as it allows our drivers to get to know our newest students. Kindergarten parents/guardians are welcome to meet the children at the school and walk with them to the classroom.
* To reduce congestion at morning drop off, we are asking parents to utilize our two drop off locations- the one near Dreamland for those whose children’s surname beginnings with the letters A-L and the one in front of our gymnasium for children whose surname begin with the letters M-Z. There is supervision at both areas and an adult will guide children dropped off near the gym to the playground (after Day 1). Just a reminder to be careful if you are dropping your child/children off at school. There is a crosswalk on School Avenue (located near the playground side of our building) that is used frequently by our students who live within walking distance to our school. Our only afterschool pickup location is on the playground side of the building. Please wait for your child/children on the outside of the fence. Once the teacher sees you and makes eye contact, he or she will send your child to you.
* School starts at 8:05 for everyone with morning drop off (by bus and parents) commencing at 7:45. Classes end at 1:35 for our K-2 students and at 2:35 for our grades 3-5 students.
* If you have not yet updated your child’s busing information on Bus Planner, please do so. If your child is picked up at home and returned to your home address at the end of the day, that information will be prepopulated in Bus Planner. If you made changes last year but have a new plan this year, it needs to be updated. Some of you may have opted out of morning or afternoon busing last year in the system and that information will still be there. It is best practice to log in, check busing information and update as required. Attached please find a one page document about Bus Planner. If you require busing to an alternate address for childcare and would like to submit a request for this courtesy service, you can complete the online request at <http://asd-s.nbed.nb.ca> found under the Transportation drop-down by clicking “Request Additional Address”.
* This year we expect to have hot lunch available five days a week. Information on how to register for the online ordering system for Healthy Lunch will be sent next week.
* Although the province no longer has mandated COVID protocols, some students and staff may choose to wear a mask based on their level of risk or concern.
* We ask that you pay student fees ($45 per student) by September 23rd via School Cash Online. If you do not have an account, please register for **School Cash Online.**
* Please report your child’s absence(s) using the **Safe Arrival program** (any of these three convenient methods):

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at https://go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account (use the email address you have on file with the school). Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, https://go.schoolmessenger.ca. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

3. Call the toll-free number 1-833-219-9065 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

* We welcome volunteers at our school and have many varied opportunities available for families who want to become involved. In the past, volunteers have helped with class library visits, healthy lunch program, Scholastic bookfairs, Holiday Workshop, Holiday Dinner, Holiday Parade school float, Family Fun Night, playground committee, various fundraising events, running club and other events. Please expect information on specific volunteer opportunities with time commitments within the next couple of weeks.
* For those who are new at F.E.S., please expect weekly communication “F.E.S. Family Connections” to be sent electronically every Friday afternoon by 4:45 with information updates including important upcoming events.
* Attached please find the Updated Family Handbook with lots of useful information.