



**3 FEBRUARY 2020** 

The New Year is off to a very busy start at **Blacks Harbour School**. Students and staff are tackling their academic goals and other school activities with the enthusiasm and optimism that a new year brings. If you did not receive an **update** on your child's progress in January, please reach out to homeroom teachers. Second term report cards do not go out until April, but updates are available on your child's progress.

One of the things that makes this school such a wonderful place to be is the helping hands of many parent volunteers. Our **Home and School** ladies are exceptional ~ and new members are always welcome! Our Home and School met in late January and planned many exciting events for our students. Our goal is to provide **an experience** each month for our students to enjoy ~ a great way to spend our fundraising dollars and beat the winter blues. Check out some of the events below!

As a mid-year reminder, please recall that school begins at 8:00 a.m. I would like to thank parents for continuing to get students to school **on time** each day, which helps us provide the best learning experiences possible. Arriving on time ensures kids have a **positive start to their day**. Arriving late means they miss very important teaching moments that begin as soon as school starts. While we understand that time missed is sometimes necessary, consistent late arrivals or absences jeopardizes academic success and sends a message to students that school is not important.

I recently shared school data with our **Parent School Support Committee** and we discussed the effects of absenteeism and tardiness on the learning process. Students are identified as "at risk" based on the number of days absent or tardy (10% or more of possible days). Presently at Blacks Harbour School **24.7% of our students are considered to be "at risk" due to chronic absences.** Students who are at risk are less likely to be successful in school and more likely to have trouble and miss graduation and promotion targets.

A reminder to parents of students in **Kindergarten** or **Grade 5**. If you wish for your child to enter the **French Immersion program** in September 2020 at **St. George Elementary School**, there is an information session on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. This session takes place at St. George Elementary School.

One final bit of exciting news! Blacks Harbour School is adopting a new **mascot**...please help us welcome the newest member of BHS, our harbour seal! He is a gorgeous little fella who needs a name! Stay tuned for details on how you can help us name our mascot! Our new mascot will be part of an initiative that will roll out in the spring...more details to come!

BLACKS HARBOUR SEALS ALWAYS USE MANNERS, SHOW KINDNESS, AND DO THEIR BEST!











